

October 2010

County Durham Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Short Breaks Reprovision Heathway, Seaham,

1. Introduction

NHS County Durham & Darlington (CD&D) have commissioned and resourced short-breaks provision at Heathway in Seaham, East Durham for a number of years for children & young people with increasingly complex needs and challenging behaviours from Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV). Heathway currently operates as a 4 bed unit serving approx 20 young people across County Durham for 4 days/nights per week. One of its limitations is having to plan ahead as to which young people attend Heathway to ensure the right mix of young people, as their needs are conflicting and their health and safety is of paramount importance.

“Severely challenging behaviour refers to behaviour of such an intensity, frequency or duration that the physical safety of the person or others is likely to be placed in serious jeopardy, or behaviour which is likely to seriously limit or delay access to and use of ordinary community facilities”

Due to the current facilities deemed as **not fit for purpose**, and the need to vacate the building by its owners (Secretary of State) as they wish to dispose of this estate as soon as possible, we have been working with TEWV to develop an appropriate interim solution.

Heathway is a facility that does not meet the health, safety and welfare of the young people or its staff.

The immediacy to vacate Heathway and the fixed financial envelope have been at the forefront of decisions to reprovide and relocate short breaks provision for this cohort of young people to the Holly Unit, West Park, Darlington as the interim solution, allowing 18 months plus to discuss long-term solutions with service users, carers/parents, staff and stakeholders, which has commenced, and an open evening at the Holly Unit on 28th October with parents/carers/staff and stakeholders to hear views and comments on this interim solution and also to be involved in the longer term solution. This relocation will provide the same excellent service in terms of days/nights per week in a new environment.

Relevant Legislation

- NHS Act 2006
 - Section 242: Requirement for engagement with patients, carers and the public in the ongoing development and delivery of services;
 - Section 244: Requirement for formal consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committees around substantial variation in service / substantial service change;
- Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
 - Requirement to engage with Local Involvement Networks (LINKs);
- NHS Duty to Report on Consultation Regulations (2009)
 - Requirement to report on consultation and engagement activity, including impact of engagement on decisions.

Impact of Legislation and Guidance on Activity

The immediate proposal, to transfer the current services from Heathway, Seaham to The Holly Unit, West Park, Darlington, would normally be classed as a 'substantial variation in service' under the terms of NHS Act 2006 section 244, **and thus require formal 13 week consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However, as the premises are unfit for purpose and pose an immediate risk to the health, safety and welfare of staff and patients, the exemption to this requirement would apply.**

However, a robust communication and engagement plan, focusing on parents / carers / guardians of children and young people using the service and also including local stakeholders, should be developed and implemented. The aim of this activity is to:

- Effectively communicate the reasons for the change and the details of future service provision;
- Provide an opportunity for questions, concerns and suggestions to be raised and answered (i.e. involvement);
- Ensure that issues raised are appropriately responded to and taken on board;
- Ensure that statutory duties under section 242 NHS Act 2006 and Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act are met.

2. Implications and risks

The **benefits** of re-locating for young people, parents, carers and staff are:

- The building is new and purpose built
- Single storey
- Light, modern and spacious
- Better access and excellent free parking
- Good transport links to the unit – linking with the centre of Darlington
- Transferring of Heathway staff (continuity for the young people)
- No additional financial impact (within current financial envelope)
- Meets clinical safety and quality
- engagement and involvement (planned open evening 28th October; GP involvement through PBC Leads; Public meetings; meeting with organisations / groups; One-to-one meetings with parents, carers and guardians; Focus / discussion group meetings; surveys
- improvement and innovation (solution focussed in line with best outcomes for young people)

The areas of **risk** are:

- a serious untoward incident occurs in relation to health and safety if the interim solution does not go ahead
- extended travel time for young people to the proposed interim accommodation from their schools/home

3. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- agree to the specific consultation period set out in the attached Communications and Engagement Action Plan.
- support the move to relocate and reprovide short-break provision from Heathway, Seaham to The Holly Unit, West Park, Darlington as an interim solution with a view to a longer-term planned solution for this cohort of young people, parents/carers/staff and stakeholders.

4. Author and sponsor director

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Document management				
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1.0	October 2010	County Durham Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Lorrae rose	

Communication and Engagement Action Plan – October 2010

Short Break Residential Services for Children and Young People with a Learning Disability and Complex Health Needs

1. Informing & Involving

Date	Purpose	Audience	Activity	Location	Action	Progress / Completion
October 2010	Informing & Involving	Parents of children and young people currently using the service	Letters sent to all parents / carers / guardians outlining service change, inviting participation in involvement & pointing to future consultation	N/A	DK	Sent 07/10
October 2010	Informing & Involving	Durham Joint Health Scrutiny Panel & four local OSCs	Briefing Paper sent enclosing C&E Plan, plus letter inviting participation in involvement, offer to attend a meeting & pointing to future consultation	N/A	LR/LM	21/10
October 2010	Informing & Involving	Durham LINK	Briefing Paper sent enclosing C&E Plan, plus letter inviting participation in involvement, offer to attend a meeting & pointing to future consultation	N/A	DK	
October 2010	Informing & Involving	Key local stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPs • CLDC/CLMC/CLPC/CLOC • PBC Groups • Board • Professional Executive Committee (PEC) • VDAs • NESHA 	Letter sent outlining service change, inviting participation in involvement & pointing to future consultation	N/A	DK/LR	
October 2010	Informing & Involving	Voluntary and community sector stakeholders: to be determined	Letter sent outlining service change, inviting participation in involvement & pointing to future consultation	N/A	DK/LR	
October	Informing &	Parents of children and young people using the service, the	Information outlining service change, inviting participation in involvement &	N/A	LR	

2010	Involving	public and local stakeholders	pointing to future consultation available at www.tees.nhs.uk & www.tewv.nhs.uk			
October 2010	Informing & Involving	Parents of children and young people using the service, the public and local stakeholders	Press release to local media	N/A	DK/LR	
October 2010	Informing & Involving	NHS Durham and Provider Staff	Articles in staff newsletters outlining service / change, inviting participation in involvement & pointing to future consultation	N/A	LR	
October 2010	Informing & Involving	Independent Contractors and Staff (Dentists, GPs, Opticians, Pharmacists)	Articles in newsletter <i>Contractors' Chronicle</i> outlining service change, inviting participation in involvement & pointing to future consultation	N/A	LR	
October 2010	Informing & Involving	Local Authorities including Education	Meetings	TBC	LR	
28 October 2010	Informing & Involving	Parents of children and young people using the service and local stakeholders	Open Meeting, 6.30pm	Holly Unit, West Park	DK	
November 2010	Informing & Involving	Parents of children and young people using the service and local stakeholders	Collation of comments received during involvement, production & distribution of report	N/A	DK/LR	