

Press release

Tuesday 25th February

Dr. Allison Gardner MP Condemns Unacceptable Wheelchair Wait Times and Calls for Urgent Action

Allison Gardner, Member of Parliament for Stoke-on-Trent South, has called for immediate action to address the unacceptable delays faced by individuals who rely on NHS provided wheelchairs. Many of Allison's constituents, along with residents in neighbouring parts of Staffordshire, are experiencing extreme wait times for essential wheelchairs supplied by NHS contractor AJM Healthcare. These delays prevent people from leading independent lives and have left many without the vital support they need.

In recent meetings with the ICB, Allison raised serious concerns about the failures of the current wheelchair service provider. As a result, she has written to Secretary of State for Health, Wes Streeting, and Minister for Care, Stephen Kinnock, calling for an urgent review of AJM Healthcare's NHS contract.

In her letter, Dr. Gardner highlighted the case of Noah, who has been waiting over 12 months for his molded wheelchair. His current chair, which is "offering zero support," is not only unsuitable but dangerous. This is just one of many distressing cases that illustrate the urgent need for change.

Allison expressed her outrage, stating "This failure is a disgrace. No one should have to wait this long for life-changing equipment. These delays rob people of their independence and dignity. AJM Healthcare is failing to provide even the most basic mobility support to those who need it most, in a timely manner."

"This cannot go on. The NHS must hold providers like AJM Healthcare accountable and ensure they deliver on their promises. I will be demanding answers and pushing for immediate action—both locally for my constituents and in Parliament."

The failure to deliver wheelchairs in a timely manner is unacceptable. Allison will continue to press for urgent improvements to ensure that those in need receive the support they deserve without unnecessary and harmful delays.

ENDS