

The Abbeyfield Society

Royal Patron HRH The Prince of Wales



Mr Miles Parkinson OBE
Leader of the Council
Borough of Hyndburn
Scaitcliffe House
Ormerod Street
Accrington
BB5 0PF

3rd October 2019

Dear Mr Parkinson,

Your letter to David McCullough has been passed to me and please accept my sincere apologies for taking so long to reply. I know my colleague Sarah Hart has been in contact with your office and I am very happy for you to share with your Overview and Scrutiny Committee the letter we sent to you last month.

I would welcome a meeting with David Welsby to discuss the proposed closure of Oak Hill Mansion, but in the meantime I will try to address the specific points in your letter. The consultation with staff and discussions with residents and their relatives are scheduled to run until November, with the final decision being communicated to residents before the end of that month.

We cannot consider a possible closure date as no firm decision will be made until the consultation concludes and we have had the opportunity to carefully consider the responses from residents, their loved ones and our staff.

As we said in our previous letter to you, if the final decision is to close, no resident or staff member will be asked to leave until January 2020 at the earliest. Should that be the outcome, we will work with the Council and residents to make sure everyone finds a suitable new home that meets their needs.



Throughout the consultation and discussions, senior colleagues are maintaining regular contact with the residents and staff living and working at Oak Hill. This includes fortnightly communications to residents and their loved ones, regular visits to the home to speak to residents and staff, and a dedicated helpline that means everyone can have their questions answered as quickly as possible.

I hope this is helpful and we will be in touch to arrange a meeting with Mr Welsby.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small apostrophe over the 'i' in "Robinson".

Julie Robinson
Regional Director North