



Title: **Update on Ocombe House**

Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Wards Affected: **Preston**

To: **Heath Scrutiny Board** On: **7th July 2011**

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1. Key points and Summary

- 1.1 This is a summary of activities undertaken in relation to Ocombe House since our last briefing to the overview and scrutiny committee on 19th April 2011.

The key areas covered in this report are,

- Meetings and involvement with families.
- The involvement of Vocal advocacy.
- The role of facilitator in relation to Ocombe.
- Person Centred plans.
- Best interest decisions.
- Exploring alternative provision.
- Summary of next steps.

2. Introduction

2.1 Background.

Ocombe is owned by Torbay Council on a site that also houses Fairwinds Special Resource centre. This site sits within the South Hams boundary. The house is the home of seven people who have a learning disability.

Originally the house provided residential care for 20 people but over time the demand for residential care has fallen and now the home supports seven permanent residents.

The building provides short breaks to two families at the moment. This has reduced because the Care Trust has offered alternative provision to the families who used Ocombe. This followed the decision by the Mayor to uphold the Care Trust Board decision to explore alternative accommodation and support for the residents at Ocombe House, therefore it is important to note that families moved because they believed that Ocombe would be stopping it's short breaks service -Since the Mayor reaffirmed his decision after a call in,- the OSC have determined that this is a substantial variation of service requiring ongoing consultation with overview and

scrutiny.

This report provides an update to OSC of the activities undertaken since the last meeting. A large folder of information was given to the then chair, and new members are encouraged to look at this information in relation to policy background and previous papers that were instrumental in the decision making process. Family members at Ocombe have also submitted information to the Overview and Scrutiny committee.

Meetings and involvement with families.

Six out of the seven individuals living at Ocombe have involved and supportive family members, all of which are involved at some level in the meetings that take place.

The date of meeting since the last briefing to OSC was the 17th May, with another meeting scheduled for the 1st July.

The minutes of the last meeting are attached.

Please note that it was the wish of family members to agree the content of this report to OSC. The timing of this meeting makes this impossible to comply with OSC statutory requirements in terms of access to information. Therefore OSC members should note that there has not been full discussion with the group of family members about the content. However the report has been shared with some individuals who have given comment on the report, other comments may be shared by family members who will attend the Overview and scrutiny meeting.

It is important to state that family members have an open mind about Ocombe house closing and are willing to look at alternatives, they are willing to explore every avenue which would lead to a better life for the people at Ocombe. Families feel that the current care is good. They are concerned about the impact of any change of service on the people who live at Ocombe.

The involvement of Vocal advocacy.

Vocal were instructed to review the work of the Care Trust in developing its person centred plans and ensure that the correct processes have been undertaken in relation to developing the information.

They have been involved at Ocombe following the agreement of family members and have reviewed the person centred plans and associated information.

At the moment they are compiling their report.

The role of facilitator in relation to Ocombe

As part of the process of decision making regarding Ocombe at Torbay Care Trust

There was a recommendation that we would appoint an independent facilitator to support the full engagement of families in the process.

A facilitator has been appointed and some early engagement has started, -the first meeting that he will attend will be on the 1st July.

Originally there was a view that the post holder would chair the meetings, however this role has now been undertaken by the Chief Executive of Torbay and south Devon Care Trust, Anthony Farnsworth.

It is widely felt in the group that a supportive facilitator role is required.

The Role of the facilitator has been agreed by the Ocombe meeting members, but will be amended in line with the revised chairing arrangements.

The un-amended role description is attached as Appendix 2. This will be reviewed at the next meeting with family members.

Person Centred plans

The person centred plans have been completed along with other supplementary information including an Essential lifestyle plan, Care Plan and Risk assessment.

These were sent out to family members for comment. There was a need in some cases to update some old information correct other information. These amendments have been collated and incorrect or old information is in the process of being changed.

It is important that information collated is considered in both future decision making processes, and in any service redesign. The current plans are very useful in day to day work also because they offer a good insight into individuals and their needs.

Best interest decisions

The Mental Capacity Act is utilised to support effective decision making when individuals have been assessed as having no mental capacity to make a particular decision. It is often used to support large life decisions, financial decisions or health related decisions.

A full explanation of the process in relation to Ocombe is attached as Appendix 3. This has been shared with family members.

It is the responsibility of the individual Care managers to facilitate this process.

However the individuals at Ocombe House are not isolated and one of the crucial areas of consideration is their relationships with one another, especially when considering any change or reconfiguration of service. This will be considered as part of the process, and Care managers have been alerted to this.

Two of the people who currently live at Ocombe have Care Managers outside of Torbay. We have endeavoured to keep in contact with them and explain their engagement in this.

The best interest meetings will be set up in the near future. Dates and progress on these will be included in future reports.

One resident has no family involved with her care and so she has been appointed an Independent Mental Capacity Act Advocate. They have been involved in a best interest decision making process and this lady is moving out of Ocombe house into alternative accommodation.

Exploring alternative provision.

Visits to other services have been requested so people can see how different services

are provided to people who have a learning disability in the community.

Some family members visited services run by Sandwell Community Care in the midlands; this was arranged directly with the provider by family members.

Feedback from this visit was mixed as there were some transport coordination issues that impacted on what could be seen at the time, others had a better experience.

Other visits are being arranged so that family members can view different services. These will be confirmed on the 1st July.

In addition family members did meet with some providers last year, and they also had an opportunity to listen to the experience of one parent who had a son who had left residential care and moved into his own accommodation.

-Providers of services

The Care Trust uses an “Any willing provider” approach to procure support in the community. We recently ran an advertisement for providers who can support people with complex needs in their own homes. A list of providers who have made it through the first stage of the process was shared with family members at the last meeting.

We have just completed stage two of the process and have now 25 provider agencies. There will be an opportunity for family members to take part in the interviews at stage 3 of the process. We anticipate that this will take place during the week beginning the 18th July.

-Accommodation.

The configuration of the service design will be based on the outcomes of the best interest processes, taking into account the personal relationships that individuals have.

We have had looked at what might be available from ordinary housing stock in Torbay and also had a list of developments from the housing department in Torbay. However we recognise that the property market is dynamic and that property availability can change significantly over a short time period.

Information regarding this has been shared with family members.

Torbay Development Agency have also just completed a report to look at the potential for the development of the Ocombe site, which sits within South Hams District Council. This is being circulated to the Ocombe meeting members for discussion on the 1st July.

Summary of Next Steps.

In summary the next key activities are as follows,-

- Circulation of TDA report and comments.
- Best interest decision making meetings.
- Refining the role of the facilitator.
- Visits to alternative providers.
- Engagement in the Any Willing Provider Process.
- Receiving the Vocal report.

Name of Head of Business Unit- Helen Toker-Lester
Title of Head of Business Unit- Head of Commissioning.

Appendices*

Appendix 1 Role of the Facilitator.
Appendix 2 Best interest decision making process.

Documents available in members' rooms*

A folder of information is available in the Overview and Scrutiny Office. This includes the national and local policy context for the proposals and decision making papers from Torbay Care Trust and Torbay Council. Family members have, I understand provided the council with information.

Draft minutes of the meeting with Occombe family members from 17th May 2011 have been circulated to Health Scrutiny Board members.

In addition Overview and Scrutiny have received a copy of a residential care services audit that took place last year showing 12% vacancies across the sector in Torbay.

Background Papers:

See above*