

17th July 2019
Our Ref: SL/LH-3

Dear Lin,

Residential Short Breaks Care - Task & Finish Group key findings

Following the Cabinet decision on 7th January 2019 to consult on the re-provision of residential short breaks for older people and adults with a learning, mental, sensory or physical disability, the HASC Select Committee set up a Task & Finish Group to review the proposal. As Chairman of the Task & Finish Group, I am writing to highlight the key findings of the Group which we hope will assist you in the next stage of the decision-making process.

Cabinet agreed at its meeting on 7th January 2019 to consult on three key areas and an extended consultation of 8 weeks' commenced which aimed to find out what people thought about the following proposal:

- To transfer residential short breaks from Seeleys House to the Aylesbury Opportunities Centre (AOC), following a partial rebuild;
- To reduce day service capacity at the AOC for approximately a year whilst the rebuild is carried out;
- To provide an integrated service jointly commissioned with Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group, to be based at the AOC for both continuing health clients and social care clients.

Through reviewing the relevant evidence and undertaking visits to the Seeleys site, the AOC and the Buckingham Day Centre, below is a summary of our key findings with suggestions.

- The Cabinet report of 7th January refers to the release of the Seeleys site to the corporate property portfolio to realise circa £4.5m to the corporate capital programme. We have been reassured by the officers that the proposal only relates to Seeleys House and does not include the day opportunities centre, but there has been anxiety caused through the inclusion of this in the report. We suggest that a letter be sent to the key stakeholders at Seeleys to clarify the situation that the re-provision of the residential short breaks services does not include the day services and to confirm that there are no current plans to sell the Seeleys site.
- We heard that there are no current plans to review the day opportunities centres and these facilities are not included as part of this proposal. We would suggest this point is made clear to key stakeholders involved in the services provided at the Seeleys site and a timeline for when the day opportunities might be reviewed to be included in this communication.
- We also note that the capital receipt from the sale of the Seeleys site appears in the current Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). We understand from our discussions with the Service

Area, that this should be removed from the MTFP and we suggest this is done as soon as possible to avoid further confusion.

- The proposal to move residential short breaks to Aylesbury, with provision for both health and social care funded clients, would result in a reduced day opportunities provision in Aylesbury. Having reviewed the consultation process, we believe that current service users and carers at the Aylesbury Opportunities Centre may not have realised the impact this decision would have on them. We would, therefore request that a more meaningful consultation be undertaken with the Aylesbury Opportunities Centre users and carers. Feedback gained through this consultation should be detailed in the final report to Cabinet.

We fully support the development of an integrated service for clients with continuing health needs and social care needs and welcome the partnership funding from Clinical Commissioning Group in achieving this new facility.

On behalf of the Task & Finish Group, I would like to express thanks to the officers within Adult Social Care who provided us with their valuable time and additional information to help us with this piece of pre-decision scrutiny.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Lambert". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that spans the width of the signature.

Councillor Steven Lambert

Chairman of the HASC Select Committee Task & Finish Group on Short Breaks