

AT A MEETING of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee of
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the castle, Winchester on Monday,
11th February, 2019

Chairman:
p Councillor Roger Huxstep

Vice Chairman:
p Councillor David Keast

a Councillor Martin Boiles
a Councillor Ann Briggs
p Councillor Adam Carew
p Councillor Fran Carpenter
a Councillor Tonia Craig
p Councillor Alan Dowden
p Councillor Steve Forster

p Councillor Jane Frankum
p Councillor David Harrison
p Councillor Marge Harvey
p Councillor Pal Hayre
p Councillor Neville Penman
p Councillor Mike Thornton
p Councillor Jan Warwick

Co-opted members

p Councillor Tina Campbell
a Councillor Alison Finlay
a Councillor Trevor Cartwright

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Councillor Liz Fairhurst, Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Councillor Patricia Stallard, Executive Member for Public Health

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Ann Briggs. Councillor Lance Quantrill, as the Conservative standing deputy, was in attendance in her place. Apologies were also received from Councillor Tonia Craig. Councillor Dominic Hiscock, as the Liberal Democrat standing deputy, was in attendance in her place.

Apologies were also received from Councillor Martin Boiles, and co-opted member Councillor Trevor Cartwright.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

No declarations were made.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that the next meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee, scheduled for 19 March, was likely to move to 2 April. The change of date would be confirmed to Members in due course.

4. **DEPUTATIONS**

The Committee received five deputations relating to the item on the agenda about proposals affecting Orchard Close Respite Service:

Kathie & Samantha Tong (service user and her mother)

Samantha stayed at Orchard Close and really liked it there, she had made friends with others that stayed there, appreciated the consistency of knowing the staff there and was scared of the prospect of changing to have to use an alternative respite facility. Her mother was concerned about the time it took for her daughter to settle into a new arrangement. The impact of the potential loss of Orchard Close was like grief.

David Humphries (parent carer)

Felt the report was biased towards the option of closing Orchard Close, and challenged the viability of the estimated savings that could be achieved. While the report referred to service users and carers having meetings to discuss alternative options, he knew of several who had refused these meetings. There was anecdotal evidence that other respite units didn't provide the same level of trips/activities for service users as Orchard Close. He felt it was unfair for successive savings to impact the same service users year on year.

Rosemary Macri (parent of service user)

Her son stayed at Orchard Close when she needed respite, he enjoyed it there and had good relationships with other service users and the staff. She was surprised it was proposed to close the unit, given it was so well used and highly regarded. Alternative respite units would not be the same as they didn't have the benefit of the coastal location. She was concerned that the capacity estimates didn't take account of different levels of demand at different times of year.

Sarah Orchard (sister to service user)

Her sister stayed at Orchard Close when her parents needed respite from caring for her. Her sister's behaviour became challenging when she was unsettled. It took a long time for her to become comfortable with Orchard Close and it would be a long process to re-settle her at an alternative facility. Change was particularly hard for this cohort of service users due to their learning disabilities, so closing a unit they liked would have a big impact for these individuals and their families.

Sally Eshraghi (parent carer)

She was a carer to her son who accessed shared lives respite. She is also a carer representative on various groups. Carers that used Orchard Close had a

sense of security from using this unit as they trusted the service provided there. This would be lost if Orchard Close closed. She believed that there was a backlog of carers assessments, and she felt there would be an increase in demand for respite once these were undertaken. Carers were often wary of private sector provided respite holidays as the staff involved were unknown. She lacked confidence in the alternative respite facilities being as good as Orchard Close and was concerned that it would be a long process for service users to re-adjust to alternatives. Other sites couldn't replicate the access to the beach Orchard Close benefited from. Other respite centres also catered for physical disabilities, and therefore it was more difficult for staff to provide activities as they needed to support those with physical disabilities. She would like to work with the County Council to find alternative ways to make the savings and explore alternatives for Orchard Close e.g. passing the trust and running of the unit to another organisation.

All the deputies were against the proposals to close the respite service provided from Orchard Close on Hayling Island.

5. PRE-SCRUTINY: ORCHARD CLOSE RESPITE SERVICE PROPOSALS

Representatives of Adults Health and Care provided a report and supporting presentation regarding findings from the consultation and recommendations on respite services at Orchard Close, Hayling Island, due for consideration by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health at her 27 February 2019 Decision Day. (see Item 5 in the Minute Book). The Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee was invited to scrutinise the proposals prior to the Executive Member's decision, and provide recommendations to the Executive Member about the proposals.

Members heard that:

- It was proposed to close the respite service at Orchard Close, Hayling Island. Orchard Close is a 13 bed respite unit, primarily for adults with learning disabilities on Hayling Island.
- The proposals related to the provision of the service from the building, and not the building itself which is subject to a charitable trust
- According to the proposals, carers and service users currently using Orchard Close would receive the same amount of respite they currently did. Analysis showed there is sufficient capacity available to accommodate their needs in the County Council's other respite services. The other sites were purpose built modern facilities
- That there were three HCC respite facilities in addition to Orchard Close and all of them provided better access for people with more severe needs. Severe needs would include people with learning disabilities who needed support with epilepsy, personal care, people with challenging behaviour and other needs in comparison to Orchard Close which was restricted due to its layout and design.
- Consultation had been undertaken on the proposals, and the responses to the consultation and the concerns raised were acknowledged.
- The proposals had been amended in response to the feedback received, including the proposal to put in extra support for service users and carers to assist with their transition to alternative services

- It was proposed that the unit not be closed until January 2020 to allow time for transition to alternative services
- Modelling had been done to assess capacity in the remaining units to accommodate the demand currently fulfilled at Orchard Close. This had shown that it was possible to accommodate this demand, including to provide all service users one week of respite provision over the summer period
- It was explained that the alternative ways to make savings suggested through the consultation had either already been explored or were not viable
- It was the view of the officers managing this service area that making this saving from other parts of the learning disability budget would have a more negative impact on service users than the impact of the proposed closure
- The Council's agreed budget strategy was to distribute savings proportionally based on expenditure

In response to questions, Members further heard that:

- The statutory responsibility was to provide respite, there was no statutory responsibility to provide holidays for these service users
- The cost of updating Orchard Close to provide services suitable for complex needs was prohibitive compared to building the other sites
- Options for use of the building if the service ceased would be a separate decision for the Executive Member for Policy & Resources
- Service users and carers had commented on the value of activities provided at Orchard Close. Officers gave assurance that other respite services would also offer activities for service users during their stay
- Every budget area had been assessed to explore opportunities to make savings
- These savings proposals formed part of the 'Transformation to 2019' programme, that needed to deliver reductions in the budget by April 2019 (unless an extension to this timescale had been agreed). Financial forecasting showed that further savings would be required to balance the budget in future years. Options for finding these further savings would be considered over the coming year, to input to the next 'Transformation to 2021' programme
- It was proposed that the unit would not close until alternative placements that met eligible needs had been found
- It was required to find recurring savings against the revenue budget, therefore using reserves to fund the service would only put off the requirement to make the saving in future financial years

The Chairman moved to debate and the following points were made by Members:

- It was hard to justify going ahead with closing the service when 96% of consultation responses were opposed to it
- The budgets for these type of services should be protected and savings be made in other budgets instead. The Chairman highlighted that this would be counter to current County Council policy.
- Closing this service would have a significant impact on the service users, who were a particularly vulnerable client group due to learning disabilities.

Service users with learning disabilities found change and unfamiliar surroundings particularly challenging, so transition to other services would be difficult for them

- Closing this service would restrict choice of respite opportunities for carers, as Orchard Close has features not offered by the alternatives e.g. coastal location

Following the debate, the Chairman proposed the recommendation as given in the report to the Select Committee, that the Select Committee 'Support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health in section 1 of the report.', however this did not receive support from the Members of the Select Committee. The Chairman then took the recommendations to the Executive Member in turn, to narrow down if the Select Committee supported some but not others.

In addition to providing a view to the Executive Member regarding whether the Select Committee supported the recommendations in the draft decision day report, Councillor Carpenter proposed an alternative recommendation, which other Members of the Committee indicated support for. This alternative recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously by the Select Committee. Therefore, the Select Committee agreed as follows:

RESOLVED:

a) That the following recommendations in the report 'Findings from the consultation and recommendations on respite services at Orchard Close, Hayling Island' under section 1 are endorsed to the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health for decision: 1.1, 1.4 with addition of wording at the end 'if that capacity is proven necessary', 1.5

b) The Committee did not support the recommendations at 1.2, 1.3 and 1.6

Recommended to the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health:

c) The Committee are unconvinced that closure is the best way forward for Orchard Close, nor that alternative provision is adequate for users going forward. Orchard Close is a too highly valued, unique, tranquil, high quality service to be lost. The Committee asks the Executive Member to either look for other ways to make the savings or alternative ways to fund Orchard Close, and to strongly lobby Government for extra funding for Social Care in Hampshire.

6. PROPOSALS TO VARY SERVICES

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Hampshire Partnership Clinical Commissioning Group: Chase Community Hospital - Update on re-provision of Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust services and Health Hub plans

The Select Committee received a report from the Hampshire Partnership Clinical Commissioning Group, providing an update on re-provision of Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust services previously provided from Chase

Community Hospital, and the latest position on plans for a Health Hub in the area in the future (see report, Item 6a in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

That the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee:

a) Note the update.

b) Request a further update be provided to a future meeting of the HASC when alternative proposals relating to the health hub have been developed.

7. ISSUES RELATING TO THE PLANNING, PROVISION AND/OR OPERATION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – Update on actions following Care Quality Commission report

The Select Committee received a report from Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, providing an update on actions being taken by the Trust in response to the Care Quality Commission report they received in September 2018 (see report, Item 7a in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

That the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee:

a. Note the update on action taken by the Trust in response to the 2018 CQC inspection findings.

b. Request a further progress update for the May 2019 meeting.

Chairman,