

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 8 OCTOBER 2020

Question to Johnny McMahon
Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing

By Charlotte Atkins

Question

I am grateful to the Cabinet Member for the interest he has shown in the Kniveden Partnership, The Mount, Leek. I recognise that the site owned by the County Council is to be developed for housing but could he clarify whether:

- The site has been sold;
 - The North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust has been asked to vacate the site;
 - NSCHNT has yet indicated what their intentions are for the future of this vital mental health service at the present site or elsewhere in the area;
 - A formal agreement is to be put in place between the County Council and NSCHNT to allow the service to be reopened on the site before it is redeveloped for housing?
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Reply

In response to your points above:

- **The site has been sold.** No, the site is earmarked for sale as part of the Council's estates' strategy, but we do not expect to sell it imminently. If and when the Kniveden site is sold we have offered to assist NSCHT with finding alternative local options for their service users; we would also provide support should they wish to continue to operate their service at a different location in the area.
- **The North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust has been asked to vacate the site.** No, we have not asked NSCHT to vacate the site.
- **NSCHNT has yet indicated what their intentions are for the future of this vital mental health service at the present site or elsewhere in the area.** No, NSCHT have yet to indicate whether they intend to continue to provide the service.
- **A formal agreement is to be put in place between the County Council and NSCHNT to allow the service to be reopened on the site before it is redeveloped for housing?** Yes, the Council has asked that that if NSCHT wish to continue to use the Kniveden site then we enter into a formal arrangement in order to give us appropriate cover for insurance purposes. The

Council has not indicated that we would charge rent and have no intention of doing so.