

NEWS & CRIER

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Charity's anger at waiting lists

A CHARITY has accused the NHS of letting down sick and vulnerable patients over "wholly unreasonable" nine month waits for an assessment by an occupational therapist.

Huntingdon Freeman's Charity is so concerned about the delays that it has been spending its money on private assessments for desperate cases.

Now the charity is considering billing the NHS to recover the money spent on occupational therapist (OT) work.

Charity chairman Ted Bocking said they should not have to use money which is supposed to benefit people living in Huntingdon to back up the NHS.

The Freeman's Charity, which is legally bound not to give grants to where money would normally come from public funds, said vulnerable people waiting for OT assessments were being left in limbo because they could not get government grants without an assessment and this meant

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the charity could not help them until the grants had been decided.

Mr Bocking said: "We have been concerned about these delays for over two years now and we have regularly made the health authorities aware of our concern.

"It is wholly unreasonable to expect someone who is sick, disabled and in urgent need of help to wait nine months before even being assessed by the local OT service."

Mr Bocking said: "The charity has seen a number of cases which we considered were so urgently in need of our help that we have paid for a private OT assessment to be done so that they can go through the grant machinery and we can then decide how much grant we can give.

"We have done this in a few really desperate cases but we

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Scouts cook up a treat



Cooking on gas: Members of the 1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scout group Jack Pinnington, Josh Read, Ben Hegan, Harry Ward, Joe Hegan, Ewan Rogers, Katie Hughes and Steph Parsons. Picture: Duncan Lamont 563844

FENSTANTON'S picturesque Clock Tower was turned into an outdoor kitchen for the annual Big Breakfast fundraising event put on by the 1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scout Group.

The scouts, beavers and cubs, together with their adult helpers, served up scores of full English breakfasts, bacon rolls and hot drinks. Scouts did the cooking and the

beavers and cubs the serving, as well as helping run the tombola and selling cakes. In total the Big Breakfast raised £460 for the group which has 80 boys and girls aged six to 14.

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE REGIONAL COLLEGE

Open Day

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