

**Cabinet – 9 February 2018****Item 7 - Reconfiguration of In - House Learning Disability Residential Accommodation**

As Member for Coalville North I have been contacted by residents and Carers who wish me to raise concerns on their behalf regarding the proposed closure of Hamilton Court and Smith's Crescent.

I recognise that the existing buildings are no longer fit for purpose due to accessibility problems. I appreciate the intention to redirect our resources to short-breaks and respite care.

I share local concerns regarding the process of transition and the impact on current users of the short-break facility at Smith's Crescent, Coalville.

I understand that there are seven long-term residents in The Trees, Hinckley and four residents at Hamilton Court. I am told that officers are working with families to ensure a sensitive transition to alternative accommodation.

I wish to put on record my sympathy for the residents of Hamilton Court. This has been their home for many years. Members need to acknowledge that moving house is likely to be stressful for them and their families. It is disappointing that County Council budget cuts have led to this situation.

I am concerned at this Council's assumption that they can depend on private sector care home providers. According to business analysts Moore Stephens, (14/8/17) '16% of care home companies are exhibiting warning signs that they are at risk of failure'.

I understand that the intention is to focus our resources on short-break and respite services. After this reconfiguration, the overall in-house capacity for residential short breaks will in fact reduce from 27 to 24 beds. Families will find this most disappointing.

Concerns have been raised in Coalville that families will lose a local and much-loved short-break service. Leicestershire is not well-served by public transport. Some Carers who use Smith's Crescent are quite elderly. They fear having to transport their family member to the other side of the County. It is not clear from the proposals if they will be expected to meet this additional expense from their own pocket.

**QUESTIONS FOR CABINET**

Will this Authority commit to ensuring that any changes will not result in higher cost for families and will it include transport costs in this mix?

Will options for the future use of Hamilton Court and the adjacent Smith Crescent site in Coalville include a fit-for-purpose short-break facility?

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