

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission - 8th January 2015

Briefing Note: Sale of Abbey House and Cooper House – engagement with residents, their families/carers and staff

1. Purpose of the Note

1.1 To provide the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission with an update on the engagement with residents, their families/carers and staff regarding the sale of Abbey House and Cooper House.

2. Background Information

2.1 When the Consultation first started in 2011, on the future of the Council's Elderly Persons Homes, the proposal was to close all the eight homes. However, residents and their families/carers said that if change had to happen, then they would prefer the homes to be sold to another organisation.

2.2 Therefore, the Consultation was restarted and the residents and their families/carers stated they wanted the homes to be sold as going concerns.

2.3 A soft market testing exercise was completed, which showed there was interest in 4 homes, including Abbey House and Cooper House.

2.4 Following a procurement exercise, Leicestershire County Care Ltd (LCCL) was selected as the preferred bidder for the homes and the sale/transfer is currently in progress.

3. Engagement with residents, their carers/families and staff

3.1 As part of the sale process, a letter was sent on 8th October 2014 to residents and their families/carers explaining that LCCL have been selected as the preferred bidder.

3.2 Meetings were held with residents and their families/carers, senior officers and LCCL on 10th December at Abbey House and at Cooper House on 11th December 2014 to discuss the sale process.

3.3 Contact details were also made available to enable residents and their families/carers and staff to raise any concerns or questions, as part of the communications process.

3.4 Residents have not been asked if they want to move out of Abbey House and Cooper House as part of the sale process, because the outcome of the consultation exercise was to sell the homes as going concerns. To date no one has asked to move to alternative accommodation, but residents have a choice about where they live, so any requests will be considered.

3.5 Information was also sent to staff at both homes on 8th October 2014, advising them that LCCL had been selected as the preferred bidder.

3.6 Meetings were also held with staff, senior officers and their union representatives at Cooper House on 4th December and at Abbey House on 5th December 2014 to discuss the 'Measures Letter', which sets out any changes to staff Terms and Conditions proposed by LCCL.

3.7 A second meeting was held with staff, senior officers, their union representatives and LCCL to make introductions and to enable staff to ask questions about any proposed changes to their Terms and Conditions. These meetings took place on 11th December at Cooper House and Abbey House on 12th December 2014.