

From: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To: Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee – 3 December 2015

Decision No: N/A

Subject: **UPDATE ON FORMAL CONSULTATION INHOUSE RESIDENTIAL PROVISION FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: N/A

Future Pathway of Paper: N/A

Electoral Division: Maidstone, Faversham, Sandwich and Sheppey

Summary: To provide an update to the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on the progress of the formal consultation on the future of KCC's four older persons residential care home provision; the Dorothy Lucy Centre, Maidstone, Blackburn Lodge, Sheerness, Kiln Court, Faversham and Wayfarers, Sandwich.

Recommendations: The Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **DISCUSS** the content of this report.

1. Introduction

1.1 Kent County Council is progressing through the formal consultation on the future of four of its older persons care homes. This consultation commenced on 28 September 2015 and ends on 20 December 2015.

1.2 The consultation covers the following:

- Dorothy Lucy Centre, Maidstone – closure
- Blackburn Lodge, Sheppey – work with market to develop alternative services with a final outcome of closure
- Kiln Court, Faversham – closure
- Wayfarers, Sandwich – sell as a going concern

1.3 The key drivers behind these proposals 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.

1.4 The purpose of the consultation is to share the recommended proposals, listen to feedback and consider any alternative proposals. The outcome of the consultation will be presented to the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee in January 2016.

2. Consultation Activity and responses 28 September – 3 November 2015

2.1 Meetings were held with staff, residents and relatives at each of the four homes on 28 and 29 September 2015 and minutes of these meetings have been circulated to all participants and posted on the consultation webpage.

2.2 Additional meetings are planned with Faversham Town Council, the Sandwich and Ash Community Network and the Sandwich Town Council.

2.3 Responses to the consultation can be made by post, email, telephone or by completion of an online questionnaire on the dedicated consultation webpage.

2.4 As at 3 November 2015, there were a total of 171 responses to the consultation as follows:

Method of response	Dorothy Lucy Centre	Kiln Court	Wayfarers	Blackburn Lodge	Totals
Post	3	3	1	1	8
Telephone	15	5	2	1	23
Email	3	1	2	1	7
Website (online questionnaire)	66	22	13	32	133
Totals	87	31	18	35	171

2.5 A Committee has been set up in Faversham in opposition to the proposed closure of Kiln Court.

2.6 Concerns expressed by respondents can be grouped into the following themes:

- Alternative local provision
- Quality of alternative provision
- Motivation for closure and change
- Loss of staff expertise
- Reduction of provision and impact on wider health and social care system

2.7 Alternative proposals are welcomed and some have been submitted for consideration

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

5. Equalities Implications

5.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

6. Next Steps

6.1 Strategic Commissioning has commenced work on a detailed needs analysis of the individuals who have been accessing services at the four centres. This will inform the future needs for any alternative service provision in the independent sector should the decision be taken to close services in the case of the Dorothy Lucy Centre, Maidstone and Kiln Court, Faversham and to inform the future market development of services to replace Blackburn Lodge and transfer in the case of Wayfarers.

6.2 Parallel market activity has commenced with the issue of a tender opportunity for older persons care home providers in the independent sector with a 'lot' specifically requesting market interest in the provision of respite services under a block contract with KCC. In addition, a Prior Information Notice (PIN) has been issued on the Kent Business Portal requesting proposals from independent sector providers to take over the provision of a service at Wayfarers, Sandwich.

6.3 A summary of the needs analysis, market responses and consultation responses will be included in the recommendation reports for each home and these will be presented to the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee in January 2016.

7. Recommendations:

7.1 The Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **DISCUSS** the content of this report.

8. Background Documents

None

9. Contact details

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