

**8 July 2019****Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTORS FOR SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
AND NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & DIRECT SERVICES****RESPONSE TO A PETITION REGARDING JAMES HINCE COURT CARE AND  
SUPPORT CENTRE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend to Committee the response to the issues raised in a petition to the County Council regarding the closure of James Hince Court Care and Support Centre, as detailed in **paragraph 10**.

**Information**

2. A 262 signature petition was submitted to the Full Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019 by Councillor Alan Rhodes. The petition calls on the Council “to think again and keep this vital service open”.
3. The petition further states that James Hince Court:
  - is home for many elderly residents and has supported many local people
  - local people work here and their jobs are now under threat.
4. Approval was given to develop Extra Care Housing and promote independent living in place of the current provision of six Care and Support Centres at Full Council in February 2015. In response to consultation feedback, it was also approved that three of the centres (Leivers Court, James Hince Court and Bishop’s Court) would be kept open for another three years.
5. Subsequently a target closure date of March 2018 was agreed which has since been revised through change requests approved by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee and the Improvement and Change Sub-Committee.
6. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee approved a final closure date for James Hince Court of September 2019. The reports are listed as background papers and include the reasons for the decisions, as well as options considered.

7. Since then a great deal of work has been undertaken to ensure that appropriate alternative arrangements are in place for long term residents. Also, work has taken place in partnership with health colleagues, to ensure that appropriate alternative services are available so that people can be discharged safely home from hospital in a timely way. Wherever possible the aim is to discharge people directly back to their own homes, with appropriate support if needed. Some people, however, may need a short stay for further assessment and/or re-ablement in an accommodation based service.
8. The outcome of this work is that:
  - significant work has been undertaken to plan for moves to alternative placements for the two remaining long-term residents currently living in James Hince Court, ensuring that the individuals and their families are fully involved in the planning
  - investment in a new Home First Rapid Response Service means that more people are now able to go directly home after a stay in hospital. This has reduced the number of people who may have needed homecare as part of their discharge plan but because it was not available quickly enough, had to move into a short term residential care bed until it could be arranged
  - increased investment in the Council's Short Term Assessment and Re-ablement Team (START), alongside a project that is increasing capacity in the service through use of technology, means that more people are now going directly home for their re-ablement support to regain their independent living skills
  - Priory Court Housing with Care scheme in Worksop will be open for people to move in from September 2019. The Council will have nomination rights to 37 units, which includes 10 assessment and re-ablement beds, out of a total of 51 units
  - there is also sufficient capacity and choice of independent sector residential care for older people in the north of the County.
9. Appropriate, alternative, short term re-ablement services are now in place that support local social care and health's principle of 'Home First' after a stay in hospital and overall there is now a greater variety of options available to meet older people's needs.
10. In light of the information provided in this report it is not proposed to change the decision to close James Hince Court in September 2019 and to notify the lead petitioner accordingly.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

11. The option of keeping James Hince Court open is not viable as the building is no longer fully fit for purpose and is not an optimal model of modern care home design in line with what would now be expected under national minimum standards.
12. Given that the planned closure is now only a few months hence, staffing levels are reducing rapidly as staff find alternative job roles or are released to redeployment opportunities.

13. Also, there is a need to have a diversity of provision in place to both provide appropriate care to people with increasingly complex needs and ensure that people are supported to be as independent as possible, with a focus on reablement and a Home First approach.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

15. There are no financial implications arising from the report.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That:

- 1) the proposed response to the petitioner, as set out in **paragraph 10**, is approved and that the lead petitioner is informed accordingly
- 2) the outcome of the Committee's consideration is reported to Full Council.

**Sue Batty**  
**Service Director, South Nottinghamshire**

**Ainsley Macdonnell**  
**Service Director, North Nottinghamshire**  
**and Direct Services**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Sue Batty  
Service Director, South Nottinghamshire  
T: 0115 9774876  
E: [sue.batty@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:sue.batty@nottscc.gov.uk)

Ainsley Macdonnell  
Service Director, North Nottinghamshire & Direct Services  
T: 0115 9772147  
E: [ainsley.macdonnell@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:ainsley.macdonnell@nottscc.gov.uk)

## **Constitutional Comments (EP 21/06/19)**

16. The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of this report and approve the recommendations.

## **Financial Comments (KAS 24/06/19)**

17. As stated in paragraph 15, there are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

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.

Annual Budget 2015/16 - report to County Council on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Progress on the Procurement Plan for Short Term Assessment/ Re-ablement Beds and Next Phase of the Care and Support Centre Closure Programme - report to Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

Worksop North      Councillor Alan Rhodes

ASCPH664 final