

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: DEVELOPING INTERMEDIATE CARE – PROPOSED CLOSURE OF BELHAVEN HOUSE & PROGRESS ON REPLACEMENT ARRANGEMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILTERNES HOME CHRYSTON.
From: HEAD OF ADULT SOCIAL WORK SERVICES		
Date: 28 APRIL 2016	Ref: RM/AB	

1. Purpose of Report / Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise members on the progress of agreeing intermediate care provision for older adults in North Lanarkshire and to seek approval to close Belhaven House care home, declare the building surplus to requirements and defer the decision on deletion of posts to allow the North Lanarkshire Joint Integration Board (JIB) to consider future provision.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 4 February 2016 members of the Housing and Social Work Services Committee were informed of the role which intermediate care plays in supporting frail and older people to remain living longer in the community through providing rehabilitation and respite for carers, thus preventing admission to long term care or hospital and aiding earlier discharge from hospital.
- 2.2 Intermediate care is presently provided in Monklands House in Plains and Muirpark in Viewpark, two local authority care homes which were completely renovated to provide this service. A new facility is due to be completed this summer in Chryston as Chilterns care home was not suitable for redesign.
- 2.3 The report also indicated that plans to identify a site for a proposed new build Intermediate Care Home in Wishaw, (as Belhaven House was unsuitable for conversion), had proven to be highly problematic with the identified site being assessed unsuitable. Difficulties with the existing Belhaven also meant that the numbers of residents had been reducing over time as in April 2014, Committee agreed to cease admissions and residents who developed more complex care needs were difficult to support in the building, which has no en suite facilities, sloping corridors and narrow doorways, which made wheelchair use very difficult.
- 2.4 The building's difficulties were compounded by a heating system failure with residents having to be relocated to Muirpark in Viewpark or other care homes of their choice, on 15 February 2016. The staff group have been temporarily redeployed to other establishments since then.
- 2.5 With responsibility for the provision of services for older adults in North Lanarkshire being assumed by the JIB, as of 1 April 2016, Committee requested the JIB to support the notion of building an intermediate care home in Wishaw and to seek a suitable site for its location.

3. Proposals / Considerations

- 3.1 A report was submitted to the JIB on 3 March 2016 where members were asked to support the construction of a replacement building in Wishaw for the provision of intermediate care and members of the JIB informed that while there had been agreement in principle from NHS Lanarkshire and the Council to support the revenue funding of a new intermediate care home, this now lay as part of the considerations which the JIB needs to address in line with its strategic commissioning plan which will be agreed around August 2016.
- 3.2 Part of the considerations about a new build intermediate care home being progressed, include – availability of capital (either from the Council or NHS Lanarkshire capital funding), availability of a suitable site in Wishaw (or elsewhere agreed by the JIB), a commitment by the JIB to meet ongoing revenue costs for a new care home and agreement that such a new resource is required in Lanarkshire to meet the identified needs of its residents. Scoping out the need for such a new resource is currently being done by “bed modelling work” which is underway and carried out by officers from this Council and South Lanarkshire Council on behalf of the respective Health and Social Care Partnerships and NHS Lanarkshire staff.
- 3.3 Given that Belhaven House has not been admitting new residents since April 2014, only four residents needed to be relocated on a temporary basis following the heating failure in the building, with others choosing a new care home on a permanent basis. Subsequently, the four residents (and their families), who moved to Muirpark indicated that they did not wish to return to Belhaven, even if the heating were to be repaired and wished to remain in Muirpark until a permanent placement of their choice became available.
- 3.4 At present there are 24.91 FTE staff from Social Work Services, who are employed in Belhaven House and presently redeployed in a number of locations, undertaking duties on a temporary basis.
- 3.5 With the completion of the intermediate care home being constructed in Greenlea Road, Chryston to replace Chilterns Home in Chryston, work is underway to agree the staffing model for this new facility and this will be the subject of a future report.
- 3.6 Potential sites for a new build site in Wishaw are being considered at present but cannot be finalised until/if the JIB agrees to fund this.

4. Financial / Personnel / Legal / Policy / Equalities Implications

- 4.1 A formal decision now requires to be made about the closure of the Belhaven premises.
- 4.2 A decision to close the building formally would result in an opportunity to consider the best use for the site and for the demolition of the current Belhaven House premises.

- 4.3 Until the JIB decides if it wishes to progress with the construction of a new intermediate care home in Wishaw and capital for a new build and recurring funding guaranteed, it is not possible to confirm if and where a new unit could be located although potential sites may be suitable in line with wider Council plans.
- 4.4 At present, the issues regarding the current maintenance of the Belhaven House building and its future use/demolition remain unresolved in light of the issues above.
- 4.5 Depending on the decision by the JIB, referred to at 4.3 above, a decision will require to be made in respect of the future staffing provision. Therefore it is proposed to defer a decision on deletion of posts to allow the JIB to consider the future overall position.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) Approves the formal closure of Belhaven House and declares the premises surplus to requirements
- (ii) Seeks an update on progress on the work around bed modelling and future plans from the JIB and;
- (iii) Notes the continuation of the temporary redeployment of the staff group until the JIB agrees the future position.



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