

Equality Impact Assessment



Hampshire
County Council

Orchard Close – Service Users and Carers

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Department: Adults' Health and Care

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Description of Service / Policy

Orchard Close respite service is a residential respite service on Hayling Island, for adults with learning disabilities. The service is run by Hampshire County Council. It is registered with Care Quality Commission to provide respite for up to 13 service users at any one time. At Orchard Close, in 2018/19 134 people with learning disabilities received a range of respite nights a year according to assessment of eligible need for them and their carers.

Jacobs Lodge, Hindson House and Newcroft House are also run by Hampshire County Council and each are registered with Care Quality Commission to provide respite for up to 8 service users at any one time. Between these three services, in 2018/19 they provided respite for 184 service users with learning disabilities each of whom received a range of respite nights a year according to assessment of eligible need for them and their carers. The County Council's respite services are for people living at home with family carers and no one lives at Orchard Close respite service permanently.

Geographical impact* All Hampshire

Description of proposed change

To open a public consultation on proposals to reduce the number of respite beds at Orchard Close respite service from 13 to 10 and sell to other authorities a total of 466 bed spaces per year across Jacobs Lodge, Hindson House and Newcroft House. Under these proposals, all respite services could still meet current levels of respite received by those people currently using them. A reduction in bed numbers at Orchard Close from 13 to 10 would mean that the distribution of respite for individuals may need to change for some people to ensure everyone could have some access to the service during the more popular summer period. The selling of beds at the other respite units will not have a significant impact in terms of how respite is distributed. The proposals to reduce beds at Orchard Close and the selling of beds to other authorities will not affect the overall amount of respite received by any individual.

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Engagement and consultation

It is proposed to carry out an 8-week consultation for service users, family members and other stakeholders concluding in February 2020. This has been judged to be a realistic and proportionate timeframe to allow for consideration of, and response to, the proposals. This follows a previous consultation on proposals to close Orchard Close, which were not taken forward, and subsequent intensive engagement with service users and other stakeholders. Advocacy services would be made available to support service users to participate in the consultation if required.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers service users and their parent carers.

Statutory considerations

Age – Medium

Impact Age - Although all these services are open to adults of all ages, approximately 40% of the people who use Orchard Close are under 30 and at Jacobs Lodge, Hindson House and Newcroft House approximately 45% of the people who used them are under 30.

From looking at the age profile of the people that use Orchard Close, Jacobs Lodge, Hindson House and Newcroft House we know that a significant number of their parent carers are older and therefore are likely to be impacted by any changes to the respite that their cared-for person receives.

Mitigation Age - Everyone who currently accesses Orchard Close, Jacobs Lodge, Hindson House and Newcroft House would still be able to do so. During the consultation we would seek views as to the sort of additional activities that people would like to see offered at Orchard Close, including some that may be more age-appropriate. We are also seeking views on the proposal to sell 466 bed nights to other authorities.

Disability – High

Impact Disability- HCC respite provision at Orchard Close, Jacobs Lodge, Hindson House and Newcroft House are primarily for people with a learning disability, although some may also have other disabilities such as autism or a physical disability. These proposals could mean that the distribution of respite for individuals may need to change (with the highest impact at Orchard Close) to ensure that everyone could access their service during the more popular summer period. It is also likely that the booking of weekends in isolation will be reduced (with the highest impact at Orchard Close). Regarding the selling of beds at Jacobs Lodge, Hindson House and Newcroft House as this is only 6.3% of available capacity (if these services were run at 85% occupancy) revisions to booking distribution may need to be considered but impact is deemed as minimal.

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Mitigation Disability - During the consultation period, it is proposed that the County Council explores options as to how to ensure equitable access to the respite service at Orchard Close during peak times.

It should also be noted that the proposal to sell 466 bed nights out of the current spare capacity (equivalent to approximately 1.5 beds per annum at 85% capacity) is intentionally cautious to have minimal impact on Hampshire County Council respite users. Ongoing, and in future years, Hampshire County Council will be able to monitor and adjust the use of beds by other local authorities dependent upon demand to further reduce potential impact.

Sexual Orientation - Neutral

Race - Neutral

Religion and Belief - Neutral

Gender Reassignment - Neutral

Gender - Neutral

Marriage and civil partnership – Neutral

Pregnancy and Maternity – Neutral

Other policy considerations

Poverty – Neutral

Rurality - Neutral

Additional Information

A decision on these proposals will be taken in March 2020 by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health. If the decision is taken to reduce the number of beds at Orchard Close and agreement to sell 466 bed nights then it is proposed this would not happen until after September 2020 (although some limited trial of other authorities using respite beds at Jacobs Lodge, Hindson House and Newcroft House may take place before March 2020 to test viability and the market).