

Report of Director of Adult Social Services

Report to Executive Board

Date: 8 February 2017

Subject: Update on The Green care home

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Killingbeck and Seacroft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The purpose of this report is to update Executive Board on developments affecting The Green residential care home.
2. It informs Executive Board of the agreement in principle given by NHS commissioners to commission 37 intermediate care beds which will be provided at The Green when it transitions to a new function.
3. It advises Executive Board that a further report will be brought at a later date that sets out a transition plan once confirmation of funding has been received.

Recommendations

4. Executive Board is asked to note the contents of this report.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report fulfils a commitment given at 16 November 2016 Executive Board and at the full Council meeting on 11 January 2017, to bring an update on The Green residential care home following a decision about its future as part of the Better Lives Phase Three review of services.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Green residential care home was one of three care homes identified for closure as part of the Better Lives Phase Three review. Executive Board agreed on 16th November 2016 that The Green should close as a long term residential care service but remain open until there is a transition to a new function.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The aspiration of the Adult Social Care Directorate is for The Green to form part of the Leeds Recovery Service which will offer the opportunity for people to recover either in their own home or in a residential bed-based service.
- 3.2 The Council has received a written commitment in principle from NHS commissioners for the Council to provide 37 beds for intermediate care/ recovery support at The Green. This is subject to the outcome of the wider NHS contracting round. We are expecting to hear confirmation in January but not in time to include in this report.
- 3.3 The process for managing staff reductions across the affected older people's care homes and day centres commenced with a general invitation for staff to express an interest in leaving the Council through the Early Leavers Initiative with a closing date of 23 December 2016. In order to be equitable and to maximise the opportunity for avoiding compulsory redundancies, staff from the Green have been included.
- 3.4 Staff at The Green were informed of NHS commissioners commitment-in-principle on 13 December. This was to enable them to make an informed decision about whether or not to express an interest in ELI.
- 3.5 Mindful of the need to ensure timely communication with relatives, a meeting was also arranged for 14 December in order to update them. At the meeting officers took families through the decision making process and what were the final recommendations made at November Executive Board regarding The Green. Relatives were informed that the Council had received a commitment-in-principle from Leeds South and East Clinical Commissioning group for the funding of 37 intermediate care/ recovery beds at The Green but that this was subject to formal confirmation of funding. This meant that if funding from the NHS was confirmed then the provisional closure date would be July 2017. The July date is based on the timeline set by NHS commissioners for when they would want to see the new intermediate service go live which would be Autumn 2017. The decision to re-commission the Green as part of the new service will entail the decommissioning of the current provision. As a local authority run service the Council has the authority, exercised by the Executive Board, to make all decisions necessary to give effect to their plan. A copy of the letter informing relatives is attached at Appendix 1 for information.

- 3.6 Relatives were advised that nothing would happen until officers have taken a report to Executive Board that sets out a transitions plan to support a seamless transfer. A letter confirming all of the above was personally handed to the majority of relatives with a small number being posted.
- 3.7 Relatives then had the opportunity to ask questions. These mainly focused on what the process would be should the closure be enacted.
- 3.8 A briefing note also went out in December to ward members and the Chair of Scrutiny Board to inform them of the latest developments. This has been circulated to all Scrutiny Board members and an update report of all of the affected Phase Three establishments, including developments relating to The Green, went to January Scrutiny Board.
- 3.9 In the meantime, The Green remains open to admissions but the situation is being explained to prospective customers and their families so they are able to make an informed decision about a future placement. The Green is also being used for emergency and short-term placements.
- 3.10 A further report will be brought to Executive Board with a detailed transitions plan for commencement of closure for the long term care services and establishment of the new intermediate care service when contractual arrangements are confirmed.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Extensive formal consultation was conducted as part of the Phase Three review proposals which service users and families contributed to.
- 4.1.2 Formal consultation with the trade unions as part of the Managing Staff Reductions has commenced.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 A comprehensive equality impact assessment was undertaken as part of Better Lives Phase Three review.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The *Better Lives* strategy is part of the Best Council Plan to be a compassionate city with a strong economy. It also contributes to delivering the Health and Well-being Strategy.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 This report is not eligible for call-in on the basis that the substantive decision was called in in September 2016.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 A detailed plan will be drawn up in order to carefully manage the transition of the use of The Green from a long term care home to an intermediate care/ recovery centre. This will include the management of identified risks.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The Green remains open and in use as a long term residential care home but staff, service users and families have been informed of the in-principle commitment of NHS commissioners to commission 37 intermediate care beds from The Green with a provisional closure date of July 2017.
- 5.2 Officers will come back to Executive Board with a detailed transition plan for actual closure when agreement with the NHS is confirmed.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Executive Board is asked to note the contents of this report.

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7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

APPENDIX ONE

[Insert Title, Name & Surname]

[Insert Address]



Cath Roff

Director of Adult Social Services

Leeds City Council

Adult Social Care

PO Box 848

Directorate

Leeds LS1 9PQ

Ref: TGPERMNK1016

15th December 2016

Dear [Insert Title & Surname]

Subject: Delivering the Better Lives Strategy in Leeds Programme – Phase 3 Review of Residential & Day Services (Adult Social Care)

I am writing to update you about the Council's Better Lives strategy and its impact on the future of some of the Council's care homes and day centres, and specifically on the decisions that have been made regarding The Green.

I wrote to you on 13th September 2016 to let you know that a report would be going to the Council's decision-making body, Executive Board on the 21st September 2016. The letter explained that the report had recommendations about the future of some of the Council's care homes and day centres, including the proposed closure of The Green as a long term residential care home.

The Executive Board decided to approve the recommendations in the report. The decision to approve was then further robustly challenged and scrutinised by Elected Members via a "call in" process at a special Scrutiny Board, re-considered at October Executive Board and all members given the opportunity to comment at November Full Council meeting. Throughout this process Elected Members have listened carefully to the concerns of residents, service users and their families.

Any changes to services such as these are, of course, by their nature extremely sensitive and it is therefore very important that there is no misunderstanding about the intended way forward.

To be clear, I can now confirm that the Executive Board has approved the closure of The Green as a long term residential care home and it is intended that it will close by July 2017. However, it will be retained as a local community asset and we have agreement in principle from the NHS Commissioners, to fund us to provide an intermediate care / recovery service from The Green. We will be working on a transition plan for this and will share the detail with you as soon as formal confirmation of funding is in place.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that all current residents of the Green will receive support to move to their new home. No resident will be expected to move to a home of lesser quality and families will be closely supported through any changes. Residents and their families will not be financially worse off as a result of these changes.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

What will happen next?

You and your relative will be contacted at least two months before the planned date of transfer by a social worker from the Assessment and Transfer team who will work with you and your relative to help choose an alternative care home, and will assess and support the transfer to their new home.

The social worker will make an assessment of support needs so that you and your relative are clear if they need a nursing home or a residential care home. The Council will negotiate the appropriate fee with the care home so you and your relative do not need to worry about finances.

However, if you and your relative feel that you would like to take steps now to find another care home and do not want to wait to be contacted, please ring the Programme Management Office on 0113 378 3821 and they will arrange for your relative to be allocated a social worker.

Who can I talk to about this?

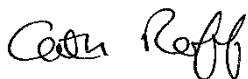
If you have any concerns or questions about your own personal situation or the process in general, please telephone 0113 37 83821 or email ASCConsultation2016@Leeds.gov.uk.

If you are concerned about the impact of this decision, you may also wish to contact Carers Leeds on 0113 380 4300 or info@carersleeds.org.uk.

I want to take this opportunity to reiterate the Council's commitment to ensuring we are able to continue to deliver high quality public services to people in Leeds. To do that, however, our services must adapt to meet the evolving needs and increasing demands of those living in the city.

I appreciate that this is unsettling news for you and your relative. I understand this, and can assure you that I do not take these important decisions lightly. We will work closely with you and your relative to make sure your move goes as smoothly as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Cath Roff
Director of Adult Social Services