

# Adult Social Care



Leicester  
City Council

Council

19<sup>th</sup> September 2013

**Petition in relation to the proposed closure of Nuffield House**

**Appendix A**

**Petition in relation to the proposed closure of Herrick Lodge**

**Petition in relation to the proposed closure of 4 of Leicester City Council's Care Homes**

## **Report of the Director of Care Services & Commissioning**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The report outlines the issues raised by three petitions submitted in relation to the consultation on the proposed phased approach to closing some of the Council's Elderly Persons Homes (EPH's) and selling others as a going concern.
- 1.2 Leicester City Council owns and runs eight Elderly Persons Homes. We have been consulting on a range of proposals since 2011. The latest consultation exercise proposes a phased approach to closing some of the residential homes and selling others as a going concern. The proposal is detailed at point 4.2.

### **2. Why do we feel change is necessary?**

- 2.1 We feel that change is necessary for a number of reasons:
  - The demand for residential care has been declining in both the Council and independent sector homes for a number of years.
  - The number of people choosing Council run homes is falling compared to previous years.
  - Even when homes are full, it costs the Council around £214 more per week, per person to place someone in a Council run home, compared to home run by the independent sector.
  - All eight Council homes are not fully occupied. This is currently resulting in excess costs of £4.2m per year.
  - Council homes need capital monies spending on them, as they were built about 40 years ago on average. An independent survey shows that around £7.5m needs to be spent over the next 15 years to keep the homes in good order.
  - Additional money would be needed to upgrade the homes to modern standards (including providing en suite bathrooms which many people will expect in the future).
- 2.2 The Council needs to develop a range of new services for older people, and feels that continuing to run the eight homes is not something it can continue to do in the long term.

2.3 In Leicester there is a strong independent sector market, which is regulated in the same way as Council homes and around 80% of older people are choosing to take up places in these homes.

### 3. The proposals

3.1 Following consultation in 2011, we contacted 350 organisations to see if they would be interested in buying and running the homes. We did this because many residents and their families said that if change was needed, they would prefer the homes to be sold to another owner. Whilst, there was interest in some of the homes, there were no organisations that wanted buy Nuffield House, Herrick Lodge, Preston Lodge and Elizabeth House.

3.2 The proposals for change have been drawn up based on the level of interest shown in another organisation running the homes. They are in two phases. Phase One would commence in 2013/2014. Phase Two would not commence until 2015 and would be subject to a review of Phase One.

<b>Phase One - Elizabeth House, Herrick Lodge and Nuffield House</b>
What could happen if change was agreed?
The Council would close Elizabeth House, Herrick Lodge, and Nuffield House in 2013/14.  If change was agreed we would support all residents to help them find another home that meets their needs. The homes would close only when all residents had moved.  Staff would also be offered support to find another job. This could include redeployment in another job within the homes that are proposed to be sold as a going concern, although, they would be subject to TUPE transfer to another owner. They would also be offered interview training and counselling.

<b>Phase One - Abbey House and Cooper House</b>
What could happen if change was agreed?
The Council would put Abbey House and Cooper House up for sale in 2013/14.  If change was agreed and the sales were successful residents would be able to stay in the homes. The homes would be owned and run by a new organisation.  Staff would be able to stay working at the homes, although they would be subject to TUPE transfer to the new owner.

**A decision about Phase Two would not be made until an evaluation of Phase One has been completed**

<b>Phase Two - Arbor House and Thurn Court</b>
What could happen if change was agreed?

The Council would put Arbor House and Thurn Court up for sale (a decision about this would not be made until 2015).

If change was agreed and the sales were successful residents would be able to stay in the homes. The homes would be owned and run by a new organisation.

Staff would be able to stay working at the homes, although they would be subject to TUPE transfer to a new owner.

### **Phase Two - Preston Lodge**

What could happen if change was agreed?

The Council would close Preston Lodge (a decision about this would not be made until 2015).

If change was agreed we would support all residents to help them find another home that meets their needs. The homes would close only once all residents had moved.

Staff would also be offered support to find another job. This could include redeployment in another job within the homes that are proposed to be sold as a going concern, although, they would be subject to TUPE transfer to a new owner. They would also be offered interview training and counselling.

## **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 The petitions form part of the consultation findings, which the Executive will consider. The Executive will make a decision on the way forward for each of the homes and this will be communicated in due course.

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