

**REPORT SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Board meeting 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2016.
<b>Title:</b>	Public consultation on the future of Baytree House short breaks unit for people with learning disabilities in Torbay.
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Liz Davenport, Chief Operating Officer.
<b>Corporate Objective:</b>	
<b>Purpose:</b>	For the Board to make a decision with respect to the future of Baytree House Short Breaks facility following the recent public consultation.

**Summary of Key Issues for Trust Board**

Strategic Context:

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 the Trust board made the decision to proceed with a public consultation with respect to the future of Baytree House short breaks unit. The consultation ran from 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and closed on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2016. The proposal was to close Baytree House in April 2016 and re-provide these beds nights in the independent sector. For all those using Baytree House as a short breaks option, the Trust gave its commitment to ensure support and planning for people was available, to help them use personal budgets to meet their outcomes and manage their money to support a new short break of their choice.

This proposal forms part of the 2014 NHS Learning Disability Operational Commissioning Strategy. This document set out why it is necessary to deliver changes in learning disability services in Torbay and examines 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 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.

The Baytree House short breaks service is situated in a large traditional Torbay Victorian Villa. The building is located in Croft Road, Torquay and is owned by Torbay Council and leased to the NHS. Currently Baytree has a maximum capacity of eight beds; however the average occupancy in 14/15 was 3.6 residents per week, and in 15/16 thus far 4 residents per week, with the majority of placements made at the weekends. This gives an occupancy rate of 45 to 50 per cent. The revenue cost of the unit including staffing costs is £509,000 per year.

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 is not always the best care setting for individuals with these more complex needs.

Our change programme for people with learning disability has used a “co-design” model. This

involved a series of meeting with parents and carers, prior to formal consultation, to seek their views and help shape proposals. A series of these meetings occurred last year ahead of the public consultation and Carers of Baytree users were invited to these sessions along with other interested parties attended. During the co-design the Trust had 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 Trust also shared its rationale for change to ensure reliability and financial sustainability in services.

#### Key Issues/Risks

1. Finding suitable alternatives for carers in the independent sector if Baytree closes.
2. If the unit does not close the financial savings required will not be delivered elsewhere in learning disability services or adult social care.
3. Public opposition to closing a long standing service.

#### Recommendations:

- a. That Baytree House should in due course close and the short break beds nights should alternatively be sourced in the independent sector.
- b. That a transitional period to 30/6/16 occurs before the decision to close is implemented.
- c. That Adult Social Care Commissioners in partnership with the Support Planning Services are tasked urgently over the next four months to work closely with provider to develop and secure satisfactory provision.
- d. That the Board consider their monitoring requirements. It is recommended the Board in due course receive a written update with respect to progress if the decision is made to close the unit and secondly that the Learning Disability Partnership Board also take an appropriate role monitoring quality and outcome of placements in the independent sector. In operational terms it is recommended that Community Service Business Unit will manage and be accountable for the completion of Baytree House change programme and all the associated activity. Overview and Scrutiny will set their own follow up requirements.

#### Summary of ED Challenge/Discussion:

#### Internal/External Engagement including Public, Patient and Governor Involvement:

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust directly sent the consultation documents and return envelopes to all family Carers who use Baytree. The consultation sought views from parents and carers of people with learning disabilities about future of Baytree House, its in-house short breaks unit in Torbay. Carers could also respond via the Trust website.

During the consultation 1-2-1 meetings were available to all Carers and several public meetings discussed the proposals in January 2016. This included a meeting facilitated by Health Watch Torbay for the "Save Baytree House" campaign attended by the Trust, a meeting with the Older Carers group, the local Mencap Committee and the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board.

#### Equality and Diversity Implications:

This proposed service change impact upon people with learning disabilities and with their carers and families, the relevant impact assessments have been completed.