

Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Monday 8th March 2021

ITEM 8: Provision of Short Breaks and Supported Living Services

Comment from Local Member for Coalville North, Cllr Terri Eynon

As I understand it, this paper proposes a move away from the pre-existing intention develop a new short breaks service on the Hamilton Court/Smith Crescent site to replace the existing short breaks building. It has been drafted in anticipation of consultation and engagement with affected service users.

It is disappointing to see that, after a spend of £513k, there have been two failed tender exercises and it now appears that the original proposal is viewed as unaffordable. Whilst I welcome the proposal to extend the Short Breaks Service at The Trees to accommodate 12 service users, this leaves North West Leicestershire without an easily accessible short breaks facility.

I am pleased to see that officers will be engaging with the 17 service users affected, 8 of whom still live closer to Hamilton Court/Smith Crescent than other services. Some of our services users have carers who are becoming old and frail themselves and are unwilling to travel long distances.

Will existing service users be offered help with transport to the other sites available?

It is reassuring that the total bed capacity will exceed demand. High bed occupancy can make it difficult for service users and carers to book short breaks at times of need or to fit in with their own well-deserved holidays.

What level of bed occupancy is generally thought to be appropriate for this kind of service? How does our plan compare?

I note that the proposals allow for the opportunity to create a 'Transforming Care step through facility for people with complex needs'. In communication with officers, I understand that this could be a small short-term assessment and independent living accommodation for people who have a learning disability or people with autism as an alternative to hospital in patient care.

As I understand it an alternative option is a 'young person's step through facility' for young people transitioning into adult services who wish to live independently.

I am pleased to see that the intention is to retain the site and develop social care infrastructure to meet the needs of Leicestershire residents. I would be interested to see more information on how the Transforming Care proposal could be used to allow discharge from hospital to provide assessment and reablement prior to long term supported living, or to provide short term support and assessment to avoid an admission to hospital.

How will the proposed Transforming Care Service work with NHS to ensure a seamless and integrated service for people with learning disabilities and autism?

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