

This paper is from



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

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



It is for:

Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee
11th October 2016

After this a decision will be taken. This decision has the number 16/00067



It is about:

Outcome of the short breaks for people with a learning disability consultation.

Proposed closure of Osborne Court at Faversham.

Classification:
Unrestricted

Been to:
Directorate Management
Team 7 September

Electoral Division:
Faversham

What has happened



There was a 12 week consultation from 7th June 2016.

We asked people what they wanted from short breaks in the future.

We told people why we felt it was right to propose to close Osborne Court.



Recommendations: The Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet is asked to:

- a) **NOTE** the outcome of the 12 week Consultation and;
- b) **CONSIDER** and **ENDORSE** or make a **RECOMMENDATION** to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health on the proposed decision (Attached as Appendix 1) to proceed with the accommodation based short break model and the proposal to end service provision at Osborne Court and identify alternative services for the 58 service users and family carers and close Osborne Court.

1. Introduction



The consultation told people:

- what our plans for the short breaks service are
- our plans for Osborne Court
- how people could tell us what they thought.



How the consultation worked

There were documents to tell people about the changes in easy read.

These were available publicly and sent to all those affected.

There were meetings and presentations.

The plan for short breaks



- A) To have a countywide accommodation short breaks service for those aged 16 and above with disabilities and additional complex needs. And 5 children's short break units which are all KCC.

There should be support for carers in crisis whatever the needs of the person they care for.



- B) The countywide service will be 6 adult accommodation short break units. 4 KCC and 2 external private providers.

These will be invested in to give modern facilities like our children's short break units.



- C) The children's and adults short break service will work closely together.

This will mean there is a smooth transition between services and people can move into the adult service when they are ready.



For this to happen it is recommended to close Osborne Court and find alternative services for the 58 service users and family carers.

2. Consultation – what people told us



A) People were worried about how the closure of Osborne Court would affect service users.

Family carers were encouraged to have a 1 to 1 meeting.

In the meeting these worries could be talked about.

People were reassured there would be better services ahead and there would be minimum disruption.



B) The location and having to travel to other services was raised.

This subject was included in the Member Briefing paper on the consultation webpage. It was discussed in meetings and 1 to 1s.

Issues were taken note of and will be looked at and sorted out.



C) People wanted to know why Osborne Court had been chosen to close.

It was explained that we had taken advice from our Landlords (Property and Infrastructure) on which building we thought should close.



D) People were worried if Southfields could accommodate extra people while it was being modernised.

Not everyone has chosen to go to Southfields. There are options to use the other units.

When we know we will be able to make plans.



E) General comments were that people were not worried about distances to travel as long as the service was good.

People would like to visit the other buildings to see what they are like.

	<p>F) There are service users and carers who have asked to use the other services before the proposals are agreed.</p> <p>Service users and carers have also said which services they would like to go to.</p>
	<p>Consultation – what staff told us</p> <p>A) Staff were concerned as to why Osborne Court was chosen to close.</p> <p>It was explained that we had taken advice from our Landlords (Property and Infrastructure) on which building we thought should close.</p>
	<p>B) Staff asked how we would manage the refurbishment of Southfields while making sure we had enough short term beds available.</p> <p>We won't be able to give a definite answer until all 58 service users have told us which service they would like to use.</p>
	<p>C) Staff were worried about their jobs.</p> <p>There was a presentation to staff about this. There will be a formal staff consultation.</p> <p>The focus is to look at other similar jobs in the other in house provider units and wider KCC vacancies. There are no plans to have less staff.</p>
	<p>Wider feedback and comments</p> <p>A) Faversham Health Matters (a local community interest company) were concerned about KCC closing other services in Faversham and leaving Faversham short on services.</p> <p>It was noted the short break service is countywide and people travel to services across Kent to best meet their needs rather than being closest to where they live.</p>



B) Time taken travelling to Southfields was raised.

This subject was included in the Member Briefing paper on the consultation webpage. It was discussed in meetings and 1 to 1s.

Issues were taken note of and will be looked at.



C) There were questions about investing money into Osborne Court.

The amount spent on the building was not included in the reports, so it was shared with Faversham Health Matters.



Faversham and Swale

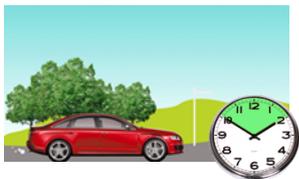
Labour



D) We also had feedback from Faversham and Swale East Labour Party. They asked;

What are the reasons young people in transition are not using the short breaks service.

The reasons are; **1)** A change in what people wanted from the service, **2)** The quality of the buildings and what they offer, **3)** The difference in quality between children's and adults buildings.



Concern over the travel time to other buildings

This subject was included in the Member Briefing paper on the consultation webpage. It was discussed in meetings and 1 to 1s.

Issues were taken note of and will be looked at.



Concerns that services needed urgently may not be available. And losing expertise.

It was explained that there were no plans to outsource services.

3. You Said – we did



We have changed the original proposals because of what people told us to make them better.



A) We had originally aimed to invest more in Southfields at Ashford.

But we need to invest the money across all four buildings where service users choose to go.

We will make a decision on this and involve service users and family carers on where the money will be spent.



B) Concern over the extra number of people using Southfields.

We should have been clear in the document that there were other options to avoid unnecessary concern for people.



C) Concern about not enough additional external short break services.

Our commissioning department are looking into whether a local provider can offer extra services.



D) Opportunities for working with family carers and organisations in providing services.

This was not in the original documents. We see it as a good thing and will look at it closely.



E) The land value at Osborne Court.

This was not put in the original documents. It would have been useful for people to know. The value of the land was not a consideration in the recommendation to close Osborne Court.

4) Equality Impact Assessment



This can be seen in the full Cabinet Committee Paper.

5. Conclusion



5.1 Most people agreed with the Future Model (plan).

People understood that we need to make the best of our services with the money we have.

5.2 People were concerned over the closure and its effect on service users, family carers, staff and the local community.

We have listened to all the concerns and made changes where appropriate.

5.3 We will try and make the impact on people as small as possible.



Service users and family carers

All 58 service users and their family carers who use Osborne Court have been contacted.

93% (almost all) have met to talk about their circumstances.

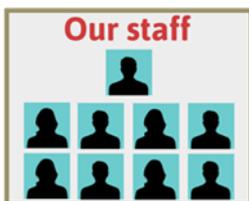
- Alternative services have been found. There are no reductions in services.
- Working closer together with children's respite services is coming on well.
- A number of service users and family carers would like to use some of the alternative services they were made aware of.



Staff

We have focused on keeping staff from Osborne Court as there are no plans on having less staff.

It is planned to find alternative or similar roles for staff across the short breaks service. If the closure of Osborne Court goes ahead there will be a 30 day consultation for staff.

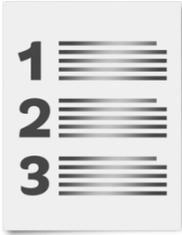


Building

If the decision is made to close Osborne Court the building will remain open as long as needed to support the move of service users and staff to other services.

It will then be handed back to the Landlord (KCC Property and Infrastructure).



	<p>Money</p> <p>The 504k which was going to be spent on Southfields will now be looked at and spent on facilities in the sites people have chosen to have their short breaks.</p> <p>The money spent on Osborne Court will be shared across all the sites. This will make facilities better for everyone.</p>
	<p>We have listened carefully to what people have told us. We understand change is very difficult for everyone – especially those who use our services.</p> <p>We have made changes to the proposal by listening to what people have told us.</p> <p>We believe that with the Future Model of the Service it will be better and keep giving a vital service to family carers.</p>
Recommendations	
	<p>Recommendations: The Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet is asked to:</p> <p>a) NOTE the outcome of the 12 week Consultation and; CONSIDER and ENDORSE or make a RECOMMENDATION to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health on the proposed decision (attached as Appendix 1) to proceed with the accommodation based short break model and the proposal to end service provision at Osborne Court and identify alternative services for the 58 service users and family carers and close Osborne Court.</p>
	<p>Relevant Director</p> <p>Penny Southern, Director Disabled Children, Adults Learning Disability and Mental Health.</p> <p>03000 415505 Penny.southern@kent.gov.uk</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 : Accommodation Based Short Break Model Recommendation Report</p> <p>Appendix 2 : Presentation to Cabinet Committee</p>