

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Graham Gibbens
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

16/00007

For publication or exempt – please state

Key decision

The need to modernise services and to respond to changing demands

Subject: Closure of the Dorothy Lucy Centre, Maidstone

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I propose:

- a) to close the Dorothy Lucy Centre, Maidstone
- b) to re-provide elderly frail services (currently provided by the Dorothy Lucy Centre) through existing external provision
- c) to re-provide dementia day services (currently provided by the Dorothy Lucy Centre) through a block contract
- d) to re-provide the short term beds (currently provided by the Dorothy Lucy Centre) in the independent sector
- e) that Dorothy Lucy Centre day provision continues to operate as is until at least March 2017, to allow time to complete a procurement exercise for a block contract and implement a transition plan
- f) that existing services will not close until alternative provision is available for the current service users
- g) to give consideration to leasing the Dorothy Lucy Centre day centre part of the building to an external provider as an interim measure if they are unable to secure a suitable venue within the procurement timetable, with the understanding that they identify an alternate venue within a given timeframe
- h) to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement this decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The main drivers for the proposal to close the service are:

- People are living longer with more complex conditions and they rightly expect more choice in care.
- People wish to remain in their own homes with dignity and expect high quality care.
- Residential care should be in high quality buildings. Our older buildings have reached the end of their useful life.
- Good quality care can be commissioned for less money in the independent sector. Unit costs for in-house services are substantially higher.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

A recommendation report was presented to the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 14 January 2016. The Committee resolved that further work be undertaken and a formal proposal brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

The proposed decision will be discussed at the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee

Meeting on 10 March 2016 and the outcome of this included in the decision paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign.

Social Care Health and Wellbeing entered into formal consultation on the future of its registered care home at Dorothy Lucy Centre, Maidstone on 28 September 2015. The consultation ran for twelve weeks to 20 December 2015 and followed the agreed protocol on proposals affecting its service provision. On 28 September 2015, SCHW officers met with members of staff, service users and their relatives, trades unions and other key stakeholders to discuss the proposals.

A breakdown of the responses by type and organisation is included in the table below:

Consultation responses from	No. of Emails	No. of Letters	No. of Phone calls	No. online responses	No. complaints	No. petitions	No alternative proposals
Relatives	7	7	3	37	3		
Staff				7			
Wider Public		10	4	76		1	
MPs/ Councillors	2	2		1			
Organisations		2	3	7			2
West Kent CCG	1	1					
Total Number of Responses	10	22	10	128	3	1	2

Any alternatives considered:

During the consultation, there was interest from two providers who are looking to purchase the vacant site and build or refurbish facilities to continue to deliver residential care services for different client groups which would require closure of the existing service.

At the present time, KCC does not struggle to find residential care services for those with General Frailty needs in the Maidstone district, hence the proposal to close the Dorothy Lucy Centre. Kent has developed an Accommodation Strategy which confirms the future need for residential services across Kent and in relation to services in Maidstone there may be a future need to develop different residential services such as dementia care. We know that for standard residential care for the future general frailty population, their needs can be met in Extra Care Housing and there is more likely to be a need for dementia care or nursing provision, neither of which could be accommodated in the existing Dorothy Lucy Centre service.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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signed

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date