

APPENDIX B

Staff Responses - Catherine Dalley House

A meeting was held with staff at Catherine Dalley House on 8 July – discussions were based around the consultation questionnaire. Below is a summary of staff responses to each of the questions made at the Meeting:

Question 2: *To what extent do you agree or disagree with the council's assessment that, instead of updating the current facilities, the most effective use of resources would be to close Catherine Dalley House?*

Staff strongly disagree with this, expressing concern that Catherine Dalley House is the residents' home, and moving to other accommodation will affect them adversely. People outside Catherine Dalley House may also be affected – for example older people who might want to move to Catherine Dalley House in future.

It is felt that the amount saved from the closure of Catherine Dalley House is a relatively small amount, given the amount of savings the County Council has to find.

Other points made are that Catherine Dalley House has an excellent reputation, and that closure will result in the loss of well trained and competent staff to the Council.

Staff also feel that Catherine Dalley House is good value for money, and are concerned that using private sector homes will be more expensive.

Question 3: *To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Council's assessment that the local care market has sufficient capacity to meet existing and future demand if Catherine Dalley House were to close?*

Staff strongly disagree with this – although the report says that there are 317 alternative care beds available they feel that the key point is what vacancies are available.

Staff also raised concerns about the loss of the short term rehabilitation service, and asked if any account has been taken of the loss of provision. Staff feel that the Council should take account of the long term picture as by closing Catherine Dalley House an asset is being lost.

Question 4: *To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Council's proposals for how we would support existing Catherine Dalley House residents if the home were to close?*

Staff agree that prime consideration must be given to the individual needs of each resident when looking at alternative provision. Staff feel that in the event of closure they would need to be closely involved in working with and supporting residents as they know them very well. They are very keen to supporting the residents moving, by escorting on pre visits, and admissions to create the best seamless transition

possible. They are also keen to work closely with families, offering them support.

Question 5: *What additional measures could we put in place to reduce any negative impacts of the proposals?*

Staff agree that good communication with residents, families, staff and other stakeholders is essential. Communication must be transparent and clear explanations given on why decisions are taken.
In the event of closure, staff feel that residents should not be dispersed to different homes as this would be detrimental to them; they should be allowed to stay as a group.

Question 6: *Overall. On balance, to what extent do you support or oppose the proposals?*

Staff strongly oppose the proposals.

Question 7: *do you have any alternative ideas for providing the best possible support and services for older people within the resources available?*

Staff suggested that the Council could contract with another provider for a block placement so at least all the residents could move together. They also suggested that the County Council should rent out Silverdale and the cottages currently unoccupied in the Catherine Dalley grounds to secure extra income.

They have also asked if there is any possibility of creating a new care home integrated with supported living provision in Melton or renting part of the new 91 bed home currently being built in Melton.