

Update on Occombe House

Wards Affected: Preston

To: On: 15th December 2011

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1. Key points and Summary

1.1 This is a summary of activities undertaken in relation to Occombe House since our last briefing to the overview and scrutiny committee on 2nd September 2011.

The key areas covered in this report are,

- Meetings and involvement with families.
- o Involvement of Vocal advocacy.
- o Best interest decisions.
- Update regarding providers
- Summary of next steps.

2. Introduction

2.1 Background.

Occombe 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.

Work is underway at the moment to explore alternative provision for the long term residents of Occombe.

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 Occombe have also submitted information to the Overview and Scrutiny committee previously.

3. Meetings and involvement with families.

The last meeting with families regarding Occombe House took place on 1st November 2011 at The Innovations Centre Torquay. Draft minutes of that meeting are attached.

The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the current position following the best interest meetings. Since the last meeting six out of the seven best interest meetings had taken place.

The majority were in favour of people moving into tailored and redesigned services as supported living on the Occombe site. This means that in due course the Council will need to make a decision about the Occombe site which will also need to consider the future of Fairwinds special resource centre.

There are some constraints in relation to the site in that South Hams would not agree to any major change to the current footprint, therefore potential housing provider would find the whole site a much more attractive venture. The footprint of the buildings on site may potentially be used to maximise and provide the bespoke accommodation in order to comply with supported living requirements and to offer proper tenancies to the six residents. This could offer a smooth transition for the residents, moving only when their bespoke accommodation is ready.

If this is not possible people are looking to move into supported living as a second option in the current locality.

4. 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 Occombe following the agreement of family members and have reviewed the person centred plans and associated information.

Vocal have written individual reports which have recently been sent to families. A response will be sent to the Council picking up any recommendations across all reports within a combined action plan.

5. Update regarding providers

The third stage of our any willing provider process is now complete and additional providers are now on our list.

The families have made a shortlist of the providers they are interested in and some questions have been devised to ask at face to face meetings which are being arranged.

So far families have told us that they are keen to work with a social enterprise, and that they have already had a very positive meeting with one potential provider who has the Trust's approval.

The current position is to identify a single support provider to project manage the change from residential care to supported living. As specified in the best interest meetings this is to seek to fulfil the first option.

A housing provider is an important component of the plan to see the supported living project succeed. They will have to identify the current opportunities and constraints related to the Occombe site to see if they can commence the project there.

6. Care management

The general manager of Learning disability services has met with families on the 29th November to provide information about the care management role within this process and how support services are individualised in a supported living environment.

7. Summary of Next Steps.

- 1. Council decision regarding the future of the Occombe site.
- 2. Identification of a single service provider for support.
- 3. Identification of a single housing provider.
- 4. Service design for individuals.

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

Title of Head of Business Unit - Head of Commissioning.

Appendices*

Appendix 1

Minutes of the meeting with Occombe family members from 1st November 2011- (Please note these are DRAFT at the moment and should not be available to the public to respect confidentiality.)

Documents available in members' rooms*

A folder of information is available in the member's room.

Background Papers:

See above*