

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

ADULT SERVICES CABINET MEMBER

**PROPOSED PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF SCOTTER HOUSE
AND THE OPTIONS FOR SERVICE USERS**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend Cabinet Member opens public consultation on the future of Scotter House and options for Service Users

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Scotter House

- 2.1 Scotter House was established in 1977 as a 31 bedded hostel for people with learning difficulties and mild learning disabilities but by the early 1990`s the complexity of the people accessing the service increased and respite and longer term care were being offered in the same building.
- 2.2 In 1996 a challenging behaviour unit was established as a discreet wing of Scotter House.
- 2.3 However, from early 2000 a great deal of work took place to enable individuals to move into their own tenancies and they were supported to live within the community and live full and active lives. In line with emerging best practice a decision was made to refocus the service and to cease offering respite and longer term care in the same environment. Registration numbers reduced from 25 to 16 and Scotter House was run as a single Unit.
- 2.4 3 individuals have been at Scotter House for longer than expected due to changes in their life circumstances, however, life planning has taken place with 2 of the 3 longer term residents of Scotter House and they will have moved on into long-term accommodation by the beginning of March.
- 2.5 The numbers of individuals using Scotter House as a respite service has reduced as a wider range of alternatives options become available for short breaks. By March the average number of individuals using Scotter House in a week will be 4-5, spread throughout the week, with only one or two some weekdays and three or four at a weekend.

- 2.6 With a more personalised approach being offered to young people coming through transition and work being carried out with current service providers to broaden the scope of alternative options available to Service Users and their families, there is currently, and will be in the future, little demand for this service.
- 2.7 The individuals who currently use Scotter House are all being assessed for personal budgets, in line with the personalisation agenda. They and their families will be able to choose how they use that money and whether they wish to use it for short breaks and where.
- 2.8 Work is underway through Strategic Commissioning to further develop the market place to provide further options for families.
- 2.9 The cost of providing services for a diminishing group of Service Users in a building that is too large and has substantial running costs, has become resource intensive and is diverting resources away from the development of personalised approaches for individuals.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Option 1

- 3.1 To open public consultation on the future of Scotter House and options for Service Users. The public consultation would commence on the 2 March 2011 and end on 27 April 2011, a period of eight weeks. The results of the consultation would be brought back to Cabinet Member.

Option 2

- 3.2 To carry on running Scotter House.
- 3.3 For those individuals and families who use Scotter House for short breaks through the year it provides them with continuity of service in a place they are used to and with staff they know.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

Option 1 The preferred option

- 4.1 The decommissioning of Scotter House will free up resources to enable more personalised options to be available to individuals through personalisation. Financially it is the best use of resources to proceed with decommissioning this resource in order to continue to provide services to vulnerable people.
- 4.2 If Scotter House is decommissioned, then Service Users and their families would be supported to decide how they wished to spend their personal budget.

- 4.3 They may chose for example, to access respite provision within the independent sector, supported holidays, use Personal Assistants for support, access respite provision within their own home, increase their use of leisure facilities, go on holiday with their friends or chose not to access respite.
- 4.4 Individual planning would take place with the long-term resident and their family regarding their future.

Option 2

- 4.5 Not decommission Scotter House.
- 4.6 This will allow the individual who is placed here on a long term basis to remain living at Scotter House and would prevent any disruption to this individual and their family.
- 4.7 It would allow the individuals and their families who access Scotter House for respite to continue to do so.
- 4.8 If Scotter House is not decommissioned then the savings required from the budget will have to be found from other areas. This could include options such as:
 - * reducing the amount of funding available for Service Users to support them to remain at home
 - * reduce services the amount of respite provided
 - * reduce the number of people receiving home support
 - * reduce the number of individual places in permanent long stay residential placements.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 Financial implications – The financial saving for Scotter House net of the cost of re-providing these services in other ways, is £300k per annum.
- 5.2 Staffing implications –If the Scotter House were to be decommissioned the Council's HR procedures would be followed, which would seek to offer redeployment and training opportunities to those staff affected and minimise the effect of redundancies. There are 19 permanent staff employed at Scotter House.
- 5.3 Property implications – The building will be available for alternate use within the Council or disposal for capital receipts.
- 5.4 IT implications – None.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 Statutory implications – there is a statutory duty to meet peoples assessed needs. There is, however, no statutory obligation for this to be provided by in house services. There is a duty to consult those who would be affected.
- 6.2 Environmental implications – in the immediate future there will be a reduction in CO2 emissions as the building no longer uses heating and lighting.
- 6.3 Diversity implications - Diversity Impact Assessment completed.
- 6.4 Section 17 – Crime and Disorder implications – none are immediately apparent.
- 6.5 Risk and other implications – If these services continue to run there will not be the finances to develop alternative services disadvantaging other service users.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 If Cabinet Member agrees to the proposal the Service Users and their families, staff affected and Trade Unions and the wider public will be fully consulted and their views reported back to Cabinet Member.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That Cabinet Member agrees to opens public consultation on the future of Scotter House and options for Service Users.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report - Nil