

Save The Limes

We would like The Limes Care & Day Centres to remain open and continue to provide a valuable service to the vulnerable people aged 55+ of North West Kent. (Supported by 3,372 signatures petition)

8 years since the Limes was reopened as a care centre, hundreds of people have received recuperative therapy to help regain their mobility, confidence and **have been able to return to their own home.** Others have been assessed to require residential or nursing care, not only for their own safety and dignity, but peace of mind for their families.

If the Limes Centre no longer existed, vulnerable people will have to stay in hospital until they are considered medically fit to return home, escalating the workload onto already pressured medical staff and **BED BLOCK** hospital emergency and ward beds. Frequently there is a bed crisis at Darent Valley Hospital, and we take referrals as an emergency and now Queen Mary's Hospital's A&E department, Sidcup has closed, there has been an increase for hospital beds at local hospitals. It was recently reported on the BBC in November 2010 that bed blocking in Kent costs more than £60,000 a day. The Limes closure would add to these costs. If we were to remain open additional use of the services could alleviate the problem.

The Limes would continue to support the enablement programme to progress Service Users back to their own homes, with safe transitions from hospital to home and accept referrals from the community to avoid hospital admissions or as a place of safety if their house is uninhabitable or at risk from a family member.



Does this look like a building beyond it's useful life?

Day Centre Service Users are able **to stay in their own homes and be as independent .** They socialise and interact with like minded people. This helps them with their mental wellbeing, which we are confident supports them in keeping healthy and happy. Services provided are, holistic therapy, hairdressing, chiropody, opticians, a visiting minister giving pastoral care and mobile shop, entertainment and pampers days. We are happy to continue to provide the venue for the Falls Prevention Exercise Classes promoted by Dartford Council and the West Kent NHS Trust Get Active campaign, a popular class which most Day Centre Service Users attend.

When they moved from The Mount to the Limes, staff and Service Users were given the concept of a new purpose building that was to be built in Dartford and would be allocated to them. We question, what ever happened to these plans, were there any?

Similar to the funding received by the Guru Nanak Day Centre in Gravesend from the Kent Adult Social Services and European funding earlier this year, which was confirmed in a letter from Oliver Mills, why cannot we request European or National Lottery funding for our Service Users?

The Limes - a valuable resource that should not be closed!

***The Limes Focus Group
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Ask for:
Our ref:
Date: 11 May 2010

Dear Mr Thandi

Guru Nanak Day Centre, Khalsa Avenue, Refurbishment Costs

I am writing in response to an invitation by you to clarify to the local Sikh Community the role of Kent Adult Social Services in the recent refurbishment of the new Guru Nanak Day Centre.

Kent Adult Social Services Directorates funded the refurbishment and successfully secured European funding towards the costs. This was done so that elders in the local community could continue to benefit from the local day services.

The Gurdwara Management Committee played no part in funding the development or in the delivery of the refurbishment project. However both as a representative of local people and as the landlord of the Day Centre, we valued your general encouragement for the project. Indeed, our regular liaison and dialogue helped considerably to complete the project within a short period of time.

The result is a new Day Centre which has excellent facilities and we hope that local elders will enjoy them for many years into the future.

Yours sincerely

Oliver Mills
Managing Director
Kent Adult Social Services