

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Graham Gibbens
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

16/00008

For publication

Key decision - The need to modernise services and to respond to changing demands

Subject: Proposal to close Kiln Court registered care home, Faversham

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I agree to
a) **CLOSE** Kiln Court registered care home, Faversham and
b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the 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 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 was then discussed at the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee Meeting on 10 March 2016. Officers introduced the report and explained why this had been delayed from January. The local member and members of the committee raised the value placed on having local services run by trusted providers such as KCC and the importance of having good quality services available to all. The Cabinet Member gave an assurance that no closure would happen until alternative care provision was established and operating to his satisfaction.

The Committee resolved, by majority vote, that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health & Public Health, to close Kiln Court and delegate to officers to undertake the necessary actions to implement this, be endorsed.

Social Care Health and Wellbeing (SCHW) entered into formal consultation on the future of its registered care home at Kiln Court Registered Care Home, Faversham 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. Letters	No. Phone calls	No. online responses	No. complaints	No. Petitions	No. FOI	No. alternative proposals
Relatives	15	10	12	11	5			
Staff				3				
Wider Public				60				
MP/ KCC Member	3	2	3					
Organisations	2	1		3		1	1	3
Swale CCG								
Total Number of Responses	20	13	15	77	5	1	1	3

Three petitions were received against the proposal to close Kiln Court; one from Unison Kent Branch, one from the Faversham Labour Party and one from Faversham Health Matters. The responses have been calculated and a total of 1664 'signatures' were recorded across the various petitions which were titled:

"we the undersigned believe that the following should happen; (1) That Kiln Court should not be closed and that proper investment should be made to update the facility and expand the number of beds available and (2) If KCC no longer wish to use to run the services then discussions should be held with other potential providers, including the community and voluntary sector".

The KCC Petition Scheme requires 2,500 signatories to warrant a further discussion at Cabinet Committee. KCC's petition scheme policy requires that all paper petitions require name, address and signature to be considered valid. Unfortunately, of these petitions, one did not record addresses and the others did not include signatures making them invalid. However, due to the obvious local concern to the proposals, this is significant to the consultation.

All public consultation documents were uploaded onto the KCC Consultations webpage and a dedicated email address created to handle responses.

In addition to the formal consultation, as the Cabinet Member I have also subsequently had correspondence with and have met representatives of Faversham Health Matters about their view that Kiln Court should not be closed.

Any alternatives considered:

As part of the preparation to this 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 general frailty residential care services in the Swale district, hence the proposal to close Kiln Court. As set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report presented to the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 14 January 2016, Kent has developed an Accommodation Strategy which confirms the future need for care home services across Kent and in relation to services in Faversham there will be a future need to develop different residential services which the planning application could meet.

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

NONE



signed

27 APRIL 2016

date