



Leicester
City Council



RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

Leicestershire Partnership
NHS Trust



FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

**Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

5 March 2009

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Cross Authority Strategy for Short Break Services for People with Learning Disabilities

Report of the Service Director, Community Care Services, Adults and Housing Department, Leicester City Council, Assistant Director, Leicestershire County Council, Director of Inclusion and Partnerships, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Director Adult Social Services, Health and Housing Department, Rutland County

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report describes the background to the development of a draft cross authority strategy for short break services for people with learning disabilities and summarises some of the main recommendations.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Commissioners in the Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, together with the main NHS provider, the Leicestershire Partnership Trust have worked together to develop a joint strategy document, which sets out the strategic direction for the future of short break services for adults with learning disabilities in the sub regional area. The strategy is currently being consulted upon.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS (OR OPTIONS)

- 3.1 The Committee is requested to note the production of the strategy and to comment upon its contents and recommendations.

4. REPORT

4.1 Background

- 4.2 In Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland over 1000 adults with learning disabilities who receive support services from the Councils live at home with family carers. The demands of caring for a family member with a learning disability can be considerable,

therefore a range of services are provided that give the person with a learning disability and their family carers the chance to have a break from one another. The length of such breaks varies from a few hours to several weeks.

- 4.3 These services include overnight stays in registered residential care homes, in NHS homes and in adult placement schemes. There are also some more flexible, community based services that can either support people in their own family homes to allow carers to go away, or support people with learning disabilities to take part in activities outside the family home. These services play an important role in enabling families to continue caring for their relatives with learning disabilities over a long period of time, thus avoiding the need for residential care or other supported living arrangements.
- 4.4 Most short term break services have been provided either by the Councils, or by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. Councils have also commissioned some services from independent sector providers.
- 4.5 Historically each agency has delivered its own Short Breaks for people with learning disabilities. The nature of the provision across Leicestershire, Rutland and Leicester has been determined by each area's local needs, organisational priorities and guiding policy frameworks. This uncoordinated approach has sometimes resulted in gaps in service provision for people with specific health and social care needs.
- 4.6 **Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Cross Authority Strategy for Short Breaks**
- 4.7 In 2007, Commissioners in the Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, together with the main NHS provider, the Leicestershire Partnership Trust, began to review current provision with a view to setting the strategic direction for the future of short break services in the sub regional area.
- 4.8 The review has been informed by a range of national policy documents, including best practice guidance set out in the 2007 "Guide to short breaks: supporting family carers and people with learning disabilities to have short breaks that work for them."
- 4.9 The review has involved a number of different strands of work, which have been overseen by a multi-agency group, with a membership made up of senior officers and a representative from the main carer advocacy group (CLASP). The different strands of work have been brought together in an over-arching joint strategy document, which sets out the commissioning intentions for developing responsive and accessible short break services across the area.
- 4.10 Within the frame-work provided by the joint strategy, it is expected that there will be two further stand alone short break strategies, for Leicestershire & Rutland and for Leicester City, which will set out in more detail the actions required to implement the overall commissioning intentions in each area.
- 4.11 The joint strategy also identifies several areas in which partners can work together to make the best use of resources and achieve added value for people with learning disabilities and carers;

- i) Commissioning specialist learning disability health staff to provide a peripatetic service to support other services across the Counties and the City. The aim is to ensure that health needs can be met in the community where people live.
 - ii) Commissioning services that can respond to the needs of people with learning disabilities and carers in emergency or crisis situations. These services form an essential part of a holistic range of support services for family carers.
 - iii) Commissioning short breaks to meet the needs of people from Black and Minority Ethnic groups.
 - iv) Ensuring that people who need short breaks are offered a choice of services and the opportunity to determine their own support through the use of direct payments and individualized budgets.
- 4.12 The joint strategy is currently being consulted upon. This is due to be completed by the end of March 2009, after which time more detailed action plans will be developed across all agencies.
- 4.13 The joint strategy sets out the expectations for the delivery of key objectives within its action plans and these will be regularly reviewed on an ongoing basis.
- 4.14 The immediate priority within the action has been to support the keeping the 1 The Grange open for 2007/08 and to work in partnership towards reversion of 1 The Grange to good alternative short break options.

5. Short Break Services Provided by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT)

- 5.1 LPT provides a much valued service for people with more complex physical needs and people who present challenging behaviour. Services that are commissioned or provided directly by Leicester City Council have limited capacity to meet these types of need.
- 5.2 LPT Services are provided in 3 homes, which provide accommodation and support;
- 1 The Grange , Leicester Frith Hospital 5 beds
 - Tournament Road, Glenfield 6 beds
 - House 3 Rubicon Close, Mountsorrel 5 beds
- 5.3 The Grange 1 accommodates the needs of people who present challenging behaviour. Tournament Road and Rubicon Close provide for adults with a learning disability, many of whom have additional physical and sensory disabilities.
- 5.4 During 2007-08 LPT looked at how much use was being made of the 3 short term break homes and concluded that there was enough spare capacity to consider providing the service from two homes instead of three. At this time LPT was under pressure to make efficiency savings across the wide range of learning disability services that it provides (as part of its 2007-08 and 2008-09 Cost Improvement Programme). Consequently, an initial decision was taken by LPT to close No.1 The Grange at 31 December 2007.
- 5.5 Since this time, LPT has been working with the Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils to consider the future of LPT short break services in line with the wider short breaks strategy. 1 The Grange has remained open, with additional

funding provided by all Council and NHS partners until April 2009. Comprehensive assessment work is being carried out to determine the health care needs of all people currently using the LPT short break service and a national tool is being used to establish the extent to which services should be funded by the NHS under the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare.

- 5.6 This work is informing the re-design of LPT services to provide a more flexible, community based response to meeting the health care needs of all people with learning disabilities who require short break services. The Healthcare assessment work is due to be completed by mid March. Work has started to analyse the health and social care needs identified through the assessments and to make recommendations about the way that health care services should be delivered in future. This work is being led by a task and finish group with representation from LPT, the Primary Care Trusts and the Councils.

6. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Financial Implications

6.2 Legal Implications

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within the Report	References
Equal Opportunities	Yes	4.2, 4.3	
Policy	Yes	4.8	
Sustainable and Environmental	No		
Crime and Disorder	No		
Human Rights Act	No		
Elderly/People on Low Income	No		

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS –

“A Guide to Short Breaks; Supporting family carers and people with learning disabilities to have short breaks that work for them”. Written by Paradigm on behalf of the Valuing People Support Team

9. CONSULTATIONS

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10. REPORT AUTHOR

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