

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## REPORT TO: Council

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**Date of Meeting:** 23 February 2012

**Report of:** Lorraine Butcher, Strategic Director Children, Families and Adults

**Subject/Title:** Petition against the Potential Closure of Health and Social Services

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Janet Clowes, Portfolio Holder for Health and Well Being and  
Cllr Roland Domleo, Portfolio Holder for Adult Services

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### 1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report considers the submission of a Petition with 6290 signatures against changes to health and social care services in Knutsford.

### 2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 That Council accepts the petition presented by KAFKA and acknowledges its content;
- 2.2 That Council notes the content of this report and the contents of the debate;
- 2.3 That the petition is considered by Cabinet at its next meeting on 5 March 2012 when it will consider recommendations for the future delivery of adult social care services across the Borough including in Knutsford.

### 3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The consideration of future delivery of adult social care services is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 5 March 2012 and will be informed by this report and the subsequent debate.
- 3.2 Such policy matters and the use of social care resources are reserved for consideration by the Cabinet.

### 4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All affected as the requirement on Officers is to consider all services within social care and other relevant Council services, particularly those in Health and Wellbeing

### 5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

## **6.0 Policy Implications including - Carbon reduction - Health**

- 6.1 Rationalisation of buildings reduces carbon impact without impact on service level.
- 6.2 The Health and Social Care Bill actively seeks to promote new delivery models of integrated care.
- 6.3 The introduction of personal budgets (Personalisation) to encourage 'choice and control' by service users over the carer provided is impacting upon the delivery of traditional care services and occupancy levels of such services have subsequently declined.

## **7.0 Financial Implications (Director of Finance and Business Services)**

- 7.1 The Council invests around £8.5m a year in building-based social care services, and at present these are operating at only 65% of capacity versus a target of 85%. Increasing personalisation means that some care services are being 'double funded' ie. Surplus capacity is being retained while some service users choose to use their personal budgets in purchasing care services from other providers. This is not a sustainable model of service delivery in the current climate of reduced financial resources.

## **8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

- 8.1 The process being proposed for dealing with this petition is in line with the process set out in Cheshire East Council's Constitution.
- 8.2 It is clearly appropriate for this petition to be referred to members at the meeting on 5 March 2012 when the report in respect of proposed changes to adult service delivery in the borough is to be considered, as it relates specifically to that proposal.

## **9.0 Risk Management**

- 9.1 None directly related to this report. Full risk elements will be identified in the Cabinet report (due 5 March 2012) regarding the Modernisation of Adult Social Care which will incorporate a full report on the consultation of which this petition forms a part.

## **10.0 Background and Options**

- 10.1 On the 5 September 2011 Cabinet approved a report regarding proposals to enhance facilities and potentially transfer some day and short breaks services from Bexton Court (Knutsford), Peatfields (Macclesfield), Dean Row (Wilmslow), the Stanley Centre (Knutsford) and Queens Drive (Nantwich). The report also proposed a period of consultation regarding the proposed changes.

- 10.2 The resulting consultation ran for a period of 12 weeks from 20 September to 13 December 2011. During that period 14 meetings for service users were held and 278 people attended. Additionally 3 public meetings were held with an attendance of 111 people, and finally 187 questionnaires were returned.
- 10.3 The consultation also resulted in a petition which was presented to Full Council in December. This was organised by KAFKA (Knutsford Area for Knutsford Action).
- 10.4 The petition includes 6290 signatures of which the majority are from Cheshire East with a small number being completed by people living in the near vicinity but not actually within the Cheshire East boundaries.
- 10.5 The petition states:
- “we the undersigned petition Cheshire East Council and East Cheshire Hospital Trust:  
Save our social and health care – keep our services local  
Keep our Stanley Centre for disabled adults  
Return our dementia care services  
Return our intermediate hospital ward”
- 10.6 The statement on the petition does not give the location of the Stanley Centre, though this may be inferred from the links at the bottom of the page (for example, [www.areaforknutsfordaction.blogspot.com](http://www.areaforknutsfordaction.blogspot.com)) however, it is unclear how obvious this was to signees.
- 10.7 There was also a second petition which related purely to the Stanley Centre which had 221 signatures.
- 10.8 Details of the petition was forwarded to the Chief Executive of East Cheshire NHS Trust, John Wilbraham, and copied to the following organisations:
- South Cheshire and Vale Royal GP Commissioning Consortium  
Eastern Cheshire GP Commissioning Consortium  
Chief Executive, Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral PCT Cluster Board  
Chief Executive, Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT
- 10.9 In September 2010 East Cheshire NHS Trust temporarily closed the Tatton Ward at Knutsford Community Hospital. The basis for this decision was the persistent problem in recruiting middle grade doctors which seriously depleted medical staffing rota. This was compounded by a consultant staff vacancy. Efforts to secure locum staffing were unsuccessful. Steps were then taken to re-provide the beds on the Macclesfield Hospital site by converting the acute beds which were at that point closed.
- 10.10 At its Cabinet meeting on 18 October 2010 Cheshire East Council subsequently decided to agree the temporary closure of Bexton Court, a Community Support Centre that was linked to Tatton Ward. The subsequent re-provision of the beds at Macclesfield Hospital then influenced the decision of the Council to

shadow this change and also look to provide more beds closer to Macclesfield. This was possible because of 'surplus' capacity in the CSC system. Additionally a further wing was opened at Mountview in Congleton to provide specialist dementia respite. It was anticipated with such proposals that nobody would be denied a service as a result of the temporary closure of Bexton Court. There is buoyant independent sector provision in the Knutsford area providing respite services. 18 homes offer a total of 930 beds. At the time of the closure of Bexton Court only 15 out of 39 customers lived within Knutsford itself. All have relocated to alternative providers without any complaint or issues being registered over the last 12 months.

- 10.11 The petition received therefore focuses upon the overlapping issues concerning the future of health and social care services in Knutsford and summarised below:

The temporary closure of Tatton Ward (used for intermediate care) by East Cheshire NHS Trust

The temporary closure of Bexton Court (used for respite care for dementia patients) by Cheshire East Council

The consultation on the future services provided from the Stanley Centre (mainly used for day activities for vulnerable adults, including those with learning difficulties, by Cheshire East Council)

- 10.12 While Cheshire East Council has recently completed consultation on proposed changes to adult social care delivery, running parallel to the consultation has been exploratory discussions between East Cheshire NHS Trust, 3 GP practices in and around Knutsford, and the Council around the development of a new vision for the delivery of health and social care services in Knutsford. While there had been previous consultations on the potential co-location of the 3 GP (primary care) services in a single site, the pending Health and Social Care Bill, and the difficulties faced by the practices in terms of access and physical space, are providing a new impetus for an integrated solution to the delivery of health and social care in the Town.

- 10.13 In January 2012, the Cabinet endorsed a recommendation that a Memorandum of Understanding can be entered into by the Council to enable initial options appraisal work for this project to be undertaken. A copy of that report is attached as an appendix.

## **11.0 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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