



**ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**8 MARCH 2021**

**PROVISION OF SHORT BREAKS AND SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES**

**Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the view of the Committee on the future use of the Trees Residential Care Home in Hinckley, and the proposed development of the site at Cropston Drive in Coalville, in advance of consultation and engagement with those who access services on these sites.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. In June 2018, the Cabinet agreed recommendations for long-stay residential services at The Trees in Hinckley continue to be provided subject to reconfiguration and refurbishment of the existing buildings:
  - a) long-stay residential services at Hamilton Court in Coalville be closed and the residents be supported to find appropriate alternative accommodation;
  - b) a new short breaks service be developed on the Hamilton Court/Smith Crescent site to replace the existing short breaks building; funded from discretionary capital funds;
  - c) that the use of the Hamilton Court/Smith Crescent site for supported living continue to be explored.
3. On 8 February 2019, the Cabinet approved funding for the 2019/20 to 2022/23 capital programme including £3.7m for the redevelopment of the North West Leicestershire site (Smith Crescent/Cropston Drive). Plans for the site were subsequently approved by Cabinet on 25 June 2019 to include the redevelopment of short breaks services, supported living accommodation and Community Life Choices (formerly known as day services) facilities at the Hamilton Court/Smith Crescent site.

**Background**

**The Trees, Hinckley**

4. Following the outcome of consultation on proposals regarding in-house Short Breaks Services in Hinckley and Coalville in 2018, the refurbishment of The Trees was completed in December 2020 at a cost of £1.1m. The refurbished aspect of the building provides accommodation for up to eight individuals with associated communal space and staff accommodation.

5. The remainder of the building offers accommodation for up to four individuals previously utilised for the provision of a Short Breaks Service, associated communal space, staff accommodation and a Community Life Choices [CLC] service.
6. The refurbishment of The Trees had been completed on the basis that the former permanent residents had expressed a wish to return to The Trees following its redevelopment. The Department remained actively involved with residents and their families during their temporary alternative placements, however following reviews of their current arrangements, all have now decided to remain in their alternative setting as opposed to returning to The Trees.
7. Given that the Trees would not be required by former residents, a review of the options available was undertaken which included provision of standard residential care for people with a learning disability (the purpose of the refurbishment), consolidation of short breaks services on a single site, use as a step through service for young people transitioning into adult services, an assessment and crisis facility for people with complex needs as an alternative to hospital admission.
8. The outcome of the review recommended that extending the Short Breaks Service at The Trees to accommodate 12 service users was the preferred option as the development at The Trees meets the needs of people that access short breaks, it would provide operational efficiencies, and this model of care follows successful models adopted elsewhere in the County (Melton, Oadby and Wigston).
9. There are currently 28 service users who would ordinarily access the Short Breaks Service at The Trees. Existing facilities dedicated to this - four beds - are sufficient to meet existing demand, although allows little room for any growth or development of the Service.
10. The Service at The Trees is currently suspended in response to the current Covid-19 pandemic. Existing staffing resources have been temporarily redeployed to support other areas of critical work, including the timely discharge of people from hospital who need care and support in their own home pending longer term arrangements being available.

#### Cropston Drive, Coalville

11. The Hamilton Court long-stay residential care service closed in August 2019 following the transfer of the last three residents to alternative accommodation. The current Smith Crescent Short Breaks Service (based at Cropston Drive, Coalville) has remained largely suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic, with urgent short breaks services being provided at alternative in-house services at Carlton Drive (Wigston) and Melton.
12. A planning application was approved on 6 January 2020 for the future use of the site, to comprise of the following buildings/services:
  - a) Up to 16 self-contained supported living properties including wheelchair accessible and bariatric facilities (the actual number to be determined). Support will be provided via the County Council's lead contracted provider;
  - b) Six bed short breaks building with all rooms en-suite and accessible, with support provided by the County Council;

- c) Suitable space and facilities to provide CLC (which is currently provided at Coalville Community Resource Centre) with support provided by the County Council.
13. The Cropston Drive site development has a capital allocation of £3.764m for the demolition and development of the services noted above. To date, £513k has been spent on Phase One of the Cropston Drive programme – demolition, design and enablement works.
  14. Two tender exercises have been undertaken for Phase Two works. The first was abandoned due to substantive changes to the environmental requirements. The second failed to achieve a bid in line with the current capital allocation, leaving the development paused pending further consideration.
  15. The original plans for Cropston Drive provided for an intensive development of the site. Should additional short breaks services be provided on the Trees site, there would be an opportunity to have a less concentrated development, focused on supported living and either a Transforming Care step through facility for people with complex needs or a young person's step through facility both of which have been highlighted as a requirement within the County.
  16. In-house CLC services have significantly reduced during the pandemic due to their initial suspension and subsequent phased re-opening. It is currently unclear whether attendance will recover to previous levels, a review of these services may therefore be beneficial to determine the level of demand and the most appropriate model of support post the pandemic.

### **Proposals/Options**

17. If short breaks provision is extended at The Trees, there would be no requirement for services to be provided at Cropston Drive. There are currently 17 service users who would usually access services at Coalville, who could be offered an alternative at The Trees, Melton or Wigston, dependent on the most appropriate location.
18. The proposal is that all 12 beds at The Trees be utilised as specialist Short Breaks and CLC provision. This would enable the Council to consolidate its Short Breaks services to three sites, Hinckley, Melton, and Wigston. The emphasis being to ensure services are financially viable, maximising productivity, and focusing on providing tailored support for eligible people with complex and multiple needs.
19. Although formal engagement with people and families who use Smith Crescent short breaks has not yet begun, a desk top review has been undertaken indicating that the demand for a local service has reduced since the last formal consultation in 2018. Of those who would usually access the service, only 53% are local to the Coalville area, with the rest living closer, or as close to, alternative services. The previous formal consultation resulted in six responses of mixed view, with a proportion open to the proposal of closing Smith Crescent and using other short breaks services. The main theme being that availability of service was the important factor in supporting families to continue in their caring role.
20. The total capacity available on the basis of these proposals would equate to 24 beds (12 at The Trees, seven at Wigston and five at Melton). When considering average allocations per individual, a total of 858 bed weeks are required, versus a total

proposed capacity of 1,248 weeks. Based on this, reallocating the refurbished beds at The Trees ensures both sufficiency of provision to meet current demand, as well as additional capacity to meet any growth in need for these services. It would also enable these services to continue providing urgent and crisis support as has been the case through the pandemic.

### **Consultation**

21. It is proposed to enter consultation with those who currently use Smith Crescent on the basis of no longer developing a replacement local service, whilst ensuring continuity of access to an appropriate in-house Short Breaks Service in the County.
22. The remodelled facilities at The Trees provides specialist accommodation for those who currently access the Council's Short Breaks Service and offers an opportunity to fully utilise existing accommodation that is already available, as opposed to developing additional provision.
23. There are currently 17 people who would usually access the service, therefore we would be able to enter into individual discussions to ensure that we meaningfully gain their views and fully understand the impact on this change. Advocacy support would be accessed to ensure that any barriers to engagement are managed.
24. Although this would be a further consultation with this group on similar proposals to those discussed with them in 2018, it is important to articulate an updated rationale for the proposals and ensure certainty around the Council's future provision post Covid-19 pandemic.
25. Consultation will also be undertaken with the staff group currently employed at Smith Crescent, who are currently temporarily redeployed to other critical roles within the Department.
26. A consultation period would also allow additional time to develop further proposals for the future use of the whole of the Cropston Drive site and provide recommendations on the most appropriate utilisation, for consideration by this Committee and the Council's Cabinet.

### **Resource Implications**

27. On the 8 February 2019, the Cabinet approved funding for the 2019/20 to 2022/23 capital programme including £3.7m for the redevelopment of the North West Leicestershire site (Hamilton Court/ Smith Crescent – Cropston Drive).
28. Staffing vacancies at Smith Crescent remain on hold whilst the service remains suspended. Existing staff remain temporarily redeployed in response to the pandemic and there is confidence that there are sufficient alternative options for them within the Department, should the service not reopen.
29. The increase in Short Breaks beds at The Trees will be managed within existing resources, as the proposal is to change the current use of the newly refurbished eight beds from long-stay to short-stay. Existing staffing and operational running costs will be unaffected.

30. The Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Law and Governance have been consulted on the contents of this report.

### **Timetable for Decisions**

31. A report regarding the proposed consultation with service users and their families on the revised plans for the development of the Cropston Drive site, and the increase in the number of available beds for short breaks beds at The Trees, will be considered by the Cabinet on 23 March 2021.

### **Conclusions**

32. The resultant impact of decisions taken by the former long-stay residents at The Trees and their families means the Council has purpose built facilities in Hinckley for Short Breaks for up to 12 people. Alongside other existing provision, there is sufficient accommodation to meet the current needs and demand for these services.
33. Before embarking further on developing a new facility in the Coalville area, the views of people who use these services need to be considered and whether alternative proposals would achieve the same outcome.
34. The development of the Cropston Drive site remains paused whilst further work is undertaken to consider the future use of the whole site, taking into account the views of the Committee and those currently accessing the Smith Crescent service.

### **Background papers**

- Report to Cabinet: 12 June 2018 – Reconfiguration of In-House Learning Disability Residential Accommodation  
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=5181&Ver=4>
- Report to Cabinet: 8 February 2019 – Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/2020 to 2022/23  
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=5600&Ver=4>
- Report to Cabinet: 25 June 2019 – Re-development of Disability Services in North West Leicestershire  
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=5604&Ver=4>

### **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

35. A copy of this report has been circulated to the following members representing the electoral divisions in North West Leicestershire and Hinckley areas:

Mr John Coxon CC  
 Dr Terri Eynon CC  
 Mr Tony Gillard CC  
 Mr Dan Harrison CC  
 Mr Trevor Pendleton CC  
 Mr Nicholas Rushton CC  
 Mr Sean Sheahan CC  
 Mr Michael Wyatt CC  
 Mr Peter Bedford CC  
 Mr David Bill MBE CC

Mr Stuart Bray CC  
Mr Bill Crooks CC  
Mr Michael Mullaney CC  
Mr Ozzy O'Shea CC  
Mr Ivan Ould OBE CC  
Mrs Janice Richards CC  
Mrs Amanda Wright CC

### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

36. An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) was completed in relation to the recommendations to develop the site and was submitted, along with the recommendations, to Cabinet in June 2018. The EHRIA identified a disproportional impact on people with learning disabilities, but that this does not amount to unlawful discrimination against anyone with a protected characteristic. It concluded that the recommendations should have a positive or neutral impact on the services.
37. A further EHRIA will be produced as part of the consultation process.

### **Officers to Contact**

Jon Wilson  
Director of Adults and Communities  
Telephone: 0116 305 7454  
Email: [jon.wilson@leics.gov.uk](mailto:jon.wilson@leics.gov.uk)

Heather Pick  
Assistant Director of Adults and Communities  
Telephone: 0116 305 7454  
Email: [heather.pick@leics.gov.uk](mailto:heather.pick@leics.gov.uk)

Claire Jones  
Head of Service  
Telephone: 0116 305 7553  
Email: [claire.jones@leics.gov.uk](mailto:claire.jones@leics.gov.uk)