



The Police Treatment Centres

www.thepolicetreatmentcentres.org

"A Charitable Company - Not for Profit"

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL NORTH WEST POLICE BENEVOLENT FUND (NWPBF) MEMBERS (OFFICERS FROM GMP, MERSEYSIDE, LANCASHIRE, CUMBRIA AND CHESHIRE) FROM CEO OF THE POLICE TREATMENT CENTRES (HARROGATE AND AUCHTERARDER)

Dear NWPBF Member

11 February 2015

All NWPBF members were sent a two page covering letter and Survey on 29 Jan 15 asking for their views on whether the fund should develop a treatment centre at Langho and potentially terminating their relationship with the Police Treatment Centres (PTC). Despite the PTC asking for sight of the letter and survey in advance, this did not happen, and we believe that many of the statements in the covering letter are inaccurate, prejudicial to the PTC and that the survey is fundamentally flawed in that it does not include the option for NWPBF members to continue to donate and support both charities (plus St George's Police Children Trust), at the current donation rate of £9.52. The PTC is aware that your Trustees will shortly vote on the proposal whether to end your relationship with the PTC, and therefore my Trustees have directed me to write to all NWPBF Members and Trustees to ensure that you are aware of the full facts. CEO PTC has personally discussed this issue with your Chair and both your Vice Chairs in the last few days, and appraised them in advance of our actions. I should emphasise that the starting and closing position of the PTC, is that we respect and value the support and services that the NWPBF provides to its members, and wish us to remain in collaboration and work closely together both now and in the future, in the very best interests of all our serving and retired officers.

PTC Comments on the NWPBF Letter are as follows:

- NWPBF Members pay £9.52 to the NWPBF each month. Of this money the PTC receives a donation of £5.63 each month. This then allows all donors free access to the outstanding facilities at the PTC.
- St George's Police Children Trust (SGPCT) receives a further 86p each month. In the original NWPBF letter there is no mention of the thousands of pounds in benefits, grants and financial support that donors to SGPCT do and will receive if the police officer dies or is incapacitated both on and off duty.
- The NWPBF Survey includes an option where members are asked if they want to donate to "both charities", this will be at the increased monthly donation rate of £11.95. All of this extra £2.43 each month will go to the NWPBF, and none of it will come to the PTC/SGPCT who do not intend any increase in their donation rate through 2015.
- The PTC is a class leader in the treatment of physical and psychological injuries. We believe it would be impossible to match the residential treatment provided at the PTC, described by Mike Penning the Police Minister in a recent visit to Harrogate as "better than he had seen anywhere else in the country, including Firefighters and Armed Forces Centres" with any development of the Langho Centre.

Patron: **H.R.H The Duke of York, KG** President: **The Hon. Simon Howard** Chief Executive: **Colonel Patrick Cairns MA, BA (Hons), CMgr FCMI**

Companies House Registration Number 07822534, Charity Commission Registration Number 1147449, OSCR Registration Number SC043396

The PTC is the Corporate Trustee of the Northern Police Convalescent and Treatment Centre.
Charity Commission Registration Number 1147449-1, OSCR Registration Number SC039749



- NWPBF retired Officers make a “voluntary” donation to the NWPBF of £4 each month. The PTC does not receive a single penny of this money at all.
- The NWPBF letter states that 50% of patients admitted to the PTC were suffering from psychological issues. Without minimising this issue which we take very seriously, this figure is incorrect as we believe the real figure is 20%.
- The NWPBF letter states that the PTC is unable to offer any other treatment for psychological disorders other than “*limited alternative therapies and basic signposting*”. This is incorrect. The PTC treats psychological disorders through physios, nursing support, patient support advisors, a variety of exercise and advice classes and complementary therapists. The PTC has just taken delivery of a report that it commissioned by an eminent psychologist which will lead to a restructuring of how we deliver support to this condition, and we also received a £90,000 donation from a police partner on 24 Jan 15 which will be specifically used to treat psychological disorders.
- The NWPBF letter states that the PTC is not structured to provide outpatient services. This is incorrect, leaving aside the fact that our SME clinicians believe that intensive Physio intervention delivered during residential stays is the most effective way to treat musculoskeletal disorders, and over 9% of the over 4000 patients that the PTC treated in 2014 were outpatients. The PTC is also a family friendly facility, and has three cottages on site where officers can and do bring their families to stay when admitted for residential treatment.
- There is no mention in the NWPBF letter of what will happen to Retired NWPBF Officers who, if the NWPBF separates from the PTC, will lose all right of access to the PTC for free treatment that they currently enjoy.
- There is also no mention in the NWPBF letter of what will happen to current and future beneficiaries from SGPCT if the NWPBF separate from the SGPCT.

Our superb facilities are currently getting even better as a result of a £500,000 grant that the PTC received from the cabinet office in November 2014, which illustrates the type of influence and support the PTC have nationally.

The PTC hope that the information above gives you a more balanced view on what the serving and retired officers within the NWPBF could lose if you vote to terminate your relationship with the PTC and SGPCT. Police officers do not have many friends outside of the police community at the moment, and we do not believe that this is the right time for two well established police charities to be fighting each other when they should be working together and offering complementary services and support, in the best interests of serving and retired police officers everywhere. We are surprised that the NWPBF Survey does not include a fourth option by which the membership would be able to vote as to whether to continue to donate to all charities at the existing £9.52 current rate, and we are disappointed that we did not have an opportunity to comment on the letter and survey in advance or put our view in a balanced manner. The revised increase of the NWPBF donation rate to £11.95 per month to continue to donate to all charities is entirely a matter for the NWPBF Members and Trustees, but the PTC feel that it is important to highlight for transparency that both it and SGPCT will not be increasing their donation rates in 2015, and all of this £2.43 monthly increase will go to the NWPBF. This reinforces the PTC assertion that we have held for some time, that the sums of money allocated to each of the three charities should be specifically itemised on any payroll donation form, thereby ensuring both transparency and visibility of the sum that each charity receives, and allowing each individual donor the freedom to decide which of the three charities he/she wishes to donate to individually, rather than wrapping the three of them together as an all or nothing deal as is the case at the moment.

The PTC therefore call upon the NWPBF to split the payroll donation specifically to each of the three charities individually as happens in every other PTC constituent force, allowing officers greater visibility and transparency of which charity they donate to, visibility of which charity is increasing its donation rate, and allow members of the NWPBF, the option for the first time, of deciding which of the three charities that they wish to donate to. We accept that we in the PTC and indeed SGPCT are likely to lose some of our donors in this case, but we believe that it is more important that officers have an informed transparent choice of which charity they wish to donate to, and which they do not. We will therefore be writing to all NWPBF Chief Constables and Federation Chairs to this effect which we believe to be in your best interests.

We at the PTC wish to retain the whole of the serving and retired NWPBF Officers within the PTC and SGPCT constituency and allow them to continue to benefit from the services and support of both charities, but that is a decision for you, and whatever you feel or do about the issue, I would encourage you to make sure that your voice is heard.

There is a place for all three charities, and during these testing times for the Police Service we believe that we should be working together collaboratively rather than competing against one another at significant and unneeded additional expense and costs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Cairns', written in a cursive style.

Patrick Cairns
CEO PTC