



## **Future of Baytree House, Torquay**

### **Report of the Torbay Overview and Scrutiny Board**

At its meeting on 23 November 2015, Torbay Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the consultation document which had been prepared by Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust on the future of Baytree House short breaks unit for people with learning disabilities in Torbay.

At that meeting, a representative of the Trust reassured the Board on how the consultation would be undertaken and agreed to report back to the Board on the results.

The results from the consultation were presented to the Board at its meeting held on 29 February 2016 together with the report which would be considered the Board of the Foundation Trust later that week. In addition, Healthwatch Torbay submitted its report on the public feedback which it had received together with its recommendations.

Representatives of the Trust and the Council's Director of Adult Social Services attended the Overview and Scrutiny Board and set out the rationale for the proposal to close Baytree House short breaks unit in favour of, what it considered, more suitable alternative provision in the private sector. The purpose of the meeting was for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to seek assurance that due process had been followed, to consider the outcome of the public consultation and to make any recommendations about the proposed closure.

It was noted that the recommendation to the Trust Board was that, whilst Baytree House should close, there should be a transitional period to 30 June 2016 before the decision was implemented. The transitional period would enable more suitable alternative provision to be properly secured. It would also allow time for service users and their families to engage with the Trust as part of the support and planning process.

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Board wish to have further assurance on the availability, suitability and cost of the alternative, private sector provision before the decision to close Baytree House is implemented. The Trust is requested to attend its meeting on 18 May 2016 to set out the remaining concerns and risks with the proposed closure and any impact that those concerns and risks may have on the implementation date. In the meantime, representatives of the Overview and Scrutiny Board would like to visit some of the alternative service providers to gain an understanding of services and facilities that they offer.