



Title: **Learning Disabilities Services Update**

Wards Affected: **All**

To: **Health Scrutiny Board** On: **19th July 2012**

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1. Key points and Summary

1.1 This paper provides an update of the key developments within the Trust's in-house learning disabilities services. This includes the residential care provided at Occombe House, day services and short breaks.

2. Occombe House

- 2.1 The Trust is currently working with the families of the Occombe residents to identify an alternative provider for Occombe House, who will work with the families and residents to re-develop the site according to the needs of the individuals, as identified in the best interest process.
- 2.2 A competitive dialogue procurement process is being followed, which commenced with the issuing of an *Invitation to Negotiate* in April, to which a number of potential providers expressed an interest.
- 2.3 A series of dialogue meetings have been held potential future providers to explore the potential for re-development of the site according to the needs of the individuals and to assess the suitability of these providers. Families and staff representatives have been involved in all stages of this procurement process.
- 2.4 It is anticipated that following the issue of a formal *Invitation to Tender* in September and subsequent evaluation of bids, a future provider for Occombe House will be selected in October and the residential unit transferred in November 2012.
- 2.5 It is expected that the new provider will then work closely with the families of the residents and the local authorities to re-develop the site according to the best interest outcomes into supported living within 12 months of contract transfer.
- 2.6 There continues to be a risk that re-developing the site into supported living for the seven residents on their own may not be financially viable and all potential providers have considered how this could be overcome by considering what additional services could be provided on the site to attract additional income.

3. Day Services

- 3.1 In February 2012, the Care Trust Board approved a decision to re-focus the number and types of day opportunities provided by the Trust for people with learning disabilities across two centres (Hollacombe CRC and Torquay CRC) as part of a first phase to changes, with a long term view to re-providing these individually or collectively by alternative providers, following a commissioning-led market assessment.
- 3.2 The organisational context within which in-house day services is being reviewed includes: increased financial pressure and reduction in the overall adult social care budget, and in particular over-expenditure in learning disabilities, implementation of personal budgets set by resource allocation schedules with associated increased choice and control in the way these are spent, avoidance of paying twice by people accessing multiple services to meet the same outcome (e.g. paying for 24 hour residential care and accessing day services), and a focussing of core business provided by a NHS Trust.
- 3.3 Following this decision, the operational management team compiled a more detailed implementation plan, which has been shared with families, staff and within the Trust.
- 3.4 The first phase of these changes involves the relocation of services provided at Fairwinds to Hollacombe and Torquay CRC. Minor adaptations to the Hollacombe building are required to care for clients currently supported at Fairwinds, who have different and more complex needs than those currently supported at Hollacombe. The building works commenced on 25th June and will be complete in mid-August, at which time the clients and staff can move to the other two centres. The most disruptive part of the building work is now complete and every effort was made to minimise the impact this would have had on clients.
- 3.5 Person-centred reviews have commenced to work with clients and their circles of support to understand the impact of changes on their individual care and support plans and identify alternative ways of meeting needs where the change affects them.
- 3.6 Regular meetings with staff, families and carers are being held to ensure that all stakeholders are kept up to date and there is an opportunity to feedback on progress, air any concerns or issues and resolve these as they arise. Additionally, SPOT have been commissioned to provide support to the clients in understanding these changes and supporting them at this time.
- 3.7 A thorough market assessment of day opportunities in the bay will be completed later this year to determine the long term future of the remaining two centres.

4. Short Break Service

- 4.1 Since 1st April 2012, the Trust no longer provides short breaks at Occombe House. The service was de-commissioned as part of the work of the Learning Disabilities Transformation Programme in 2011 and this decision communicated to all stakeholders.

- 4.2 The employment of none of the staff at Occombe House was affected by this cessation, as there were no employees currently employed specifically for staffing this service.
- 4.3 Short breaks will continue to be provided at Baytree House and relevant adjustments to the building have been completed.
- 4.4 All former clients of the short break service at Occombe House now have access to alternatives and are supported by the community learning disabilities team to ensure that their needs continue to be met.

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