

1 December 2014

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE HEALTH & PUBLIC PROTECTION

CHANGES TO THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION WITHIN LEARNING DISABILITY SHORT BREAKS SERVICE

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek permission to change the designation of four beds within the directly provided Short Break service for adults with learning disabilities from emergency accommodation to beds for planned short breaks at the Helmsley Road Short Breaks site near Rainworth. This change would take place on the 1 February 2015.

Information and Advice

2. The Helmsley Road service is based in four bungalows. Three bungalows each provide four beds and the fourth bungalow provides offices, and a catering facility for the site.
3. In September 2012 Committee agreed the number of emergency beds would be reduced overall from 7 beds located across the County to 4 beds centrally located at Helmsley Road Short Break Service near Mansfield.
4. The consultation with carers undertaken at that time agreed that wherever possible, emergencies for carers and service users known to the short breaks service would be provided within the local service attended by the service user. This would wherever possible enable the service user to use the facility that they were most familiar with. The provision within services other than Helmsley Road would utilise under occupancy within those units.
5. The directly provided short breaks service currently provides 41 bed spaces across the county for adults who have a learning disability. From October 2015 there will be 32 spaces across the County including the four emergency spaces at Helmsley Road. In addition to these spaces there are seven short break beds currently provided under contract by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust at The Newlands in Balderton Newark. This contract will cease at the end of March 2015.
6. In seeking to accommodate the current and future users of the Short Breaks Service the change of designation of the four emergency beds at Helmsley Road to planned break beds will increase the number of available beds at Helmsley Road from eight to twelve. The resulting impact on the available bookable beds is shown in the table below. In 2015 it has

been agreed that the allocation of short breaks for families will remain at 2014 levels and will then be assessed in line with the new Short Breaks policy. It is anticipated that with the reduction in available beds in 2015 it will be necessary to use the Emergency beds for planned breaks in order to accommodate everyone within the available provision.

Current service provision at November 2013.

Service provision planned from October 2015

Service	Planned break beds	Emergency beds	Service	Planned break beds	Emergency beds
Helmsley Road	8	4	Helmsley Road	12	0
Wynhill Lodge	10	0	Wynhill Lodge	10	0
Kingsbridge Way	9	0	Holles Street	10	0
Holles Street	10	0	Total	32	0
Newlands	7	0			
Total	44	4			

7. During the period June 2013 to May 2014 there were a total of 49 periods of emergency admissions to the Helmsley Road emergency beds, involving 35 different people. Of these admissions 14 cases were not known to the Short Break Service.
8. Over 25% of stays within emergency beds were for more than 28 days this was mainly due to waiting for admission to long term accommodation (see breakdown below). The total number of bed nights available for the 4 emergency beds is 4 x 365 = 1460 nights. Of these during the period June 2013 to May 2014, 1140 nights were occupied. This is equivalent to 78% occupancy.
9. The table below shows a breakdown of the length of emergency stays.

Length of stay	percentage of stays
<72 hours	17.4
3-7days	27.3
8-14 days	12.1
15-28days	15.2
>28days	28

10. Across the whole service there were 50 different people who required emergency admission to the four directly provided Short Break establishments on one or more occasion during the period June 2013 to May 2014.
11. Emergency beds are used for a variety of reasons the main ones being:
 - sudden illness of carer
 - change in care and support need - service user unable to return home due to changes in mobility for example, a reduced ability to walk or stand
 - placement breakdown - residential care, supported living or Shared Lives

- safeguarding concerns.
12. The outcomes of these emergency placements include:
- service user able to return home
 - residential or nursing home placement
 - supported living arrangement
 - hospital admission.
13. The Short Break Service will no longer be able to respond consistently to requests for emergency placements for people who are not users of the Short Break Service. It will be necessary for the Community Learning Disability Teams (CLDTs) to commission emergency stays within the independent sector. Information about the planned change of designation of the emergency has been sent to the CLDTs.
14. The service, wherever possible will continue to support carer and service user emergencies for service users known to the Short Break Service but, without designated emergency beds. This will rely on the use of unallocated bed spaces and where unavoidable the possible cancellation of other stays to enable the emergency placement.
15. Should it be necessary to cancel or reduce another persons' stay this will be done through consultation with carers and the relevant social worker. It is recognised that all carers require breaks from their caring responsibilities and the cancellation or reduction in stays will always be done with this mind and through individual discussion with the relevant CLDT.
16. The emergency beds at Helmsley Road at currently staffed according to occupancy. With the proposed change to bookable short breaks beds these beds will require staffing to be provided to meet the booked demand. The Short Breaks service would be able to cover the necessary staffing changes within the existing budget provision.
17. The emergency beds at Helmsley Road would be transferred for use as bookable beds on the 1 February 2015. This will support the transfer of service users from The Newlands service due for closure at the end of March 2015, and for the preparation for the closure of the Kingsbridge Way Service at the end of September 2015.

Other Options Considered

18. Consideration was given to continuing to provide emergency beds at Helmsley Road, but reduce to two beds this would enhance the number of bookable beds by two while maintaining an emergency response. The difficulty with this is the provision at Helmsley Road is in 4 bed bungalows, where two beds would be planned stays and two beds emergency. Staffing levels would be difficult to predict and night staff would always have to be provided whether the occupancy was one or four people.
19. Transfer two emergency beds to Holles Street in Worksop where there is a separate two bedroom facility. The advantage of this would be to give a distinct area over to emergency placements. The disadvantage is the location within the County and the travel time and distance from the centre and south of the County. The service may struggle to provide all the planned breaks at Holles Street if the bookable beds are reduced by two.

20. Enable all beds to be bookable for planned stays with either 2 or 4 beds highlighted as emergency beds where the planned stay would be cancelled if there were to be an emergency. This would lead to some uncertainty for carers, who would know the status of the bed being offered before the bed was booked. The advantage for the service would be in maximising occupancy.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

21. These recommendations are made to maximise the use of resources given the demand for planned Short Breaks and the agreed reduction of bed accommodation through the closure of Kingsbridge Way Short Break service. With the increase in bookable bed spaces at Helmsley Road it is anticipated that the 3 short breaks services will be able to meet the short breaks needs of carers ensuring that they continue to get breaks from their caring responsibilities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

22. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below.

Implications for Service Users

23. Users of services requiring emergency short breaks may be able to access directly provided accommodation, subject to availability, or they will have to access independent sector accommodation.

24. The number of short breaks beds that can be booked will increase by four at Helmsley Road.

Financial Implications

25. The resources for undertaking this change will be contained within the overall funding for the Short Breaks service.

Human Resources Implications

26. The staffing requirement for these changes will be contained within the overall staffing compliment for the Short Breaks service.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) It is recommended that Committee approve the 4 Emergency beds at Helmsley Road Short Break Service be designated as beds for planned short breaks from 1 February 2015.

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Constitutional Comments (24/11/2014)

27. Adult Social Care and Health Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (KAS 24/11/14)

28. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 25 of the report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- AH/2012/00038
- Equality Impact Assessment: Changes to the provision of emergency beds within the Learning Disability Short Breaks Service May 2012.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All.

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