

# **Consultation on the future of Baytree House short breaks unit for people with learning disabilities in Torbay**

# Welcome

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust is seeking your views on the future of Baytree House, its in-house short breaks unit in Torbay.

This consultation document provides you with the background to the Trusts proposals and why there is a need to change the way that short breaks (respite) are provided to people with a learning disability in Torbay. The consultation will provide you with an opportunity to formally share your views on the proposals.

The Trust wants to make the right decisions for individuals and their carers, whilst also considering the tough choices that need to be made in order to ensure services remain fit for purpose, viable and financially sustainable in the future.

## Why change is needed?

In 2014, the local NHS published its Learning Disability Operational Commissioning Strategy.

The document outlines how the Trust will commission and provide quality support to people with a learning disability and their carers in the future. The strategy sets out why it is necessary to deliver changes in learning disability services in Torbay. It looks at the types of services which need to be provided now and in the future. It also describes what needs to change locally to modernise services and improve and enhance the lives of people with a learning disability in a challenging financial climate.

The strategy explained that the NHS in due course would no longer be a direct provider of learning disability services and that we would be implementing a change programme in all areas of provision. Successful changes have already occurred in day services, with the creation of the high needs service at Hollacombe.

Last year the NHS also consulted on its policy for short breaks and this has been in place since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. The policy included a new approach to providing eligible carers, with funding for a short break, much more options for the type of break they have. The policy also brought the Trusts approach to short breaks up to date in respect of supporting carer's rights under the Care Act. This is a new piece of government legislation brought in from April 2015 to ensure care and support is more consistent across the country.

### Why change is needed for Baytree House?

The Baytree House short breaks service is situated in a large traditional Torbay Victorian Villa. The building is located in Croft Road, central Torquay. The building is

owned by Torbay Council and leased to the NHS on a 'peppercorn' basis, meaning the rent is given at a low cost.

Currently Baytree House has a maximum capacity of eight beds, however the average occupancy is approximately between three and four placements. The total cost of running the unit including staffing costs is £509,000 per year.

The structure of the building means that several of the bedrooms are inaccessible for wheelchair users and people with significant physical disabilities. The building also has a number of constraints meaning it cannot be altered, for example ceiling tracking that enables the safe hoisting of people and movement around the premises for people with complex physical needs cannot be installed.

There is also a well evidenced change in the demographics of people with learning disabilities. The numbers of people with profound and multiple disabilities is going up, and although it is good news that many people with a learning disability now enjoy a longer life expectancy it does mean that the service has seen an increase in the physical frailty and mobility problems that are associated with old age. Therefore Baytree House is not always the best care setting for individuals with these more complex needs.

In the last financial year Baytree House had an average occupancy of 3.6 residents per week, with the majority of placements made at the weekends. This gives a 45 percent occupancy rate for short breaks, meaning that per year each bed currently costs approximately £125,000 to run. There has been a downward trend in use over the last four years with a 17 percent reduction in bed occupancy.

With this in mind, we believe change is necessary. We want local services to be the best they can be and meet the commitment set out in the learning disability strategy but in order to do so we must change the way they are provided. By doing so we can create a wider breadth of sustainable services that meet people's needs, now, and in the future.

## **Working with you**

Our change programme for people with learning disability has used a "co-design" model. This involved a series of meetings with parents and carers, prior to this formal consultation, to seek their views and help shape the proposals that are being put forward in this document. The co-design approach has enabled carers, parents and individuals involved have an influence over the type of short break they can access in the future. By working together with carers the Trust believes it can design a range of alternatives that not only give people more choice and control over their chosen short break but ensure quality, reliability and financial sustainability in services.

Carers of Baytree House users have been invited to these meetings, in addition to carers and parents of children and adults in transition, as well as wider groups of carers of people with a learning disability or interested parties.

Through co-design, the Trust has discussed new options for short breaks and looked at ways in which carers can use and combine their personal budget allowances to find better-suited alternatives to current provision. This included a session with five independent sector providers of bed based and alternative community based short breaks. The providers were able to talk about what services they could offer and carers were able to discuss concerns they may have had about any alternative provision. The Trust also shared its rationale for change, discussed how the future may work and gave its commitment to support to carers and parents throughout the planning and transition of any change process.

In the previous consultation work held in 2012 and our co-design work this year with regard to day services and short breaks, the following themes have emerged from people with learning disabilities and their carers.

- People felt that there should be more choice
- People want to improve community participation, independence and choice
- People and their carers said they needed help accessing those opportunities and using a personal budget
- People said that building based services would still be required for people with the most complex needs
- People also said that new services should be properly monitored quality assured and reliable.

## **What we are proposing**

To create a wider breadth of sustainable services that meet people's needs now and in the future the Trust is proposing to close Baytree House. The Trust will work with carers and individuals to provide alternative short breaks that better meet people's needs.

This means that people would no longer receive short breaks at Baytree House but by combining personal budgets and working with carers, a range high quality, flexible replacement short breaks would still be available. These would be provided by a range of providers from the independent sector, to offer people more choice and control over the type of short break they would like to access.

The Trust is proposing to close Baytree House in April 2016. For all those using Baytree House as a short breaks option, the Trust has given its commitment to ensure improved support and planning for people, to help them use personal

budgets to meet their outcomes and manage their money to support a new short break of their choice.

## How to have your say

The consultation will run from Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 closing on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016. It will run for a total of nine weeks to account for the Christmas break.

You will be able to have your say by completing the consultation questions at the end of this document and returning it to the freepost address or alternatively by going on to our website and completing the electronic form.

We want to provide as many opportunities as possible for parents, carers and people with learning disabilities to understand the proposals and share their views and feedback. As part of this formal consultation, we will give you the opportunity for further face-to-face dialogue. You will be able to book a one to one slot at a consultation surgery on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 9am- 4pm** with Jo Williams, Assistant Director Adult Social Care and/or Steve Honeywill, Head of Operational Change. This will enable carers and parents to clarify issues and speak confidentially about any further concerns that they were unable to raise or address as part of co-design meetings.

If you are unable to attend a slot at this session you can call 01803 217695 to arrange an alternative time to either meet or talk directly to one of the team via telephone.

All of the feedback from the co-design meetings, surgery session, over the telephone and the consultation will be incorporated into the consultation report for a decision by the NHS Trust Board and Torbay Council Scrutiny.

## Consultation questions

The Trust now needs your help. Please share your views with respect to the proposed closure of the short breaks unit at Baytree House and the proposal to provide alternative short breaks. When taking part in the consultation please consider the following:

1. Has the Trust has taken all the facts into account in its proposals and if you think they are fair?
2. Do you have any concerns you may have about any of the proposals outlined in this consultation document, and how these concerns could be reduced?
3. What support you would like if any changes were to go ahead?

The Trust is seeking your views on the following questions. If there is not enough space to write your response please attach additional sheets and these will be included, along with your response.

<p><b>1. Do you agree with our proposals to close Baytree House and provide alternative bed and community short breaks?</b>      Yes <input type="checkbox"/>      No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Additional comments</p>
<p><b>2. Do you currently use Baytree House?</b>      Yes <input type="checkbox"/>      No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>3. Do you feel you have been able to help shape and influence the proposals by taking part in the co-design process?</b>      Yes <input type="checkbox"/>      No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>4. What are the features of a good short break service, in your view? Please list the aspects that matter to you.</b></p>
<p><b>5. Are there any unique features about the service provided at Baytree you would like other providers to continue?</b></p>
<p><b>6. Are there any aspects of the service at Baytree which you think could be improved?</b></p>
<p><b>7. If you have chosen not to use Baytree would you be able to outline the reasons?</b></p>
<p><b>8. If have considered other providers, please give us any feedback you have on them.</b></p>
<p><b>9. Do you think this proposal is unfair towards any group of people (with regards to their gender, ethnicity, age, religion, disability or sexuality)?</b></p>

# How to respond

You can take part in the formal consultation by post, online, telephone, or attending a surgery session. Any feedback you have already submitted as part of the co-design meetings will still be taken into consideration in the final report.

Please respond to the consultation no later than **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016**.

**Post:** You can submit your formal response by completing the form above and sending via post to:

FAO Steve Honeywill  
FREEPOST( RRLE-KHTU-ZGEU)  
Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust  
Bay House  
Riviera Park  
Torquay  
TQ2 7TD

**Online:** You can complete and submit the consultation form via the Trust website [www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk/about-us/news-and-publications/consultations/](http://www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk/about-us/news-and-publications/consultations/)

**Consultation surgery:** If you would prefer to speak to someone in person you can book a slot at the consultation surgery on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015 from 9am-4pm**. To book a suitable slot please call 01803 217695.

**Telephone:** To speak to someone via the telephone please call 01803 217695 between 10am-4pm, Monday to Friday, you may not be able to speak to a representative straight away but you will be given a call back by one of the team. You can also leave message, requesting a call.

## Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to come along to the co-design meetings, read this document, and respond to the consultation. We hope that it gives you a clear understanding of why the Trust is proposing changes to short breaks in Torbay.

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust is very proud of the services it runs and we know that you are too. By working together, we can help shape the future of short breaks, ensuring that any alternative provides high quality, sustainable and modern care to you and your loved ones.

All of your comments from the co-design meeting and consultation will feed into the decision making process.