

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Mr G K Gibbens

DECISION NO.

09/01374

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 OF FORMAL CONSULTATION ON CLOSURE/VARIATION OF SERVICE USE OF LAWRENCE HOUSE, FOLKESTONE

Decision:

- (a) The principle underpinning the proposal for integrated dementia services between health and social services has been well received by a wide range of stakeholders during this consultation process. However, anxieties have been expressed about the loss of Lawrence House if it is to close and impending changes that will be made to improve the services for people with dementia and their carers.
- (b) Understandably the greatest anxieties and apprehension were expressed by 3 families/representatives of the 9 (now 7) long term residents. We are confident given both the choice of independent sector homes and the length of time that we have available in 2010 to make alternative placements for individuals that we can achieve positive and appropriate outcomes for each of the remaining residents.
- (c) The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services is therefore asked to approve the closure of Lawrence House Registered Care Centre.

Any Interest Declared when the Decision was Taken

None

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

Shepway commissioning managers have recognised that at present health and social care services for people with dementia and other mental health needs are fragmented across the district and are in need of modernisation and rationalisation. In line with the National Dementia Strategy, commissioning managers want to move to integrated services in Shepway which include Home Treatment, Carers support, Admiral Nursing support, respite services. Ideally these services should be brought together to achieve a co-ordinated, efficient, easily accessible single point of access for the people of Shepway. Furthermore it has previously been identified Shepway had an over capacity of permanent beds in the independent sector, therefore in-house services should focus on short term/respite which was identified as a gap in provision

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) noted in their last inspection (2008) that consideration was being given for major refurbishment in the foreseeable future. Reference was made to the size of the bedrooms, which were considered small but adequate. CQC also noted that there were no en-suite facilities in any of the bedrooms.

Some stakeholders asked why Lawrence House could not be refurbished to provide the new services planned for the Broadmeadow site. It was explained that if Lawrence House were to be refurbished this would mean the closure and where possible relocation of existing services elsewhere. It would also have meant a period of considerable disruption for all users and staff over what would be a minimum of 12 months. The opportunity to develop the new service at the Broadmeadow location means that for respite and day care users and many staff there can be a seamless transition from one service to another. In addition, the option of refurbishing Lawrence House has been excluded partly on grounds of the cost required to make a fully modernised service in an ageing building. The other main reason is that the long term revenue costs of a small stand alone facility would be prohibitively expensive. The inclusion of such a service within a pre-existing facility (Broadmeadow) makes the revenue costs less onerous.

The Broadmeadow proposal is the only new integrated development for dementia being planned as part of in-house provision across the county. The design has incorporated best practice features as recommended through latest research from Stirling University Dementia Service to ensure a dementia friendly environment for those who access the services. As an integrated service there will be close working with both health and social care to ensure a more co-ordinated and responsive service from a single location.

Background Documents:

Report by the Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services: Outcome of Formal Consultation on Closure/Variation of Service Use of Lawrence House, Folkestone (Decision No. 09/01374).

2 February 2010
date

signed

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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			