

Care home beds with five miles of Boston Spa

We understand your point about the limited amount of residential care available in the immediate locality, however there are a number of homes located just a few miles further afield, in particular in North Yorkshire, Harrogate and Ripon. However, the aspect of availability in the immediate locality is an important consideration as we evaluate the information gained from the consultation and draw up our recommendations.

The homes within five miles of Primrose Court are: Ashfield Nursing Home, 31 beds (3.5 miles); Wetherby Manor, 58 beds (3.3 miles).

Homes within ten miles (equivalent, say, to an average daily commute to work) of Primrose Court are: Donisthorpe Hall, LS17, 181 beds (9.8 miles); Holmfield Court, LS8, 25 beds (9.9 miles); Kingston Nursing Home, LS8, 47 beds (9.6 miles); St Katherine's, LS8, 18 beds (9.7 miles); Parkside, LS8, 20 beds (9.4 miles); St John's House, Kirkhammerton, 36 beds (9.7 miles); Oaklands Court, Kirkhammerton, 44 beds (8.9 miles).

There would be little point in quoting vacancies at any homes as they stand today, since no decision to close Primrose Hill has been taken and vacancies fluctuate on a daily basis as they arise and are filled. However, should closure eventually be the case, then people would be encouraged to take their time over choosing a new placement; no undue pressure to choose a particular home would be applied, regardless of a home's contractual status; and we would work at a pace that is acceptable to the resident and his or her family.

Primrose Hill – residents and services

We are aware of the importance of being close to family and also of the importance of friendships formed between residents in homes. In earlier home closures, we have been successful in keeping friendship groups together in the event of a move. In two cases where the Council has taken a decision to close a home, we have undertaken to keep it open until a replacement home operated by the independent sector is opened in the locality. In a third case, we are working with a local community which is drawing up its business plan to keep a local home open by forming a community interest company to take over the home as a going concern.

With regard to empty rooms at Primrose Hill, our social workers are under no instruction whatever to cease referrals to the home, however, it is only fair to inform prospective residents of the current proposals.

Duty of care

The Council is acutely aware of its duty of care towards its residents and we have drawn on good practice observed in home closures in Birmingham, Bradford and Kent and the report by the University of Birmingham in association with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS). This report suggests that if a closure process is conducted well, with high levels of respect, clear communication and empathy, then life after resettlement in a new service can be a positive experience. We used these protocols last year, when in an earlier round of home closures, 96 people successfully moved home with no adverse effects on their health or wellbeing. Indeed, most have reported an improvement in their surroundings over the old home and state that they would not wish to go back.

The University of Birmingham / ADASS report can be found at:

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/news/BirminghamBrief/AchievingClosureReport.pdf>