Consultation on the future of residential short breaks (respite care) provision for people with learning disabilities in South Staffordshire

Introduction

Thank you for reading this document which outlines our plans for the future arrangements for residential short breaks (respite care) services in South Staffordshire for people with learning disabilities.

This document sets out a number of options for the future of residential short breaks provision in South Staffordshire.

We want to work more closely with people with learning disabilities and their families, as well as other organisations and people interested in the provision of short breaks services, and therefore invite you to comment on our plans.

The consultation will run from 20 March 2008 to 16 June 2008.

The background

We began making plans for improving short breaks services in 2006 and in January 2007 South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust and Staffordshire County Council published a strategy for short term breaks for people with learning disabilities and their families.

This set out an intention to move to a modern pattern of services offering a greater range of good quality community based residential and non–residential services.

The purpose of this is to create greater choice for people with learning disabilities and their families through a service that is modern and flexible and that can better respond as people’s needs and preferences change throughout their lives.

Plans to develop community based elements of the strategy will be brought forward later in this year when further consultation on proposals will be undertaken. Plans for the north of the County will also be brought forward at that time.

Plans to develop residential short breaks services are currently under discussion and this consultation is seeking views on the best choice of buildings from which to provide services and a number of other questions relating to the provision of residential short breaks.
Why do we need to change services?

We need to change residential services and ensure they meet modern standards of support for people with learning disabilities and their families for some very important reasons. These include:

- Improving the quality of residential short breaks by upgrading the buildings to provide an attractive and homely living environment

- Providing buildings suitable for modern standards of care, privacy and dignity by offering bedrooms that are only occupied by one person and that have en suite bathing and toilet facilities

- Ensuring a more personal service by tailoring the buildings to particular needs

- Meeting Government requirements for the standards to which residential short breaks services have to operate in the future

- Recognising that when people receive short breaks they should have an as ordinary ‘home from home’ experience as possible. Currently this is not the case because they are admitted to a hospital style service.

- Separating the provision of care and support from providing buildings. This will ensure that the quality of both can be properly addressed by organisations whose business it is to either provide support or to provide premises services

The proposed changes will ensure that we can make these improvements. The next section explains how.

The proposed changes

Currently there are four buildings in South Staffordshire where residential short breaks services are provided. These are at White Lodge (Cannock), Hockley (Tamworth), Stretton Edge (Burton on Trent) and New Burton House (Stafford) providing a total of 19 beds. All of these are in their present condition unsuitable for providing short breaks in the longer term.

Our preferred plan is therefore to:

- Close Stretton Edge and replace it with a building in Heath Road, Burton-on-Trent that we have already identified as suitable for the purpose.

- Close New Burton House and re-provide the service in the other buildings that are part of our plans

- Upgrade the existing Hockley site in Tamworth
- Upgrade the existing White Lodge site or replace it by upgrading an existing council building that was once a children’s home in Old Penkridge Road, Cannock

- Increase the total number of residential short breaks beds to 22

These plans give us three options for the future configuration of residential short breaks services. These are shown in the table that follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>Site and Location</th>
<th>Potential Number of beds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Option 1:</td>
<td>Existing White Lodge site, Cannock</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Existing Hockley site, Tamworth</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heath Road, Burton on Trent</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total beds</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option 2:</td>
<td>Existing Hockley site, Tamworth Old Penkridge Road, Cannock</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heath Road, Burton on Trent</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total beds</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option 3:</td>
<td>Old Penkridge Road, Cannock Existing White Lodge, Cannock</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Existing Hockley, site, Tamworth</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total beds</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The shaded area in the table shows the options that are preferred by South Staffordshire PCT and Staffordshire County Council.

Each option consists of three buildings providing the potential for a total of 22 beds. Although this is a reduction in the current number of buildings it would be an increase in the total number of beds.

Options 1 and 2 provide a geographical spread of services so that there is local access to short breaks care in south, central and east Staffordshire. It is for this reason that these options are preferred by the PCT and the County Council. Option 2 differs from Option 1 by the inclusion of Old Penkridge Road instead of White Lodge.
Option 3 would concentrate services in the centre and south of the County, meaning there would be no local service in east Staffordshire.

The properties we eventually choose will be transferred to the ownership of a not for profit housing association, which will be responsible for developing and managing the buildings in the future.

We have already entered into some preliminary discussions with a housing association and know that in principle we have some workable plans.

We need to continue talking to the association to fully work through all the issues that will be involved in having a housing association provide the buildings for the short breaks service in future, including making sure that there are legally binding agreements in place that ensures the service will be provided on a long term basis and that there are suitable and workable designs for improving each of the buildings.

Only when we have done this work, as well as receiving views through this consultation, will we be in a position to make the final decision and formally appoint them to provide the buildings.

The advantage of having a housing association responsible for the properties in future is that the housing association itself will contribute expertise and to help with designing the buildings as well as funding to help with the costs of upgrading the buildings and ensuring that future repairs and maintenance are properly carried out.

In addition to changes that occur through one of these options, there will also be a change of support provider.

The Shropshire and South Staffordshire Foundation NHS Trust will in future not be providing support. Instead, an organisation called Lifeways has already been appointed to provide the service.

Lifeways is a specialist provider of support services for people with learning disabilities and will be working closely with us to ensure that the changes experienced by people with learning disabilities and their families occur smoothly.

South Staffordshire PCT and Staffordshire County Council will, however, continue to have joint responsibility for ensuring services are planned and fully funded with the County Council having lead responsibility for ensuring adequate services are available and in place.

As these changes are made we will also review arrangements for assessing and determining the levels of short breaks that people receive so that we can ensure an equal approach to meeting people’s needs.

This is necessary because there is a growing population of people with learning disabilities in Staffordshire who in the future will also need support from short
breaks services and we have to ensure that the resources we have are used as fairly as possible for the benefit of as many people as possible.

**What are the benefits of the proposed changes?**

It is very important that we have a range of both residential and community short breaks services so that we can meet the full range of needs that people with learning disabilities have, and offer choices about the services they receive. The proposals ensure that residential short breaks remain part of service provision so that people with learning disabilities who need them can continue to have secure and safe places to receive support.

The service will also be more appropriate to the needs of the people who use it because of an improvement in building standards and a living environment that provides privacy and dignity through individual living arrangements, as well as opportunities to mix with other people staying in the short breaks facility.

There is also a potential increase in capacity through three additional beds to meet the needs of a growing population of people with learning disabilities who have severe and profound levels of disability and who need high levels of support. This could mean more families who need residential short breaks will be able to have them, secure in the knowledge that their relative is being fully supported, and confident that they are receiving the right support from services to continue to care for their relative.

On the other hand, we also have the choice of keeping the number of beds at 19 and using our resources instead to develop community based short breaks services.

We would like to know what you think about these choices.

The options also ensure that if we wish we can choose a service configuration that means no-one in South Staffordshire will have to travel too far to obtain a service.

One of the very clear opportunities of these changes, in addition to those already mentioned, is to that we can choose to offer more individualised service responses by organising different units to cater for different types of need. For example, we could devote a property to people who have very complex needs including physical disability and a unit for people who have behavioural difficulties.

The alternative to this is that the units provide services to a mix of people with different needs, much as the existing services do now. This can have many disadvantages in that it can mean that people who need high levels of support can receive more attention than those who need less.

A third option, between these two, is that where possible, each property the is designed in such a way as to provide two or more smaller scale settings, focusing separately upon groups of people with different types of needs.
This would mean that people could have the benefit of closer geographical access at the same time as having a service more appropriate to needs and being able to stay in a more homely setting.

**What happens next?**

We recognise that any decision to change short breaks services is very important and will concern many people who already receive short breaks services as well as their families, and those who may need to do so in the future. We also know that staff are concerned to understand and comment on what is planned. And we hope as well that other organisations interested in services for people with learning disabilities will also wish to comment.

At the moment, we have made no final decisions about how best to provide short breaks services in the future. Before we make any final decision we want to hear from you and get your views and ideas on the options for providing buildings and the other changes relating to the number of beds and the options to make the service more individual and personal for the people who use it. These questions are addressed specifically in the questionnaire enclosed with this document.

We will value all opinions and comments and take them fully into consideration when we make our final decisions. Our decisions will be based on the comments we receive through this consultation as well as consideration of a number of other factors relating to the feasibility of and quality we can achieve by upgrading each of the buildings.

We will formally record all comments and responses received, and produce written report of the results of the consultation in June 2008 summarising the responses. We will circulate the report to all individuals and organisations who have taken time to make a response, and also organise a number of meetings to present the results of the consultation. The report will set out the response of South Staffordshire PCT and Staffordshire County Council to the comments made. The report will be presented to South Staffordshire PCT Board in July 2008 when it will consider it alongside other information before a final decision is taken.

**How can you respond?**

There are a number of ways you can express your views. We would particularly like you to complete the questionnaire attached which you can return in the enclosed freepost envelope or you can complete it via the PCT or County Council website at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/ or www.southstaffordshirepct.nhs.uk/

You may also write to or email the Head of Joint Commissioning for Learning Disabilities services at the address below.
We will also set up a number of consultation events throughout April and May that you may wish to attend to present your views in person. We will let you know the dates and locations of these as soon as possible.

We are also happy to respond to any request from a group of individuals or from organisations to meet to discuss the proposals. Please contact the Head of Joint Commissioning for Learning Disabilities Services at the address below.

We have also produced an easy read version of this document. Should you require copies of this please contact us. We can also make this document available in a range of other formats and languages. Please contact us to discuss your specific requirements.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Julian Wakefield  
Head of Joint Commissioning for Learning Disabilities Services  
Joint Commissioning Unit  
Wedgwood Buildings  
Tipping Street  
Stafford  
ST16 2DH

Email: julian.wakefield@staffordshire.gov.uk

Telephone: Stafford (01785) 276852
Consultation on the future of residential short breaks (respite care) provision for people with learning disabilities in South Staffordshire

Please tell us which option do you prefer and the reasons why

I prefer Option 1 □
I prefer Option 2 □
I prefer Option 3 □

Reasons

What do you think about the proposal to increase the number of beds from 19 to 22? Would you prefer it if the number of beds remained at 19 and we used resources to develop more community options for short breaks?

Do you agree with the plans to make services more individual by providing support at different buildings for different needs? Or do you prefer the idea of using the buildings for a range of needs but providing support for these in smaller settings within the same building?
Would you be interested in participating in the design of the future service?

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

About You
Are these comments from:

- One person
- A group of people
- If a group, how many people were involved in producing this response?
- Are you (or the group of people): (Please mark one)
  - Self-advocates (people with a learning disability)
  - Family carers
  - Health care professional working with people with a learning disability
  - Social care professional working with people with a learning disability
  - Managers or commissioners
- Other, please say what ____________________________

What is your ethnic group?
- White
- Mixed
- Asian
- Black
- Chinese
- Any other, please write in ____________________________

It would help us if you put your name and where you are from. If this is a group response, then this is particularly important. This is particularly important if you wish to participate in the design stage.
Name of individual or group ____________________________________

Area ______________________________________________________

Please return your completed response form to:
Julian Wakefield, Interim Head of Joint Commissioning
Social Care and Health
Staffordshire County Council
Wedgwood Building
Tipping Street
Stafford ST16 2DH
Email: julian.wakefield@staffordshire.gov.uk
Asking you about Respite Services

Staffordshire Primary Care Trust and Staffordshire County Council are looking at how to change respite care services in South Staffordshire.

We are trying to find out what you think about our plans for respite services.

We are asking you to look at the choices available.

Please tell us what you think by the 16th June 2008.

Eric Robinson – Corporate Director (Social Care and Health)
You can do this by:-

- Coming to a meeting in April or May where we will show you what respite will look like in the future. We will write again to tell you what meetings we are having and where they will be.

OR

- By filling in the paper sent with this letter and sending it back to us.

Thank you for all of your help.

Eric Robinson – Corporate Director (Social Care and Health)
Welcome

Finding out what you think about respite services

We are looking at how to change respite care in South Staffordshire

We are asking people to look at the choices

We want you to tell us what you think
Valuing People

And the Healthcare Commission (Government) say that

The people that plan and buy learning disability services need to do things differently to make them better.
We have four places now where people can have respite. These are:

- White Lodge
- Hockley
- Stretton Edge
- New Burton House
Not all meet the rules of the Commission for Social Care and Inspection (CSCI).

We also have to improve the buildings and accommodation.

We would like to know what you think.
Because New Burton House and Stretton Edge do not meet the rules of the Commission for Social care and Inspection, they will have to close.

We have four buildings. We can use three. We would like to know which three you want. (Please Tick ✓)

All choices mean that there could be three more respite beds.
Choice 1:

- Keep White Lodge in Cannock.

   And

- Open a new place at Heath Road in Burton

   And

- Keep Hockley in Tamworth.
Choice 2:

- Open 35A Old Penkridge Road in Cannock

And

- Open a new place at Heath Road in Burton

And

- Keep Hockley in Tamworth.
Choice 3:

- Keep White Lodge in Cannock.

And

- Open 35A Old Penkridge Road in Cannock

And

- Keep Hockley in Tamworth.
These choices mean that respite services will be better as they will:

- Meet the new rules
- Meet your needs
- Meet your families needs
- Offer choices
- Be in better buildings
- Increase beds across South Staffordshire
- Support more people
- Be more fairly located
- More individual
Tell us why you chose this one?
Please tell us what you think by the 16th of June 2008

You can do this by:

Coming to a meeting in April or May where we will show you what respite may look like in the future

Write or fill in the questionnaire and send to the Head of Commissioning for Learning Disabilities at:

Social Care & Health Directorate
Wedgewood Building
Tipping Street
Stafford
ST16 2DH

At the end of June 2008 when we know what everyone thinks

We will write a report about what is going to happen.
Are the choices on pages 6, 7 and 8 of finding out what you think of respite services the best ones?

Or

Could you think of something better?

Is there anything else that you want?
About you

Please tick a box ✓

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<th>One Person</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>A group of people</th>
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<tr>
<th>A person that used services</th>
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<td><img src="image" alt="A person that used services" /></td>
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What is your ethnic group?

Please tick a box ✓

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
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<th>Asian</th>
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<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Other, please write</th>
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</table>
It would help us if you put your name and where you are from

Name

Where you are from

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?
Please post this to:

Julian Wakefield
(Interim Head of Joint Commissioning)

Social Care and Health
Staffordshire County Council
Wedgewood Building
Tipping Street
Stafford
ST16 2DH

Or

Email:

Julian.wakefield@staffordshire.gov.uk