

HCC Care Service Proposals

Formal public consultation

4 September 2023 to 12 November 2023

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Introduction

Hampshire County Council intends to revise aspects of the care it provides to older people in order to:

- meet changing demands for care
- focus its own in-house provision within the wider market where it is needed the most and offers the best value
- ensure continuing high standards of care can be delivered in settings which are modern and fit for the future
- increase the number of directly provided care places
- make the best use of public assets and resources

Hampshire County Council is consulting on a number of key changes to existing Older Adults care provision, currently provided by HCC Care (the County Council's in-house service provider):

- the proposed permanent closure of two homes which have been temporarily closed since November 2021 for operational reasons - **Copper Beeches** in Andover and **Cranleigh Paddock** in Lyndhurst
- the proposed closures of **Bishops Waltham House** in Bishops Waltham, **Green Meadows** in Denmead and **Solent Mead** in Lymington
- the proposed closure of **Solent Mead Day Service** (attached to Solent Mead Residential Care Home in Lymington)
- proposed site modernisations and expansions of **Emsworth House** in Emsworth, **Oakridge House** in Basingstoke and **Ticehurst** in Aldershot
- the proposed closure and relocation (to proposed new build sites in close proximity) of **Malmesbury Lawn** in Leigh Park, Havant, and **Westholme** in Winchester

The remaining older people's care homes run by HCC Care (listed below) will continue to operate unaffected:

- Bickerley Green (residential and nursing care) in Ringwood
- Fleming House (residential and nursing care) in Eastleigh
- Forest Court (short-term nursing care) in Calmore
- Hawthorne Court (nursing care) in Sarisbury Green
- Marlfield (residential and nursing care) in Alton
- Willow Court (short-term nursing care) in Andover
- Woodcot Lodge (short-term nursing care) in Gosport

To take full account of the needs of existing service users who may be affected by changes to their existing care provision and of those who may require care in the future, the County Council is undertaking this open public consultation with both service users and wider stakeholders. It is also conducting a number of engagement events where those who may be directly impacted, and their families, can learn more and discuss the proposed changes in more detail with HCC Care staff and other staff as appropriate.

Responding to this consultation

Hampshire County Council's consultation policy

The County Council is committed to five principles of consultation:

- To consult on key issues and proposals
- To consult in good time
- To be inclusive but with clear and appropriate limits
- To consult using clear, simple information
- To ensure that responses are taken into account when decisions are made

Why your views are important

It is important to the County Council that the views of people who may be affected by the proposals are carefully considered; as well as feedback from Hampshire residents and other interested stakeholders, so that the service meets the needs of its users.

Feedback will help to inform any decision by the County Council on the proposed changes to HCC Care services.

Once the consultation has closed and everyone's views have been analysed, a report will be presented to a Committee of the County Council – the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee, who will then consider the findings and other information relating to the proposals. The Committee may then make additional recommendations to the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health who will consider a final decision not before February 2024.

How to have your say

You are invited to give your views on the proposed changes to HCC Care services.

You can provide your feedback using the consultation Response Form, available online via the consultation webpage at www.hants.gov.uk/social-care-2023 .

You can also email your response directly to Hampshire County Council using the email address: AS.consultation@hants.gov.uk or write to **Freepost HAMPSHIRE**. On the back of the envelope please write the following reference:

AH&C Consultation FM06 PMO

The consultation is open from midday on 4 September 2023 and closes at 11.59pm on 12 November 2023. Please note that responses received after this date will not be included in the findings report.

Copies of this Information Pack and the consultation Response Form, along with Easy Read versions of both documents, are available to view, download and print on the consultation webpage.

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You can view the Privacy Notice for this consultation, which explains how we will use your information, how this will be stored, and for how long we will keep it, within the Response Form or on the consultation web page.

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Background and Context

Care for Older People in Hampshire

The County Council aims to protect the independence, resilience, and wellbeing of older people. We believe that in most cases it is best to support and enable people to stay in their own home. When this is not possible and more unplanned care and support is required, Extra Care housing provides an option for people to live independently in a flat within a development which has 24 hour care and support available if needed. The County Council currently commissions care in 20 Extra Care schemes containing over 900 apartments across Hampshire. This will be extended to around 950 apartments when the latest Extra Care development is completed in New Milton in the New Forest this winter.

If an older person's needs require more significant support, then there are a variety of further options available including just over 280 care homes for people who are aged 65 and above across Hampshire which are registered by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This includes 160 residential care homes with approximately 5,000 beds and 120 nursing homes with approximately 6,600 beds (some of which are registered to provide both residential and nursing care). These include the residential and nursing homes currently run by HCC Care, which offer approximately 900 beds.

Overall, every year the County Council's Adults' Health and Care directorate helps to place between 1,600 and 1,700 older people into a range of care homes across Hampshire with the vast majority (80%) accessing independent sector homes. In terms of capacity within the care home market, the overall vacancy rate across the whole market in Summer 2023 was approximately 11%.

The total costs of providing residential and nursing care for Hampshire residents aged 65 and above increased by 35% and 47% respectively between April 2021 and December 2022, costing the County Council an extra £42m.

HCC Care

Most care provision for older people in Hampshire is provided by the independent, voluntary and private sectors, however Hampshire County Council has retained a high level of in-house service provision compared with other local authorities. Its in-house service arm is called HCC Care.

HCC Care currently operates 15 older persons care homes with 900 beds, consisting of long-term and short-term provision. This includes 4 residential homes, 4 nursing homes (3 of which are exclusively or predominantly being used to support the short-term needs of patients being discharged from hospitals) and 7 joint residential and nursing homes for older people. Additionally, two further residential homes (Cranleigh Paddock in Lyndhurst and Copper Beeches in Andover) have been temporarily closed since November 2021.

As well as providing residential and nursing care for older people, HCC Care also provides day services, respite services, including a crisis service, and a small number of residential places for adults under 65 years old with learning disabilities.

Managing current and future demand

Data from the Hampshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/jsna> and the profile of older adults living in HCC Care demonstrate that demand has substantially changed over the last few years. There are more people with complex dementia and physical illness requiring residential and nursing care, and this trend is expected to continue, especially as the number and proportion of people aged 65 and above is also set to increase significantly, year on year.

There is also strong evidence that people with less complex needs who might have previously considered residential care are choosing to remain at home or live in Extra Care housing rather than residential care.

The County Council has undertaken a review of its Care Strategy to establish how its own residential care and nursing homes could be made fit to meet current and future demand whilst ensuring the financial sustainability of the service. The review identified that:

- the quality of care provided is rated as good or better in all but one of the older adults HCC Care homes – however:
 - some of the HCC Care environments which were designed and built many years ago, cannot easily accommodate people who require, for example, specialist wheelchairs, overhead hoists and easily accessible (ensuite) bathrooms
 - the lack of modern environments has limited the appeal of HCC Care residential homes, with low occupancy compared with HCC Care’s more modern nursing environments
- HCC Care is able to provide care, including nursing care, for people with more complex nursing and dementia needs at a lower cost than many providers in the private or independent sector (this is on the basis that new HCC Care homes have an economy of scale of over 80 beds and are designed in a way that optimises staff resource - private and independent sector costs for this cohort have continued to increase at an average rate of almost 10% per annum over the past few years and they are expected to increase further in the near term)
- the County Council is able to commission and purchase care placements for people with lower levels of need in the independent and private sector homes at a lower cost than HCC Care is able to provide
- the service should focus on delivering care for people with more complex nursing and dementia needs whilst moving away from providing more traditional models of residential care which can be more readily bought from independent or private sector providers

- whilst HCC Care homes and particularly its staff, are a valued resource, some home environments are not suitable for people with more complex needs. The size of accommodation needs to be increased to:
 - comply with current standards
 - provide adequate space to meet the needs of service users, visitors and carers
 - provide updated ensuite bathroom facilities in accordance with CQC requirements
 - enable the installation and operation of specialist equipment such as hoists
 - improve access in rooms, corridors and to upper floors

Hampshire County Council faces a challenging long term financial situation due to continued increase in demand and complexity of clients across all age groups, in addition to unprecedented price increases, as outlined in its recent Budget Consultation www.hants.gov.uk/budgetconsultation. The County Council is legally required to achieve a balanced budget, so it is vitally important that HCC Care is financially sustainable in the future.

Proposed service changes arising from the review

In response to the review, the County Council is proposing to make a capital investment of approximately £173m into HCC Care to accommodate the suggested changes and improvements to the existing portfolio. This would enable it to provide care for people with more complex nursing needs and people with complex residential dementia needs. The changes would increase the number of care places (beds) from 900 to approximately 1,000, which would involve:

1. the development of 3 new care homes designed to meet the needs of people with complex dementia and nursing needs, located in:
 - Oak Park in Havant
 - Kingsworthy, near Winchester - on the site of the former Cornerways residential care home
 - New Forest -site yet to be identified
2. a further 3 major developments on sites with existing HCC Care homes. These would see the existing homes being modernised and expanded, again to meet the needs of people with complex dementia and nursing needs. These homes are:
 - Emsworth House in Emsworth
 - Oakridge House in Basingstoke
 - Ticehurst in Aldershot

New and modernised home designs would recognise the environmental needs of people with increasing stages of dementia. Building design and interior design are especially important for people with dementia. Improving the care environment for this group of people has a direct link to improved care standards, service delivery,

improved experiences for care and nursing home residents, better staff experience and retention and enhanced reputation.

Within the proposed new homes, individual rooms would be designed to meet current Building Regulations in terms of size. Bedrooms would have ensuite bathroom facilities. The new homes would be designed to accommodate overhead track hoists in all bedrooms, to assist with moving people who have mobility issues.

In terms of communal facilities, groups of 10 residents would have shared access to lounge and dining facilities. The homes would be designed to feel homely and domestic in nature, whilst at the same time meeting appropriate guidance and regulations for dementia care and nursing care. In addition to the ensuite bathrooms, assisted bathrooms and shower rooms would be provided within the homes on a 1:10 resident ratio.

Proposed Closures

Accomplishing these plans would also involve the closure of 7 existing HCC Care homes (2 of which were temporarily closed in November 2021 and are not currently operational), as well as 1 older person's day service which operates from the same building as one of the homes. The County Council is therefore proposing to close homes which, after careful consideration, have been deemed as not meeting the required modern design specifications for people with complex dementia and nursing needs, in terms of room size and ensuite facilities, and which cannot be refurbished or extended in a cost effective manner, mainly due to site limitations, to meet such needs. These homes are:

- Cranleigh Paddock in Lyndhurst - this was temporarily closed in November 2021 as a result of staffing shortages, low occupancy and wider operational pressures - the proposal is to permanently close Cranleigh Paddock
- Copper Beeches in Andover - this was temporarily closed in November 2021 as a result of staffing shortages, low occupancy and wider operational pressures - the proposal is to permanently close Copper Beeches
- Bishop's Waltham House in Bishop's Waltham
- Green Meadows in Denmead
- Solent Mead in Lymington. It is also proposed to close the older people's day service which is also based in the same building
- Malmesbury Lawn in Havant - this service would transfer to the proposed new development in Oak Park, and Malmesbury Lawn would only close when that service is opened - the proposed closure would not happen until at least the beginning of 2027
- Westholme in Winchester - this service would transfer to the proposed new development in Kingsworthy, and Westholme would only close when that service is opened - the proposed closure would not happen until at least the beginning of 2027

How might the proposals affect people who currently use services provided by HCC Care?

There are currently no residents living in either Copper Beeches or Cranleigh Paddock as the homes have been operational closed since 2021. The residents who were living in those homes at the time were supported to move to alternative accommodation, including a mix of HCC Care provision and moves to the independent sector.

The proposals to close Bishop's Waltham House, Green Meadows and Solent Mead would affect the people living in those homes. Based on current occupancy levels for these 3 homes, it is estimated that the proposals to close them would affect up to 90 people in total. Should the decision be made to close any of these homes, then the timing of their closure would be sympathetic to residents' needs and their choices. Social care workers would work sensitively with the current residents, and their families where appropriate, to find alternative accommodation that meets their care and support needs.

The proposals to extend and modernise Emsworth House, Oakridge House and Ticehurst would in turn affect the people living in those homes, but most particularly those living in the residential care areas of the existing homes, which would be closed. The exact impact of these proposals is not yet known. Should the decision be made to extend and modernise the properties, there would be sufficient time to work with the residential residents and their families to sensitively plan to move to alternative accommodation, where necessary, that meets their care and support needs. This would be done with the support of social care workers. Whilst the exact number of residents at the time of proposed building works cannot be determined, Emsworth House currently has 24 residential beds. Oakridge House has 34 residential beds and Ticehurst has 36 residential beds. The intention would be for the existing Nursing residents to remain in the homes during the modification and expansion period. Currently, just under 90 of the residential beds across these 3 sites are occupied.

The proposals to close Malmesbury Lawn and Westholme would impact on those people living in these 2 homes at the time of closure. Malmesbury Lawn and Westholme would not be closed until the new homes at Oak Park and Cornerways respectively are open (estimated early 2027 at best). This would give ample time to plan to move existing residents into the new care homes if that is what they would like to do. Alternatively, social care workers would work sensitively with them and their families where appropriate, to find and move to alternative accommodation that meets their care and support needs. The exact number of residents at the time of proposed closures cannot be determined, however Malmesbury Lawn currently has 33 residential beds and Westholme currently has 34 residential beds and 40 nursing beds.

In the event that a decision is made to close any of the homes, then having managed a number of home closures over the years, both in-house and when independent sector homes have closed down, Adults' Health and Care has good experience of handling this sensitively. It is also often the case that older people need to move

homes when their care needs increase, meaning that they may need to move from residential to nursing care, so social workers are used to managing this process and providing high quality intensive support to people who need to move.

The proposed developments at Oak Park, Cornerways (Kingsworthy) and in the New Forest, as well as the proposed extensions to Emsworth House, Oakridge House and Ticehurst would provide existing and future residents with new, modern and homely care homes, specifically designed to meet the needs of elderly people with dementia and / or nursing care needs.

Proposals for Copper Beeches in Andover

The proposal is that Copper Beeches is permanently closed.

Reasons for this proposal

This proposed closure is an important integral component of the strategy for HCC Care to refocus the County Council's role in providing care for older people.

Copper Beeches is a 36 bed residential care home for older adults in Andover built in 1975. It was temporarily closed in November 2021 for operational reasons.

The footprint and layout of the building do not lend themselves to being modernised to meet the standards required to support the needs of people requiring nursing care and dementia care as outlined in the strategy for HCC Care.

The typical bedroom size at Copper Beeches does not meet current bed and Buildings Regulation access requirements, although they were in line with standards at the time it was built. Current Building Regulations set out minimum space standards for accommodation used; to comply with this requirement, a minimum room size of 14m² is required. A room of this size also enables the bed to be accommodated with sufficient space for a carer to stand on each side, to assist the resident. The typical room size at Copper Beeches is 10m².

Consideration was given to remodelling and extending Copper Beeches, but this isn't being proposed as the work required to adapt the existing buildings to provide bedrooms that meet current space standards with ensuite bathrooms was financially unviable. The loss of adjacent bedrooms to provide ensuite facilities, would reduce the overall number of residents that could be accommodated in the home to an unviable level.

A desktop review by structural engineers has indicated that such work would reduce the number of bedrooms from 36 to 21.

The site could not meet the requirement to accommodate a minimum of 80 bedrooms aligning with the HCC Care Home viability model and strategy for future investment.

There are currently no residents living in Copper Beeches as it has been temporarily closed since 2021. The residents who were living in there at the time were supported to move to alternative accommodation, mainly other HCC Care homes.

In terms of alternative provision to meet future demand, there are approximately 7 CQC-registered residential care homes and 13 registered nursing homes, within a 10 mile radius of Copper Beeches.

What this would mean for staff

Prior to its temporary closure there were 23 members of staff at Copper Beeches. Should the decision be made to permanently close Copper Beeches, for those staff still employed by Hampshire County Council there would be no compulsory redundancies. Redeployment opportunities for staff would be prioritised, however

there may be opportunities for voluntary redundancy, based on individual circumstances. A staff consultation is being conducted separately.

When and how would this be implemented

The final decision on whether Copper Beeches would be permanently closed would be taken by the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health after consideration of the outcomes of the consultation process. Any decision on this proposal will not be made before February 2024.

Proposals for Cranleigh Paddock in Lyndhurst

The proposal is that Cranleigh Paddock is permanently closed.

Reasons for this proposal

This proposed closure is an important integral component of the strategy for HCC Care to refocus the County Council's role in providing care for older people.

Cranleigh Paddock is a 32 bed residential care home for older adults in Lyndhurst built in 1980. It was temporarily closed in November 2021 for operational reasons.

The footprint and layout of the building do not lend themselves to being modernised to meet the standards required to support the needs of people requiring nursing care and dementia care as outlined in the strategy for HCC Care.

The typical bedroom size at Cranleigh Paddock does not meet current bed and Buildings Regulation access requirements, although they were in line with standards at the time it was built. Current Building Regulations set out minimum space standards for accommodation used; to comply with this requirement, a minimum room size of 14m² is required. A room of this size also enables the bed to be accommodated with sufficient space for a carer to stand on each side, to assist the resident. The typical room size at Cranleigh Paddock is 10m².

Consideration was given to remodelling and extending Cranleigh Paddock, but this isn't being proposed as the work required to adapt the existing buildings to provide bedrooms that meet current space standards with ensuite bathrooms was financially unviable. The loss of adjacent bedrooms to provide ensuite facilities, would reduce the overall number of residents that could be accommodated in the home to an unviable level.

A desktop review by structural engineers has indicated that such work would reduce the number of bedrooms from 32 to 18.

The site could not meet the requirement to accommodate a minimum of 80 bedrooms aligning with the HCC Care Home viability model and strategy for future investment.

There are currently no residents living in Cranleigh Paddock as it has been temporarily closed since 2021. The residents who were living in there at the time were supported to move to alternative accommodation, largely other HCC Care homes.

In terms of alternative provision to meet future demand, there are approximately 65 CQC-registered residential care homes and 45 registered nursing homes, within a 10 mile radius of Cranleigh Paddock. Additionally, as part of its strategy for HCC Care, Hampshire County Council is proposing to build a new nursing home in the New Forest with between 80 – 100 beds; however a site for this development has yet to be identified.

What this would mean for staff

Prior to its temporary closure there were 45 members of staff at Cranleigh Paddock. Should the decision be made to permanently close Cranleigh Paddock, for those staff still employed by Hampshire County Council there would be no compulsory redundancies. Redeployment opportunities for staff would be prioritised, however there may be opportunities for voluntary redundancy, based on individual circumstances.

When and how would this be implemented

The final decision on whether Cranleigh Paddock would be permanently closed would be taken by the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health after consideration of the outcomes of the consultation process. Any decision on this proposal will not be made before February 2024.

Proposals for Bishop's Waltham House in Bishop's Waltham

The proposal is that Bishop's Waltham House is closed.

Reasons for this proposal

This proposed closure is an important integral component of the strategy for HCC Care to refocus the County Council's role in providing care for older people.

Bishop's Waltham House is a 32 bed residential care home for older adults in Bishop's Waltham. It was built in 1980. The footprint and layout of the building do not lend themselves to being modernised to meet the environmental standards required to support the needs of people requiring nursing care and dementia care.

The typical bedroom size at Bishop's Waltham House does not meet current bed and Buildings Regulation access requirements, although they were in line with standards at the time it was built. Current Building Regulations set out minimum space standards for accommodation used; to comply with this requirement, a minimum room size of 14m² is required. A room of this size also enables the bed to be accommodated with sufficient space for a carer to stand on each side, to assist the resident. The typical room size at Bishop's Waltham House is 9m².

Consideration was given to remodelling and extending Bishop's Waltham House, but this isn't being proposed as the work required to adapt the existing buildings to provide bedrooms that meet current space standards with ensuite bathrooms was financially unviable. The loss of adjacent bedrooms to provide ensuite facilities, would reduce the overall number of residents that could be accommodated in the home to an unviable level.

A desktop review by structural engineers has indicated that such work would reduce the number of bedrooms from 32 to 24.

The site could not meet the requirement to accommodate a minimum of 80 bedrooms aligning with the HCC Care Home viability model and strategy for future investment.

What this would mean for residents and their families

Following the consultation, should the decision be made to close Bishop's Waltham House, then the timing of its closure would be sympathetic to residents needs and their choices. Social care workers would work sensitively with the current residents, and their families where appropriate, to find and move to alternative accommodation that meets their care and support needs.

In terms of alternative provision for current residents and also to meet future demand, there are approximately 75 CQC-registered residential care homes and over 15 registered nursing homes, within a 10 mile radius of Bishop's Waltham House.

What this would mean for staff

Currently there are 44 members of staff at Bishop's Waltham House. Should the decision be made to close Bishop's Waltham House, there would be no compulsory redundancies. Redeployment opportunities for staff would be prioritised, however there may be opportunities for voluntary redundancy, based on individual circumstances.

When and how this would be implemented

The decision on the future of Bishop's Waltham House would be taken by the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health after consideration of the outcomes of the consultation process. Any decision on this proposal will not be made before February 2024.

Proposals for Green Meadows in Denmead

The proposal is that Green Meadows is closed.

Reasons for this proposal

This proposed closure is an important integral component of the strategy for HCC Care to refocus the County Council's role in providing care for older people.

Green Meadows is a 42 bed residential care home for older adults in Denmead. It was built in 1969. The footprint and layout of the building do not lend itself to being modernised to meet the standards required to support the needs of people requiring nursing care and dementia care.

The typical bedroom size at Green Meadows does not meet current bed and Buildings Regulation access requirements, although they were in line with standards at the time it was built. Current Building Regulations set out minimum space standards for accommodation used; to comply with this requirement, a minimum room size of 14m² is required. A room of this size also enables the bed to be accommodated with sufficient space for a carer to stand on each side, to assist the resident. The typical room size at Green Meadows is 10m².

Consideration was given to remodelling and extending Green Meadows but this isn't being proposed as the work required to adapt the existing buildings to provide bedrooms that meet current space standards with ensuite bathrooms was financially unviable. The loss of adjacent bedrooms to provide ensuite facilities, would reduce the overall number of residents that could be accommodated in the home to an unviable level.

A desktop review by structural engineers has indicated that such work would reduce the number of bedrooms from 42 to 20.

The site could not meet the requirement to accommodate a minimum of 80 bedrooms aligning with the HCC Care Home viability model and strategy for future investment.

What this would mean for residents and their families

Following the consultation, should the decision be made to close Green Meadows, then the timing of its closure would be sympathetic to residents needs and their choices. Social care workers would work sensitively with the current residents, and their families where appropriate, to find and move to alternative accommodation that meets their care and support needs.

In terms of alternative provision for current residents and also to meet future demand, there are approximately 80 CQC-registered residential care homes and 10 registered nursing homes, within a 10 mile radius of Green Meadows.

What this would mean for staff

Currently there are 47 members of staff at Green Meadows. Should the decision be made to close Green Meadows, there would be no compulsory redundancies.

Redeployment opportunities for staff would be prioritised, however there may be opportunities for voluntary redundancy, based on individual circumstances.

When and how this would be implemented

The decision on the future of Green Meadows would be taken by the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health after consideration of the outcomes of the consultation process. Any decision on this proposal will not be made before February 2024.

Proposals for Solent Mead in Lymington

The proposal is that Solent Mead is closed.

Reasons for the proposal

This proposed closure is an important integral component of the strategy for HCC Care to refocus the County Council's role in providing care for older people.

Solent Mead is a 35 bed residential care home for older adults in Lymington. It was built in 1968. The footprint and layout of the building do not lend themselves to being modernised to meet the standards required to support the needs of people requiring nursing care and dementia care as outlined in the strategy for HCC Care.

The typical bedroom size at Solent Mead does not meet current bed and Buildings Regulation access requirements, although they were in line with standards at the time it was built. Current Building Regulations set out minimum space standards for accommodation used; to comply with this requirement, a minimum room size of 14m² is required. A room of this size also enables the bed to be accommodated with sufficient space for a carer to stand on each side, to assist the resident. The typical room size at Solent Mead is 10m².

Consideration was given to remodelling and extending Solent Mead but this isn't being proposed as the work required to adapt the existing buildings to provide bedrooms that meet current space standards with ensuite bathrooms was financially unviable. The loss of adjacent bedrooms to provide ensuite facilities, would reduce the overall number of residents that could be accommodated in the home to an unviable level.

A desktop review by structural engineers has indicated that such work would reduce the number of bedrooms from 35 to 19.

The site could not meet the requirement to accommodate a minimum of 80 bedrooms aligning with the HCC Care Home viability model and strategy for future investment.

What this would mean for residents and their families

Following the consultation, should the decision be made to close Solent Mead, then the timing of its closure would be sympathetic to residents needs and their choices. Social care workers would work sensitively with the current residents, and their families where appropriate, to find and move to alternative accommodation that meets their care and support needs.

In terms of alternative provision for current residents and also to meet future demand, there are over 35 CQC-registered residential care homes and over 20 registered nursing homes, within a 10 mile radius of Solent Mead. Additionally, as part of its strategy for HCC Care, Hampshire County Council is proposing to build a new nursing home in the New Forest with between 80 – 100 beds; however a site for this development has yet to be identified.

What this would mean for staff

Currently there are 48 members of staff at Solent Mead. Should the decision be made to close Solent Mead, there would be no compulsory redundancies. Redeployment opportunities for staff would be prioritised, however there may be opportunities for voluntary redundancy, based on individual circumstances.

When and how would this be implemented

The decision on the future of Solent Mead would be taken by the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health after consideration of the outcomes of the consultation process. Any decision on this proposal will not be made before February 2024.

Proposals for Solent Mead Day Service

The proposal is that Solent Mead Day Service is closed.

Reasons for the proposal

Solent Mead Day Service offers day services to people aged 65 and over. The Day Service is located in the same building as Solent Mead residential care home.

Were the decision be made to close the residential care home at Solent Mead, then it would not be viable to maintain the day service in its current location.

Post-covid, there have been changes in requirements for, and expectations of, older persons' day services. Current usage of such services is significantly lower than prior to the pandemic.

What this would mean for people who use the day service

Due to low levels of demand for the service, it is currently open 3 days per week. It can offer up to 30 places each day, but currently supports 13 people. Following the consultation, should the decision be made to close Solent Mead Day Service, then the timing of its closure would be sympathetic to needs of the people who currently attend the service. Social care workers would work sensitively with the users of the service, and their families where appropriate, to find alternative day services or other day-time activities that meet their care and support needs. This would take into account their individual circumstances and needs, the needs of their carers, the need to maintain friendship groups as well as where they live and what is available locally to them.

People would also be offered direct payments to enable them to arrange alternative day services and other activities for themselves. This would enable them to take advantage of options such as carer replacement services, social activities and groups as alternatives to traditional day services.

What this would mean for the staff

There are currently 5 members of staff working at Solent Mead Day Service. Should the decision be made to close the day service, there would be no compulsory redundancies. Redeployment opportunities for staff would be prioritised, however there may be opportunities for voluntary redundancy, based on individual circumstances.

When and how would this be implemented

The decision on the future of Solent Mead Day Service would be taken by the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health after consideration of the outcomes of the consultation process.

Proposals for Emsworth House in Emsworth

The proposal for Emsworth House would be to replace and extend the older more traditional residential care setting with modern capacity to meet the needs of people requiring dementia care and nursing care, whilst at the same time modernising the existing nursing capacity.

Reasons for the proposal

This proposal is an important integral component of the strategy for HCC Care to refocus the County Council's role in providing care for older people. Emsworth House, in Emsworth, is a care home for older adults, offering 24 residential beds and 48 nursing beds. It was originally built in 1963 but modernised and extended in 2005 to allow it to provide nursing care.

Recent work, including site visits, has concluded that the proposals could result in Emsworth House offering 100 beds for dementia and/or nursing care.

This work would require careful planning to ensure that this is carried out safely and with minimal disruption to the existing nursing residents. The new blocks would be planned to be constructed as detached buildings with covered or enclosed links to connect them to the retained accommodation to make their construction as easy as possible. Offsite manufacturing would also be considered to seek to minimise the time required on site. The Contractors for the works would be selected from the Southern Construction Framework who have significant experience of managing construction activities on live school sites, with the HCC Property Services team.

What this would mean for residents and their families

The proposed modernisation and extension is predicated on being able to continue to provide nursing services through the construction period. It is also the case that existing residential clients would likely be required to move to alternative residential settings. Should this be the case, social care workers would work sensitively with the residents, and their families where appropriate, to find and move to alternative accommodation that meets their care and support needs.

In terms of alternative provision for current residents, should any be required to move, and also to meet future demand, there are over 70 CQC-registered residential care homes and over 35 registered nursing homes, within a 10 mile radius of Emsworth House.

What this would mean for staff

With regards to the staff who work at Emsworth House, we would hope that through careful strategic workforce planning as well as training and development we would have the workforce we need for the new units and/or the extended modernised units. However, it's possible that not all the staff would be able to make the transition in which case we would prioritise redeployment.

When and how this would be implemented

The decision on the future of Emsworth House would be taken by the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health after consideration of the outcomes of the consultation process. Any decision on this proposal will not be made before February 2024.

Proposals for Oakridge House in Basingstoke

The proposal for Oakridge House would be to replace and extend the older more traditional residential care setting with modern capacity to meet the needs of people requiring dementia care and nursing care, whilst at the same time modernising the existing nursing capacity.

Reasons for the proposal

This proposal is an important integral component of the strategy for HCC Care to refocus the County Council's role in providing care for older people. Oakridge House, in Basingstoke, is a care home for older adults, offering 34 residential beds and 57 nursing beds. It was originally built in 1969 but modernised and extended to allow it to provide nursing care in 2010 and then again in 2014.

Recent work, including site visits, has concluded that the proposals could result in Oakridge House offering 88 beds for dementia and/or nursing care.

This work would require careful planning to ensure that this is carried out safely and with minimal disruption to the existing nursing residents. The new blocks would be planned to be constructed as detached buildings with covered or enclosed links to connect them to the retained accommodation to make their construction as easy as possible. Offsite manufacturing would also be considered to seek to minimise the time required on site. The Contractors for the works would be selected from the Southern Construction Framework who have significant experience of managing construction activities on live school sites, with the HCC Property Services team.

What this would mean for residents and their families

The proposed modernisation and extension is predicated on being able to continue to provide nursing services through the construction period. It is also the case that existing residential clients would likely be required to move to alternative residential settings. Should this be the case, social care workers would work sensitively with the residents, and their families where appropriate, to find and move to alternative accommodation that meets their care and support needs.

In terms of alternative provision for current residents, should any be required to move, and also to meet future demand, there are approximately 20 CQC-registered residential care homes and approximately 20 registered nursing homes, within a 10 mile radius of Oakridge House.

What this would mean for staff

With regards to the staff who work at Oakridge House, we would hope that through careful strategic workforce planning as well as training and development we would have the workforce we need for the new units and/or the extended modernised units. However, it's possible that not all the staff would be able to make the transition in which case we would prioritise redeployment.

When and how this would be implemented

The decision on the future of Oakridge House would be taken by the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health after consideration of the outcomes of the consultation process. Any decision on this proposal will not be made before February 2024.

Proposals for Ticehurst in Aldershot

The proposal for Ticehurst would be to replace and expand the older more traditional residential care setting with modern capacity to meet the needs of people requiring dementia care and nursing care, whilst at the same time modernising the existing nursing capacity.

Reasons for the proposal

This proposal is an important integral component of the strategy for HCC Care to refocus the County Council's role in providing care for older people. Ticehurst, in Aldershot, is a care home for older adults, offering 36 residential beds and 48 nursing beds. It was originally built in 1973 but modernised and extended to allow it to provide nursing care in 2005.

Recent work, including site visits, has concluded that the proposals could result in Ticehurst offering 100 beds for dementia and/or nursing care.

This work would require careful planning to ensure that this is carried out safely and with minimal disruption to the existing nursing residents, albeit this will be made easier by developing spare land adjacent to the existing site first. The new blocks would be planned to be constructed as detached buildings with covered or enclosed links to connect them to the retained accommodation to make their construction as easy as possible. Offsite manufacturing would also be considered to seek to minimise the time required on site. The Contractors for the works would be selected from the Southern Construction Framework who have significant experience of managing construction activities on live school sites, with the HCC Property Services team.

What this would mean for residents and their families

The proposed modernisation and extension is currently predicated on being able to continue to provide nursing services through the construction period. It is also the case that existing residential clients would likely be required to move to alternative residential settings. Should this be the case, social care workers would work sensitively with the residents, and their families where appropriate, to find and move to alternative accommodation that meets their care and support needs.

In terms of alternative provision for current residents, should any be required to move, and also to meet future demand, there are approximately 60 CQC-registered residential care homes and approximately 65 registered nursing homes, within a 10 mile radius of Ticehurst.

What this would mean for staff

With regards to the staff who work at Ticehurst, we would hope that through careful strategic workforce planning as well as training and development we would have the workforce we need for the new units and/or the extended modernised units.

However, it's possible that not all the staff would be able to make the transition in which case we would prioritise redeployment.

When and how this would be implemented

The decision on the future of Ticehurst would be taken by the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health after consideration of the outcomes of the consultation process. Any decision on this proposal will not be made before February 2024.

Proposals for Malmesbury Lawn in Leigh Park (Havant)

The proposal is that Malmesbury Lawn is closed once a proposed new care home at Oak Park opens, allowing residents to move into the new care home.

Reasons for the proposal

The County Council is proposing to develop a new 100 bed care home at Oak Park near Havant. This would provide a flexible mix of nursing and complex residential dementia care. This proposed development is located approximately 2 miles from Malmesbury Lawn, a residential care home run Hampshire County Council in Leigh Park Havant. It is estimated that the new development at Oak Park would be completed no earlier than the beginning of 2027.

These proposals are an important integral component of the strategy for HCC Care to refocus the County Council's role in providing care for older people. Malmesbury Lawn is a 33 bed residential care home for older adults. It was built in 1973.

The footprint and layout of the building do not lend itself to being modernised to meet the standards required to support the needs of people requiring nursing care and dementia care as outlined in the strategy for HCC Care.

The typical bedroom size at Malmesbury Lawn is 16m² which meets current Building Regulations, as a result of some bedrooms that have been knocked through to form 1 bedroom out of 2 rooms. Whilst this has resulted in overall larger floor area, the existing bedroom widths remain restricted.

Consideration was given to remodelling and extending Malmesbury Lawn but this isn't being proposed as the work required to adapt the existing buildings to provide bedrooms that meet current space standards with ensuite bathrooms was financially unviable. The loss of adjacent bedrooms to provide ensuite facilities, would reduce the overall number of residents that could be accommodated in the home to an unviable level.

A desktop review by structural engineers has indicated that such work would reduce the number of bedrooms from 33 to 24.

The site could not meet the requirement to accommodate a minimum of 80 bedrooms aligning with the HCC Care Home viability model and strategy for future investment.

What this would mean for residents and their families

Following the consultation, should the decision be made to close Malmesbury Lawn on the completion of the new care home at Oak Park (planned for early 2027), then the residents of Malmesbury Lawn would be supported to move to the new scheme, if that is what they would like to do. Alternatively, Social care workers would work sensitively with them and their families where appropriate, to find and move to alternative accommodation that meets their care and support needs.

In addition to the new Oak Park scheme, there are currently approximately 80 CQC-registered residential care homes and 40 registered nursing homes, within a 10 mile radius of Malmesbury Lawn.

What this would mean for staff

With regards to the staff who work at Malmesbury Lawn, we would hope that through careful strategic workforce planning as well as training and development we would have the workforce we need for the new homes and/or the extended modernised homes. However, it's possible that not all the staff would be able to make the transition in which case we would prioritise redeployment.

When and how would this be implemented

The decision on the future of Malmesbury Lawn would be taken by the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health after consideration of the outcomes of the consultation process. Any decision on this proposal will not be made before February 2024.

Proposals for Westholme in Winchester

The proposal is that Westholme is closed once a proposed new care home at Kingsworthy opens, allowing residents to move into the new care home.

Reasons for the proposal

The County Council is proposing to develop a new, minimum 80 bed care home at Cornerways (Kingsworthy) near Winchester. This would provide a flexible mix of nursing and complex residential dementia care. This proposed development is located approximately 2.5 miles from Westholme, a residential and nursing care home run Hampshire County Council in Winchester. It is estimated that the new development at Cornerways would be completed no earlier than the beginning of 2027.

Westholme is a care home for older adults, offering 34 residential beds and 40 nursing beds. It was originally built in 1965 but extended in 2005 to allow it to provide nursing care. The footprint and layout of the building do not lend itself to being modernised and expanded in the same way that is proposed on the sites at Emsworth House, Oakridge House and Ticehurst.

The typical bedroom size within the residential care building at Westholme, which was built in the 1960s does not meet current bed and Buildings Regulation access requirements, although they were in line with standards at the time it was built. Current Building Regulations set out minimum space standards for accommodation used; to comply with this requirement, a minimum room size of 14m² is required. A room of this size also enables the bed to be accommodated with sufficient space for a carer to stand on each side, to assist the resident. The typical room size within this part of the home is 10m².

Consideration was given to remodelling and extending the original residential care wing of the building, but this isn't being proposed as the work required to adapt the existing buildings to provide bedrooms that meet current space standards with ensuite bathrooms was financially unviable. The loss of adjacent bedrooms to provide ensuite facilities, would reduce the overall number of residents that could be accommodated in the home to an unviable level.

A desktop review by structural engineers has indicated that such work would reduce the number of residential care bedrooms from 34 to 16, resulting in the overall number of bedrooms at Westholme being reduced to 56.

What this would mean for residents and their families

Following the consultation, should the decision be made to close Westholme on the completion of the new care home at Cornerways (planned for early 2027), then the residents of Westholme would be supported to move to the new scheme, if that is what they would like to do. Alternatively, Social care workers would work sensitively with them and their families where appropriate, to find and move to alternative accommodation that meets their care and support needs.

In addition to the new Cornerways scheme, there are currently approximately 15 CQC-registered residential care homes and 19 registered nursing homes, within a 10 mile radius of Westholme.

What this would mean for staff

With regards to the staff who work at Westholme, we would hope that through careful strategic workforce planning as well as training and development we would have the workforce we need for the new homes and/or the extended modernised homes. However, it's possible that not all the staff would be able to make the transition in which case we would prioritise redeployment.

When and how this would this be implemented

The decision on the future of Westholme would be taken by the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health after consideration of the outcomes of the consultation process. Any decision on this proposal will not be made before February 2024.