

LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES SERVICES PROVIDED AT No. 1 THE GRANGE

**Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 21st July 2008**

This paper provides an update on the report provided to the Committee at its meeting on 17 March 2008 regarding the future provision of short break services for people with learning disabilities, which are currently provided at No. 1 The Grange.

The information provided in this paper sets out

- the progress made since Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) decided to postpone the closure of No. 1 The Grange until 30th September 2008
- the progress being made by the Health Short Breaks Review Group in line with the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Review of Short Breaks.

A verbal update of any developments since this paper was submitted will be provided at the meeting on 21st July 2008.

1. No. 1 The Grange – update

The postponement of the closure until 30th September 2008 has allowed further work around the concerns expressed by carers and other agencies to be explored and resolved as far as possible. The Trust has also established a Health Short Breaks Review Group with carer representation from all three Health Short Break Homes and the three Local Authority areas. This Review Group feeds into both the Leicester City and Leicestershire and Rutland Short Break Review Groups.

Communications

Families and carers were informed by letter of the further postponement in March 2008, at which time they were also provided with details of their respite care bookings for the April - September 2008 period.

A meeting took place on 27th February 2008 for families and carers to talk with LPT and commissioner representatives, who were keen to hear more from families and carers about their concerns and to offer reassurance and explain the new arrangements in more detail. The meeting was facilitated by CLASP - The

Carers Centre, and proved a valuable meeting highlighting carers' expectations and concerns and the need for Health and Local Authorities to work more closely together to develop services.

Action Plan

An LPT action plan detailing the essential work required to facilitate the re-provision of No. 1 The Grange has continued to be implemented to ensure that all necessary work and reviews are undertaken by July 2008. It includes the further work that LPT is committed to undertake to review the future mix of clients and the management of any risks associated with a changing client mix, the upgrading of the respite care facilities at Tournament Road and Rubicon Close, additional training for staff and transport arrangements. A summary of the action plan is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary Action Plan for No. 1 The Grange

Action	Progress
a. Set up Short Breaks panel to manage new referrals, changes, developments and allocation of short breaks in health care.	Set up January 2008 and meeting regularly
b. Review process for new referrals to the service and agree with referrers.	Completed January 2008
c. Review process and criteria for emergency short breaks.	Completed January 2008
d. Review of client mix for 2008 bookings at Rubicon Close and Tournament Road and ensure all clients have up-to-date healthcare and risk assessments.	Completed April 2008. Following concerns raised by carers and staff regarding the two client groups mixing another booking/service model was explored where each home would offer a service for a defined client group on a weekly basis. This model would mean one home would offer a service for clients with challenging behaviour while the other home provides for people with profound and multiple disability. This model would mean changes to booking dates and availability initially.

e. Arrange upgrades to environments at Rubicon Close and Tournament Road, taking account of issues identified in risk assessments.	Underway, a full scoping of the upgrade work has been completed and is currently being tendered for definitive costing.
f. Identify additional training requirements for staff.	Needs identified February 2008 and staff have attended relevant training. The only outstanding training is client specific and would take place as part of a transition process.
g. Reconfirm healthcare involvement with Local Authority Short Breaks Review.	The Trust now has representation on both the Leicester City and County and Rutland Short Break Review Groups. The Health Review Group, chaired by LPT, also feeds information into both groups.
h. Ensure that short breaks in health care are considered as part of the 2012 Learning Disability Services work stream on service re-modelling.	Consideration was given to Health Short Breaks in the future Specialist Health Service for people with a learning disability and the future models of delivery identified by the Health Short Break Review Group will form part of the developing service.
i. Establish transport arrangements for clients moving to Rubicon Close or Tournament Road and liaise with transport providers	Throughout 2008 (as clients will access the service at different times during 2008) Further work on this will take place dependant on the final model of short break service offered.

Investigation of process

At the February 2008 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee it was reported that LPT was reviewing the processes which informed the original decision to close No. 1 The Grange. This review is now complete and the key recommendations from the review were as follows:

- There is a need for clearer understanding between partners regarding roles and responsibilities in any joint decision making process.
- LPT should review and develop the process for managing and monitoring significant service change or service closures.
- All service changes should involve some level of consultation with service users and carers whether formal or informal and LPT should develop a policy on consultation to cover all service changes.
- LPT's Trust Board must have scrutiny of cost improvement programmes, especially where service users are directly affected.

2. The Health Short Break Review Group

The Health Short Break Review Group was established in May 2008 with the following aims:

- To review the short breaks provision offered by the Learning Disability Service of Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust.
- To develop a Health Short Breaks Strategy in partnership with all stakeholders.
- To support the development of a cross boundary and quality Short Breaks Strategy in partnership with Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Authorities.
- To understand the core needs of service users and carers.
- “To develop a broad and imaginative range of quality short break services in order to meet the health and social care needs of adults with learning disabilities and their parents / family carers”. (Amended County Steering Group)

Key Issues from progressing the Health Short Breaks Review Group

- a. The group has 5 family/carer representatives and the manager of CLASP attends. Although a lot of time has been spent discussing the decision to close No. 1 The Grange there seems to be a genuine willingness to support the review and the involvement carers now have.
- b. Any future changes to health short breaks will be recommended from the group and the process is closely linked to the City and Leicestershire and Rutland short break review groups, producing a more organised, transparent and co-ordinated approach.
- c. The Continuing Health Care Needs Assessments of all health short break users have started but will take longer than the originally anticipated date of 30 June 2008 to complete. This is because families are taking up the option to have carer advocacy present from CLASP and CLASP is not currently able to meet the demand. CLASP has raised this issue at the Executive Short Breaks Group to explore the possibility of funding for more workers.
- d. Carers have consistently raised their concerns and frustrations about not having dates for short breaks after September 2008 and the effects this is having on their wellbeing.

- e. The establishment of the Executive Short Breaks Group (executive members from Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Local Authorities, Primary Care Trusts and the manager from CLASP) has provided a strategic lead to the work and a group to refer decisions and queries to.

3. Next Steps

The Trust reviewed the options for the reprovision of No. 1 The Grange with the Executive Short Breaks Group on 7th July 2008 and the following was agreed:

- The Grange will remain open until 31st March 2009 with the financial support of partnership agencies.
- It is anticipated that by 31st March 2009 all current service users of No. 1 The Grange will have had detailed assessments and work will have identified alternative provision to meet their future short break needs.
- A small group of carers and staff will complete an initial Equality Impact Assessment on the reprovision of No. 1 The Grange in July, considering the model of risk reduction where each home provides a service for a specific user group a week at a time (challenging behaviour or profound and multiple disability).
- Throughout this process CLASP has assisted by facilitating regular carer meetings and carer representation on all health short break groups.
- A joint Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Short Break Strategy will be available for consultation from November 2008 to January 2009. A final strategy with an implementation plan will be confirmed by March 2009 and it is expected that implementation will be on a phased basis.

9 July 2008