

## **Report for Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny**

**Meeting Date: 7 August 2015**

**Subject: Moving to Local and Personalised Carer Respite Report in response to the Call In of the Cabinet Decision taken 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**Responsible Head of service: Brenda Smith**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The paper entitled Moving to Local and Personalised Carer Respite was considered by Cabinet on the 30 June 2015. This report details the response to the points raised in the call in submission which is to be considered at the Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 7 September 2015. The report should be read in conjunction with the Cabinet papers submitted for the meeting on 30 June 2015. The report has been structured to provide responses to each of the elements in the call in submission.
- 1.2 For the purposes of this report and the discussions which will take place the term 'residential carer respite' is to mean use of residential care settings that can be pre booked for a person to receive their care for a short period whilst their carer(s) can have a break from their caring role.

### **2. Call in Submission**

#### **2.1 Reason One**

The call in request states:

*Evidence of the impact of the closure of Mountview on service provision is not yet available. It would be sensible to see whether the proposed strategy is working in the Congleton area before adopting the same strategy in Crewe and Macclesfield areas.*

#### **Service Response**

- 2.1.1 Evidence of the impact of the closure of Mountview is being monitored regularly and is used to ensure the commissioned services are providing the appropriate response and support needed.
- 2.1.2 Following the decision to cease residential respite at Mountview, the Council commissioned 1095 new bed nights in the independent sector in the Congleton area in August 2014. The analysis of the use of the commissioned carer respite beds is that the provision has been under-utilised. The total usage over the last 11 months since August 2014 is at 39%, (427 out of 1095 available bed nights). The highest monthly usage so far was 63% (690 bed nights) in November 2014 which resulted in 405 bed nights (37%) still available in this month. This confirms that there is sufficient capacity for residential carer respite available in the Congleton area.

- 2.1.3 The use of independent sector residential carer respite will continue to be regularly monitored to ensure that the support is effective and that the levels of capacity are sufficient to meet needs. This will be reviewed at least annually so that any changes in needs or preferences can be met in the future. There are internal mechanisms where capacity and demand issues for all service types are regularly reviewed.
- 2.1.4 There has been positive feedback from users of the services in Congleton – these have been detailed in the Cabinet report of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

## **2.2 Reason Two**

*Work is ongoing to establish a 'fair price' for respite care. The financial implications of the decision cannot be properly established until this work is complete.*

### **Response**

- 2.2.1 The Council have commissioned an independent consultant, Red Quadrant, to make recommendations for the fair price for care. This will include all care services including residential carer respite. This work is underway and will not delay the Council procuring residential carer respite.
- 2.2.2 The financial implications of the decision are noted in the Cabinet report. The Cabinet decision is expected to release £1.3 million per annum for reinvestment. This is based on the Council's experience of purchasing significant levels of care from the independent sector in the current market. The indications are that the costs in the independent sector would be in the region of 48% less than in-house costs. Until the procurement exercise is complete it would be impossible to confirm an exact figure for the release of funds for reinvestment.

## **2.3 Reason Three**

*The Shared Lives Care system will not cope with the extra workload that these proposals will cause.*

### **Response**

- 2.3.1 The council is committed to providing pre bookable respite at the level utilised at Hollins View and Lincoln House. There is no expectation that Shared Lives will be commissioned to replace in part any of the residential provision currently being accessed to provide carers with a respite break. The planned procurement exercise will seek sufficient residential respite beds in the independent to meet current patterns of need. The expansion of Shared Lives in future is to provide an alternative for those who choose to use this different service type.

- 2.3.2 Shared lives are about to commence a recruitment campaign which includes recruitment of people who can provide respite for carers of a range of people who have different needs. The service already provides carer respite breaks for people with a Learning disability. The demand for Shared Lives is expected to increase slowly and will add an alternate option to the more traditional carer respite in due course but this will not necessarily be a service which has high demand initially.
- 2.3.3 The Shared Lives service model receives very positive feedback locally and nationally as it is a family/home -based service.

## **2.4 Reason Four**

*There is a direct conflict between the decision in June 2015 and point 3 of the resolution in December 2014. The implications for adults with learning disability should be established before any decision is taken to cease all.*

### **Response**

- 2.4.1 The review of the cabinet papers and minutes indicates there is no conflicting wording on this issue. The wording, detailed below, confirms that there is no impact on the Learning Disability respite service at Lincoln House. This service will continue.
- 2.4.2 The wording of the resolution at December 2014 Cabinet states:-  
“3. the respite provision for adults with learning disability continue at Lincoln House”
- 2.4.3 The recommendation in the June 2015 Cabinet report states:  
“2.2 Cabinet support the proposal that residential carer respite provision for adults with learning disability continue to be provided at the Lincoln House site.”
- 2.4.4 The wording of the resolution at June 2015 Cabinet states:-  
“2 residential carer respite provision for adults with learning disability continue to be provided at the Lincoln House site”

## **2.5 Reason Five**

*There will be a shortfall in bed vacancies and the people who currently use Hollins View and Lincoln House will have a reduced service. After contacting 11 Care Homes in Macclesfield and two in Bollington it was found that only 1 offered a pre-bookable service. The others will provide respite only if the beds are free and not as a regular service and two do not provide respite at all. We dispute the information provided re the provision in the private sector.*

**Response**

- 2.5.1 The Council will procure this new provision for pre bookable residential carer respite through a tender process, as was done successfully to secure such provision in the Congleton area. Until that tender is complete it is entirely to be expected that homes in the area may not currently offer this service. The service of having a bed available for pre-booking but without a guarantee of income for that would not be possible for many care homes. This type of a service would require a specific allocation of a bed or beds commissioned in advance to guarantee an income against that bed for a set period. This would enable independent sector homes to have a secured source of income to retain the beds as available for the required demand.
- 2.5.2 The Council routinely monitors the number of vacancies in residential homes in Cheshire East. On average, on any day over the last six months there are 53 vacancies in residential homes. These numbers do fluctuate on a daily basis. However this trend information shows that there are vacant beds which can be purchased for residential carer respite.

**2.6 Reason Six**

*In December 2014 the Leader of the Council promised further consultation that has not happened.*

**Response**

The cabinet minutes from the December 2014 Cabinet states:

- 2.6.1 Comments of the leader: "...the Leader, Councillor Michael Jones, announced that Lincoln House and Hollins View would remain open while the Council continued to explore the development of alternative forms of respite care provision across the Borough with potential partners".
- 2.6.2 The decisions noted:  
"5. it be noted that officers are reviewing with the Council's health partners' new and enhanced ways of offering intermediate care services, which may result in alternate services being provided from Local Authority buildings".
- 2.6.3 Legal advice was sought which confirmed that the proposals put before cabinet on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were the same as those presented to cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The formal consultation with users and carers prior to the December 2014 report to cabinet remained sufficient to fulfil requirements of formal consultation. This was noted at Paragraph 9.4 (page 40) in the cabinet report of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

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30 July 2015

