

RESIDENTIAL SHORT BREAK REVIEW

To: Cabinet

Date: 25th May 2010

From: Executive Director: Children and Young People's Services

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: Not applicable **Key decision:** No

Purpose: To inform Cabinet of developments in providing a short break service to children and young people with disabilities and their families.

Recommendation: Cabinet is asked to:

- I. Agree that Children and Young People's Services and NHS Cambridgeshire to proceed with a formal competitive tendering exercise for affordable and integrated residential short break service.
- II. A specification for this service to be developed and to be consulted upon with children / young people, their families and carers as well as staff from all three units. (The Laurels does not currently have staff in post.)
- III. To jointly commission an integrated service that utilises the skills and knowledge of both health and social care staff in order to meet a wide spectrum of need.

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In October and November 2009, Children and Young People's Services (CYPS), undertook a review of the residential short break service. The review considered whether we could improve our short break services to better meet the needs of children, young people, their families and carers.

1.2 The aims of the review were to:

- Investigate what Children and Young People's Services need to do to provide our service users with a menu of care options in line with Government's Aiming High Policy.
- Address the OfSTED (The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) inspections of the residential short break units in Cambridgeshire.
- Explore the opportunities for joint work with colleagues in the National Health Service (NHS).
- Ensure that we are using our current resources efficiently and providing value for money.

1.3 The scope of the review included the following the short break units:

- Woodlands Lodge
- Haviland Way
- Norwich Road
- The Laurels (NHS unit)

1.4 The review team was composed of officers from Children and Young People's Services (CYPS), NHS Cambridgeshire and Children and Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

The team gathered information which has now been drafted into a formal consultation document.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Findings from the review identified that:

- Woodland Lodge, Norwich Road, and Haviland Way operated at 40% average occupancy i.e. out of 15 short break beds per night 6 per night are used on average across the year.
- Children who have a new allocation of overnights at the units usually have to wait for availability.
- The current average unit cost per bed is similar to that of an out county placement (e.g. £250 k per year).
- Placements out of county continue as young people with complex needs reach adolescence.
- Consistency in the service offered does differ between the units. For example Norwich Road delivers predominantly day care places.
- Decisions taken on opening/closing, waiting lists, access etc can lead to tension between providers and professionals where there are difficulties for families in accessing provision.

- Families said they wanted a guaranteed delivery of a service and that overnights cancelled at short notice can be difficult for them to manage.
- Parents felt that access may be driven by the availability of staff at the units and not by their children's needs.
- The Laurels remains closed following delivery issues.
- There is wide ranging support for maintaining cost effective, high quality short break service.
- There should be consideration of jointly commissioning the service with NHS Cambridgeshire.
- Although the views from parents were considered during the review. There is a need to consult more widely with users of the service.
- Both Children and Young People's Services and the NHS support the delivery of an effective service to support children and young people with complex needs.
- There needs to be an agreed set of principles to inform a specification for a future short break residential service.
- There is a clear view from a range of professionals that a short break service to children and young people and their families should be part of a response to modify challenging behaviours and not just about a break for families.
- Feedback from the review identified that a short break service should meet the need of a wide cohort of children and young people, be cost effective and support personalisation and the move towards direct payments.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 Having considered these findings a model has been suggested for an integrated short break service that is jointly commissioned with NHS Cambridgeshire. NHS Cambridgeshire will be finalising their discussions about this proposal within the coming weeks and a recommendation will be presented to their board to support the proposed direction of travel .The model proposes:

- Reconfiguration of Woodland Lodge (long and short term) into an 8 bedded integrated short term unit which will provide complex health needs too.
- Reduction in the number of units from 4 to 2, but with increased bed availability i.e. a **minimum** of 10 children or young people per night
- Provision of 2 emergency short term beds (funded by Aiming High).
- Short break residential homes staffed to deliver 80% occupancy minimum per night. Guaranteed provision to children / young people and their families within a prescribed time frame once an allocation has been agreed and therefore a reduction in the waiting list.
- Involving parents/carers, children and young people in designing the specification.
- Provides a 365 night a year service.
- Includes as minimum of 2 emergency bed places in addition to the above.
- Provides an integrated service which is able to meet the full spectrum of need (including more significant health needs).
- Provides short breaks to meet the needs of families and is not limited by inflexibility or staff issues.
- A tendering process that will provide an opportunity to explore the potential of external, private, community and voluntary sectors to deliver the

required specification as well as enabling the current in house provider to participate. It will also ensure contestability of the service and assurance that the commissioned service represents the best value for money.

- The aim is to award the contract in January 2010.
- Expectation that the selected provider (internal or external) will operate within the existing property portfolio. Employment rights under the transfer of Undertakings legislation (TUPE) would apply if the contract was awarded to an external provider.

The Report is being presented to the Support for Families Policy Development Group (PDG) on 11th May and an oral update will be provided at the meeting.

SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.0 Resources and Performance

These proposals support the Integrated Planning Process (IPP) developments for Children and Young Peoples Services and therefore will contribute to savings within Children and Young People's Service. Should the proposal be implemented there may be surplus property which would then be released for reuse/sale. The tendering process may result in TUPE issues.

4.1 Statutory Requirements and Partnership Working

- The authority has a duty to provide access to short break provision. Legal and audit representatives have been included within the working group for this project.

4.2 Climate Change

There are no significant implications.

4.3 Access and Inclusion

These proposals support Children with Disabilities (CWD) remaining within their families and communities.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation

This proposal has not been consulted upon with parent/cares and young people however this is planned for June 2010. The proposals have been consulted upon with social care and Children and Young People's Service Management Team.

Source Documents	Location
CYPs Management Team/Residential Short Break Review Project Board.	\\CCC.Cambridgeshire.gov.uk\data\Ocypts Cs Quality For Children\Trans Social Care\Residential Respite Review\Reporting\Management Team Reports