

Learning Disability Services

SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE GRANGE

NO. 1 THE GRANGE – HEALTH RESPITE CARE SERVICES

1. Current Health Respite Care Service Provision

Health respite care services are currently provided by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) at:

- 1 The Grange, Glenfield Hospital site (5 beds)
- 65 Tournament Road, Glenfield (6 beds)
- 3 Rubicon Close, Mountsorrel (5 beds)

67 service users and their carers/relatives use the service across the three homes.

2. Decision to Reconfigure the Health Respite Care Service

The decision to close 1 The Grange and to reprovide the respite care service at Tournament Road and Rubicon Close was taken by the Learning Disability Executive Group at its meeting on 19 September 2007. This is a joint commissioner and service provider group whose membership includes:

Commissioners

- Leicester City Primary Care Trust – represented by Assistant Director of Strategy & Procurement, who also liaises with the Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust.
- Leicester City Council – represented by Service Director, Adult Social Care and Housing
- Leicestershire County Council – represented by Director of Health and Social Care
- Rutland County Council – represented by Director of Adult Social Services, Health & Housing

Service provider

- Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust – represented by Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Chief Executive and Acting Director of Learning Disability and Specialist Services.

In making the decision, the Group was mindful of two important issues:

- a) the ability of LPT to continue providing the same level of health respite care service within the reconfigured service, and
- b) the requirement for LPT to achieve annual recurrent savings as a result of running its services more efficiently (known as the cost improvement programme).

With regard to a) a feasibility study was undertaken of the usage of the respite care service prior to the decision being made. The study demonstrated that there was sufficient spare capacity to meet all service user and carer/relative respite care needs within the service and facilities provided at Rubicon Close and Tournament Road. Operating the respite care service from two instead of three premises would maintain the standard of service provided whilst enabling the service to operate as efficiently as possible.

With regard to b) there is a national imperative for all NHS organisations to make annual recurrent savings as a result of running their services more efficiently. There was a shortfall in the 2007/08 efficiency savings for Learning Disability Services, which the two Primary Care Trust commissioners agreed to cover for 2007/08 only. LPT is required to find efficiency savings to meet this shortfall from 1 April 2008 onwards.

LPT, with its Primary Care Trust and Local Authority commissioners, considered the options available for achieving the efficiency savings for 2008/09. The reconfiguration of the respite care service presented a viable option as the service could be reprovided within the remaining two homes with no reduction in the service available to families, whereas other possibilities would have led to some reduction in service. A further factor in the decision was that the new operating arrangements would not result in any direct costs being passed on to the local authority respite care service provision.

3. Implementation of the Decision

Following the decision taken by the Learning Disabilities Executive Group on 19 September 2007, further discussions took place with colleagues in Social Services and Human Resources on the implementation of the decision.

Staff working in the respite care service were informed of the decision on 29 October 2007. Families using any of the three facilities were sent a letter on 2 November 2007. Staff were informed in advance of families so that they would be able to respond to families who talked to them about the decision and how it might affect their respite care arrangements.

Bookings and referrals to the respite care service for 2008 are to be co-ordinated by a Short Breaks Panel, whose membership includes the Respite Care Homes Manager, Locality Manager and Practice Development Nurse representation.

Contact with service users and carers

All 67 families using the health respite care service were sent a letter on 2 November 2007 advising them of the decision about the service. This provided families with a variable period of notice depending on when they were first planning to use the service in 2008, from a minimum of 2 months.

Families were provided with the names of service managers that they could contact for further explanation or discussion, if required. As a result, 24 families and 5 professionals from other agencies telephoned the service, mainly requesting clarification and reassurance that their needs would continue to be met. There have also been two meetings with individual families. LPT received 3 letters of complaint, which have all received a full response.

A further letter was sent on 12 November 2007 asking relatives/carers to submit their requested dates for respite care in 2008 by 23 November 2007. Families who did not respond to the initial request for bookings were contacted and booking requests are now known for all except three families.

Staff from LPT's Learning Disability Service are happy to meet with families to discuss their respite care needs and arrangements. People using the service have very individual needs and their carers/relatives also have individual requirements in terms of length, frequency and timing of respite care. For these reasons meetings are offered for individual families so that the focus of discussion is on their particular requirements from the service.

Impact on clients and carers/relatives

Details of the 2008 booking schedule for the health respite care services are being sent to carers/relatives in the week beginning 17 December 2007.

As far as possible all requested dates and lengths of respite care will be met. Some popular dates are likely to be oversubscribed or some dates may be unavailable for other reasons and where this is the case LPT staff will talk with families about any flexibility they can offer in their requirements. This is the approach that has been taken and proved acceptable to families in previous years.

Transport arrangements

1 The Grange is located 6.5 miles from Rubicon Close and 2.3 miles from Tournament Road, and is situated between these two facilities. Service users are usually admitted for respite care for several consecutive days and any extra distanced travelled at the beginning and end of respite periods is not expected to have a significant or substantial impact on the manner in which the service is delivered.

Some service users attend day care whilst staying at a respite care facility and need transport in order to attend. LPT plans to carry out further work to determine individual transport requirements and the best ways of meeting them.

If any individual families have particular concerns about their transport arrangements staff from the learning disability service are available to talk with them about this.

Arrangements for staff

Staff working in the respite care service were informed of the decision on 29 October 2007. As far as possible, staff will be redeployed into vacancies within the health respite care service, thus offering continuity of staff contact for service users and their carers/relatives. Where this is not possible, staff will be redeployed in other LPT services. Redeployment options will be discussed individually with members of staff. No staff redundancies are anticipated as a result of this operational change.

Risk assessments

Risk assessments took place at both Rubicon Close and Tournament Road to ensure the facilities and environment will meet the physical and behavioural needs of the service users using them in the future.

The risk assessments show that some alterations will be required at Rubicon Close, for example to doors and the garden. Tournament Road is scheduled, as part of LPT's routine maintenance and improvement programme, to have a new kitchen fitted. Any further alterations needed as a result of the risk assessment will be scheduled to minimise inconvenience.

The Learning Disability Service is working with the LPT Estates Team to determine the most appropriate timetable for these works to be carried out, so that the least inconvenience is caused to families and the running of the service.

4. Consultation and involvement

LPT has considered whether formal public consultation would be required before implementing this change in operation of the health respite care service. Formal public consultation is required if this would constitute a significant change in the range of services available or the manner in which the service is delivered. In relation to these points, LPT considers that:

- This operational change will not affect the range of services available as LPT will continue to provide a health respite care service at Tournament Road and Rubicon Close that is focused on meeting the needs of the families who use it and is able to meet those needs.
- The manner in which the service will be delivered will not be significantly different. The periods of respite care available to families will be maintained and staff who are skilled and experienced in providing respite care for people with learning disabilities will continue to provide the service. Some additional training will be provided for staff in identified areas, to ensure that service users' needs are met. In relation to transport and travel, any extra travel at the beginning and end of respite periods is not expected to have a significant or substantial impact on the manner in which the service is delivered for families. This is because 1 The Grange is located within 2.3 and 6.5 miles of the other homes and as service users are usually admitted for respite care for several consecutive days any additional travel would not be incurred on a frequent or daily basis. The

service is used by families who live across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and for some of them the travel time may be shorter.

The approach taken to the involvement of families has been at an individual level, in recognition of the fact that service users and their carers/relatives have very individual needs, diverse family circumstances and consequently different requirements for respite care.

Staff from the Learning Disability Services are available to speak with families at any time and have done so already over the phone and in meetings with individual families to discuss their requirements.

5. The Way Forward for No. 1 The Grange

LPT has listened to the concerns raised by families using the health respite care service for people with learning disabilities and concerns expressed by others. The Trust is also aware that there are some implications relating to transport arrangements and estates services that require additional detailed work, which could not be planned in advance of knowing the dates requested by families for respite care.

Taking these issues into account, and bearing in mind that the Primary Care Trusts have agreed to cover the 2007/08 shortfall in efficiency savings for Learning Disability Services until 31 March 2008, LPT is giving serious consideration to delaying the closure of 1 The Grange until 31 March 2008.

LPT expects to be in a position to give a verbal update confirming their position to the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 17 December 2007.

LPT will write to families about their booking arrangements for 2008 and confirm the latest position with regard to the date of closure of 1 The Grange as soon as possible in the week beginning 17 December 2007.

No. 2 THE GRANGE – HEALTH HOME

2 The Grange is a long-term health home for 5 residents and is part of the ongoing Health Homes NHS Campus Project. The aim of the project is guided by the government White Paper Valuing People, (Department of Health, 2001), which sets out a strategy for Learning Disability Services in the 21st century. In order to promote independence, greater social inclusion and more lifestyle choices for people with learning disabilities, it is expected that no-one should be a long-term resident in health service accommodation beyond 2010.

Consequently, over the next 2-3 years, people living in small homes run by LPT will transfer into the care of alternative support and housing providers. This could mean a move into a new property or staying in existing property that would transfer to a new housing provider, if the property is of good quality. The local health homes project to

achieve this has been underway for over 18 months and is jointly run by health and local authority organisations.

As part of the decision-making process described in section 2 above, the Learning Disability Executive Group reluctantly agreed to the closure of 2 The Grange after a feasibility study was undertaken, on whether suitable alternative placements were available for the residents.

All residents were assessed and their current needs taken into account. As a result of the assessments, 3 of the residents are expected to move to community placements; this will be their final move within the health homes project. The other 2 residents will join residents in another health home; it is then expected that they will all move into a community placement together as part of the health home project. LPT has sought to introduce these changes as sensitively as possible and to minimise the number of moves that any one individual might experience.

The changes will only come into effect when all the arrangements necessary are in place to ensure a smooth transfer for the residents. Currently, confirmation of the 3 community placements is awaited but it is anticipated that the moves will take place before the end of March 2008.

12 December 2007