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CVS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

## TO ALL LEICESTERSHIRE, LEICESTER & RUTLAND JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 19 November 2007

Dear Board Member

Re The Grange Respite Closure

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns regarding the imminent closure of the Grange Respite/Short Breaks facility. I understand that you will be considering this matter as part of the 2012 presentation by Professor Sheehan CEO for Leicestershire Partnership Trust.

In light of this and the C.E.O.'s reflections for Leicestershire Partnership Trust and in particular the attention being given to transparency, inclusiveness, engagement, visibility, partnerships and reputation are welcomed and valued and with this in mind there are a number of matters I would ask that are considered:

1 The Government introduced the White Paper "Valuing People" in 2001 with its key aspects being the rights, choice, independence and inclusion of people with a learning disability. In Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, through the respective Learning Disability Partnership Boards, every effort has been made to deliver these principles so that the change being advocated is achieved. Considerable time and effort by all, including the LPT, through the Learning Disability Boards has been made to change from a service being

delivered unto people, to working with people with a learning disability and their families so they can have the confidence to embrace the change.

This has led gradually to cultural shifts with services being more person centred, local and individuals and their families feeling empowered to take charge of their lives.

#### Comment

There is a great danger if short term decisions continue with no reference to firstly Partnership Boards then all their excellent work endeavouring to build trust and confidence will be quickly eroded and replaced by cynicism, distrust and apathy serving to undermine not only what is enshrined in the Valuing People Agenda, the principles Our Health Our Say and perhaps make what the CEO is proposing for LPT up to 2012 difficult.

2 The Proposal to close the Grange and inculcate the Grange users within the Rubicon facility does have ramifications for both sets of users and their families with a reduction in their respite.

#### Comment

The respite needs have been identified through the annual Individual Care Plans so with the merge leading to a reduction this will necessitate the need to identify resources elsewhere to meet the commitments. Given this, is there a saving or is the emphasis being shifted and its financial implications will gradually emerge elsewhere?

3 Respite through the Grange and Rubicon are key elements in family carers being able to continue to fulfil their vital role and is there a risk this will be jeopardised. Has a full financial risk assessment been carried out to determine whether the reduction of the respite for individuals with complex health and social needs may lead to a complete breakdown of family care and the potential financial risks of expensive long term permanent care?

#### Comment

This would mean that the potential very short term savings being proposed would clearly be drastically eroded and potentially significantly reversed if permanent care was required.

Given the matters highlighted I would respectfully ask that all decisions are deferred so the Proposal maybe fully scrutinised with a full report that sets out

- (a) The Learning Disability Partnership Boards comments
- (b) What the implications are with the potential loss of respite identified in Individual Care Plans and what will therefore replace this
- (c) An assessment, with partners in adult care services, of all the risk factors the potential of a breakdown in family care and the financial implications short, medium and long term.
- (d) The Short term breaks (respite) Leicestershire & Rutland Adult Social Care and Health Service Steering Group, preparing the new Short Breaks policies, on behalf of the Boards is also asked to comment.

Finally we would also respectfully ask that with all future Proposals concerning Learning Disability that a custom and practice be adopted that the comments of the respective Partnership Boards have been gained first so that principles being proposed through to 2012 are put into practice enabling the Joint Scrutiny Committee to be in a position of having all of the information so that the best possible informed decisions can be made.

Respectfully yours

**Brian Williams**

Brian Williams



Partnership Officer (Learning Disabilities)

Cc Chairs Partnership Boards  
Lead Officers Partnership Boards  
Cabinet Leads for Adult Social Care  
VCS Representatives Partnership Boards