



PRO-FORMA: CONSULTATION ON SUBSTANTIAL VARIATIONS OR DEVELOPMENTS TO SERVICES: LEVEL 2

1. Title of Proposal:

Central & Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust (CECPCT) proposal is to decommission the provision of learning disability respite services delivered at 28 Riseley Street, Macclesfield

2. Summary Rationale

As a result of financial efficiencies, Central & Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust have recently notified Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust of a reduction in income. In order to reach decisions about how this reduction in income can be accommodated CWP and the PCT have undertaken a '**prioritisation process**' to evaluate all CWP services that are commissioned for residents in central and eastern Cheshire. All services have been reviewed using the same criteria to ensure that the process is fair and both CWP and CECPCT have made a commitment to ensuring that there is no negative impact on the quality of health care as a result of any changes.

One of the outcomes of the prioritisation process is the proposal to decommission the respite service currently delivered at 26 Riseley Street in Macclesfield and consolidate all Cheshire health respite services for people with learning disabilities onto the Crook Lane site in Winsford. .

1. Outline of Proposal

Background

There are a range of respite options for people with learning disabilities who live in central and eastern Cheshire. At present these include residential bed based services provided by CWP at Primrose Avenue in Crewe (due for closure), Crook Lane in Winsford, and Riseley Street in Macclesfield. Further residential respite services are provided by Cheshire East Council social services department at Warwick Mews in Macclesfield and at Queens Drive in Nantwich. In addition to these bed based services, people with learning disabilities and their families are able to make use of direct payments in order to fund alternative individual personalised options for support. This approach provides greater choice and flexibility than traditional bed based provision and allows families to be provided with a break from their caring responsibilities whilst still allowing people to access the support necessary for them to remain within their home environment and participate in preferred activities in familiar surroundings.

Following a previous consultation process plans are in place for the closure of the respite service provided at Primrose Avenue in Crewe and consolidation of health respite services in central Cheshire on to the Crook Lane site. The closure of Primrose Avenue is due to take place on 13th September 2010. The respite needs of all clients who currently use the service at Primrose Avenue will be met for a transitional period at Crook Lane.

The previous consultation and planning process also confirmed eligibility criteria for health respite services provided by CWP. The agreed eligibility criteria and assessment process will soon be used to review the needs of all existing respite service users, i.e. including those who have received a service at Primrose Avenue, Crook Lane and Riseley Street. This work will commence in September 2010. Respite services provided by CWP in central and eastern Cheshire will then be allocated on the basis of the outcome of this assessment process and the resources available. CWP will continue to provide a mix of health and social respite for an agreed period of time to allow for the transition resulting from the closure of Primrose Avenue; there is a commitment from CWP, partners in the local authority and the PCT that all people

who currently use the service at Primrose Avenue will be provided with health respite services at Crook Lane during the transitional period.

Where the assessment process in relation to Primrose Avenue service users identifies the need for health respite this will continue to be met at Crook Lane. Health and social services staff will work together to develop individual plans with timescales to provide alternative social care respite solutions for service users whose needs do not meet the eligibility criteria for health respite.

This Proposal

The PCT proposal is to decommission the respite service provided at Riseley Street and for all health respite services in Cheshire to be consolidated into a single unit and provided out of Crook Lane in Winsford. The proposal is made in the context of a range of respite services available in Cheshire including local authority provided residential respite services and other options for individualised support.

Riseley Street Respite Unit provides up to 6 respite beds to adults with learning disability. 22 clients are currently in receipt of respite care at Riseley Street. This number has been static for some time and the rate of referral for respite care at Riseley Street had reduced to one per year for the past 3 years. As a result of reduced demand, the occupancy rate for Riseley Street is running at 45%.

During the previous consultation an exercise was undertaken to test out eligibility criteria for health respite services. The purpose of this exercise was to confirm eligibility criteria and develop and agree a standardised assessment process. This exercise involved table top assessments of all health respite service users. The findings from this exercise in relation to the 22 people who use the service at Riseley Street indicated that between 2-4 clients met the eligibility criteria for health respite (based on needs of client for a specialist health learning disability service), a further 4 clients were assessed as potentially being able to be supported in social care accommodation with some Primary Care support /Specialist Health Support. The exercise identified that the remaining 16 clients respite needs could be met within a social care environment or package of respite care.

As previously stated the needs of all respite service users are shortly to be assessed against the agreed eligibility criteria and assessment process. Whilst the outcome of the forthcoming assessment process may differ from the findings of the table top exercise as described above it is probable that this will result in a significant number of people being assessed as having needs that can be met with social care respite options.

It has been identified that the environment at Riseley Street has shortfalls, for example; it is not purpose designed, offers limited ground floor accommodation and upstairs areas are inaccessible for some service users, there is no catering or housekeeping provision and nursing staff therefore do the cooking and laundry.Some investment has been made recently to address these shortfalls however the age, layout and fabric of the building at Riseley Street means it is more difficult and costly to achieve the changes necessary to address all its shortfalls and make it fit for purpose.

The Trust has recently made significant investments in Crook Lane to ensure the Unit meets all environmental standards and represents a comfortable environment for service users.

As previously agreed CWP will assess all people who use the respite service at Riseley against the agreed eligibility criteria (this process is due to commence in September 2010). This will provide the basis for future allocation of health respite services and initiate joint planning to provide social care respite solutions for people whose needs do not meet the eligibility criteria for health respite. It has been identified that Crook Lane will be able to meet the needs of the small number of people who require health respite services into the future.

The assessment process will identify those people using the service who do not meet the eligibility criteria for health respite. Plans will be developed to provide services to these people either via use of existing social care residential respite services or through the establishment of individualized packages of respite care / short breaks. In addition work will be undertaken with commissioners to ensure the needs of this group of people are reflected in the joint commissioning strategy for respite care/ short breaks.

The Trust is not resourced to provide a day service during periods of respite care and most service users therefore continue to attend day services whilst in respite. Changes in transport arrangements will be required to ensure that service users are able to continue to travel to and from day services during respite stays. As part of the previous consultation transport arrangements have been discussed with the Local Authority Transport Department who have indicated that, with suitable notice they could plan for rerouting of existing transport to accommodate the changes arising from the closure of Primrose Avenue. Work will be undertaken to extend these arrangements to accommodate the changes resulting from the closure of Riseley Street.

4. Consultation Process

4a. Consultation already undertaken

The prioritisation exercise was undertaken jointly between senior representatives of CECPT and senior managers and clinicians from the learning disability Clinical Service Unit in CWP.

All CWP learning disability staff involved in the provision of respite services within the CECPT area have been contacted by letter and invited to attend one of five briefing sessions regarding this and other proposed service changes. Staff briefings were delivered by Sheena Cumiskey, CWP Chief Executive and Andy Styring, CWP Director of Operations on Thursday 05.08.10. Adrian Moss, General Manager for the Learning Disability Clinical Service Unit was also present at all briefings to deal with queries and speak with staff at their request. A briefing for Governors was also delivered on 05.08.10.

4b. Proposed Consultation

The learning disability Clinical Service Unit senior management team will work with the PCT to consult with service users, their families, carers and other interested parties on the proposal to close Riseley Street. Consultation will focus upon how the impact of these changes can be minimised, ensuring that the respite care needs of people who use the service at Riseley Street continue to be met. To inform this, a CWP led project group has been convened in conjunction with social service colleagues. This group will manage the assessment process of eligibility for health respite which will be completed and reported upon between September and December 2010. These assessments will ensure full involvement of service users and carers who access respite at Riseley Street and will indicate the level of need of each individual and whether it is appropriately met within a specialist health respite service.

The consultation process will include agreeing in conjunction with colleagues from Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT the joint implementation of the following:-

- Initial awareness raising re the proposed consultation via individual letters to carers concerned and service users where possible.
- Awareness raising presentations to learning disability partnership boards.
- The opportunity offered to all Riseley Street families to have an individual discussion and consideration of the impact of the proposed change for them and their relative.
- Consultation exercise with service users, where possible to establish their wishes, concerns and expectations.

- Consultation with staff re the impact of the proposed change.
- Open sessions for Riseley Street families and service users to visit Crook Lane.
- Consultation with Partnership Boards, including service user, carer, advocacy, social services and voluntary representatives.
- To collect and collate views obtained regarding the proposal and summarise and respond within a consultation feedback report.

5. Timescales

As a result of a shortfall in the PCTs budget for mental health, learning disability and drug/alcohol services it has become imperative that CWP and CECPT agree and implement plans for changes in services that will continue to meet the needs of the local population within the available financial envelope. It is therefore proposed that the closure of Riseley Street and transfer of health respite services in Cheshire to Crook Lane is achieved within 3 months of the approval decision, this process is to commence October 2010.

Sharon Vernon, Clinical Service Manager
September 2010