

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Graham Gibbens

DECISION NO.

10/01511

If decision is likely to disclose exempt information please specify the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Subject:

OUTCOME ON THE FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE CLOSURE OF BOWLES LODGE REGISTERED CARE CENTRE, HAWKHURST

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services I APPROVE that Bowles Lodge should close and for the site to be used for extra care housing with an ultimate closure date of January 2012.

This decision is taken on the basis that there will be no closure before alternative services are in place.

Any Interest Declared when the Decision was Taken

None

Reason(s) for decision, including alternatives considered and any additional information

The main drivers are that:

- a) More people are living longer and living with long term conditions including dementia. People rightly expect more choice in care.
- b) High quality care is a continuing priority. Dignity in care is crucial and more people want care at home.
- c) Residential care should be in high quality buildings. Some KCC buildings reached the end of their useful life and do not meet expectations or standards for new builds.
- d) Good quality care can be commissioned for less money. The private and voluntary sector is set up to care for more people.

The considerations and options considered included:

- a) The range of alternative local services for older people.
- b) The opportunity for developments with partners in the local area.
- c) The condition of the buildings and likely capital expenditure required to maintain services.
- d) The appropriateness of the design of the buildings for the services delivered and required.
- e) The need to release money that is tied in to services that could be used to deliver equivalent services to more people.

I am satisfied that consideration of alternative sites has taken place. Ideally extra care homes should be situated in the centre of communities within walking distance of shops and other local amenities. The Bowles Lodge site does meet this criteria more effectively than any of the other sites considered.

The terms of this PFI are very favourable to KCC and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and will ensure extra care housing provision for approximately 60 local residents.

Extra care housing enables people to live independently for as long as possible. I believe these proposals provide significant steps in meeting the aspirations of people now and in the future. Current residents of Bowles Lodge will be offered the opportunity to return to the new services if desired and appropriate.

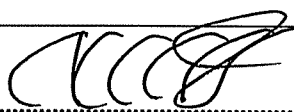
Extra care housing is a national model. It is recognised as making a valuable contribution in offering choice for older people who are considering care in later life. It is offered as a choice to those who previously would have only had the option of residential care. Individuals will have tenant status in their own home with their own front door and at the same time will have access to care staff 24 hours a day in an environment that has been built to meet the needs of people with a range of disabilities.

I am assured that both assessments and intensive support will be offered to all services users and their families to plan and provide alternative services and that the range of services needed will be available.

I have asked officers to ensure the development of alternative day care within the voluntary sector to meet existing and future need.

Background Documents:

Report by Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services 'Outcome of the formal consultation on the closure of Bowles Lodge registered Care Centre, Hawkhurst' (Decision No.10/01511)



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signed

13 JANUARY 2011
date

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Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny			
YES		NO	

Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration of Decision Published	