

Muscle-wasting sufferer: NHS review a 'start'

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A MUSCULAR dystrophy patient has welcomed news that the NHS will look at improving treatment for sufferers.

Margot Keats, of Evans Avenue, Allestree, yesterday met MPs and regional health bosses in Parliament to discuss local services for people with long-term muscle conditions.

Kate Caston, director of the East Midlands Specialised Commissioning Group, which funds specialised health services, said a review of treatments would be carried out.

Mrs Keats, 62, welcomed the news. She said: "It's a start. The NHS isn't doing enough yet and services still need a lot of input but it's a start".

Mrs Keats and Ms Caston met with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Muscular Dystrophy, a group of MPs which last August raised concerns about regional NHS services for people with the muscle disease.



They found that children in Derby with muscular dystrophy faced an average six-month wait for powered wheelchairs and that the East Midlands only had one regional care adviser to support muscle-condition patients.

At the meeting, Mrs Keats called for a muscle centre in the East Midlands which would offer specialist care.

Ms Caston did not rule out the idea but said: "We are not in the position yet to say if a muscle centre would be the best use of resources."

Mrs Keats's brother, Andy Findlay, of Stoneyhurst Court, Shelton Lock, also has muscular dystrophy.

He said: "If the NHS is prepared to look at having a centre then that is something. If they're worried that it would only cater to a small amount of people and it wouldn't financially be worth their while then I don't accept that."

