

Adult Care Services Report for the Health in Dacorum Meeting of 11th March 2020

At its meeting on 17th January 2020, Herts. County Council's (HCC's) Adult Care and Health Cabinet Panel looked at the Adult Care Performance Report – Quarter 2 2019/20. In response to a member question, officers informed the Panel that there are regular meetings with Essex County Council adult social services, at which good practice is shared between the two authorities.

The Report referred to delayed transfers of care (DTOCs). Aside from the Hertfordshire Community Trust which is not an acute hospital trust, the hospital trust at which the worst performance for DTOCs occurred was West Herts. Hospitals Trust (WHHT). This is a regular occurrence but WHHT has seen the biggest reduction in DTOCs. Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust has the new Community Health contract with Herts. Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) and is seeking to work with HCC to deliver new models of care, focusing on prevention, Discharge to Assess and other forms of rehabilitation support.

At its meeting on 7th February 2020, the Panel considered HCC's proposal to close three respite centres of adults with disabilities – Tewin Road (Hemel Hempstead), Hixberry Lane (St. Albans) and Apton Road (Bishop's Stortford).

The proposals are being made because there is unused capacity in the short breaks service, with a downward trend over time. The centres earmarked for closure were chosen to give a geographical spread across the county and it was intended that no-one should have to travel more than 15 miles from home to another HCC centre. However 5 families (6%) may have to travel more than 15 miles from home, Increased marketing to promote higher usage of the service rather than reducing the size of it was considered but evidence suggests a downward trend in the number of people using it over the last few years, with an increase in the number of people choosing to use alternative services through direct payments or by asking adult disability services to commission them on their behalf.

Unlike the other centres being considered for closure, Tewin Road is run by an independent trust rather than HCC and this provider is unable to maintain the current rate it charges. Also greater investment would be required to make the Tewin Road building fit for purpose rather than the Tanners Wood Close (Kings Langley) building which will be refurbished. HCC does own the Tewin Road building and it is possible that a supported living service could be offered from it.

Service users will still be entitled to the same number of nights respite as they currently receive.

The closures will happen in August 2020. The remaining five HCC respite centres will be refurbished, the booking system will be upgraded and over the next 6 months, everyone affected will have a one to one review to go through the

changes, including taster sessions at the new centres with their existing carers present.

The decision to close/decommission the three centres has been called in to HCC's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be scrutinised on 11th March 2020.

At its meeting on 6th February 2020, the Public Health and Prevention Panel received a briefing on the Covid-19 coronavirus. Members were informed that mortality is 2.8% (slightly higher than a bad seasonal 'flu) and those in high risk groups for the 'flu such as the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions are most at risk.

On 25th February 2020, HCC passed its' Integrated Plan 2020/21 -2023/24, which included the 2020/21 Budget. The Budget included the 2% Adult Care Precept going into a pay increase for care workers both those employed by HCC's company Herts at Home and those employed by agencies. The intention is to stabilise the workforce, raise standards and give clients better support for longer.

C/Cllr Fiona Guest