

Additional Paper: Future Provision of Overnight Unit-Based Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities (Item 5)

Agenda

Children and Families

Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday, 4 June 2019, 10.00 am
County Hall, Worcester

All County Councillors are invited to attend and participate

This document can be provided in alternative formats such as Large Print, an audio recording or Braille; it can also be emailed as a Microsoft Word attachment. Please contact Democratic Services on telephone number 01905 844963 or by emailing democraticservices@worcestershire.gov.uk

DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and **'other disclosable interests'**

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
 - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
 - You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests** **OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
 - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday, 4 June 2019, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

Membership

Councillors:

Mrs F M Oborski (Chairman), Mrs J A Potter (Vice Chairman), Ms P Agar, Mr T Baker-Price, Mr R W Banks, Ms R L Dent, Mr P M McDonald, Mr S J Mackay and Ms T L Onslow

Co-opted Church Representatives (for education matters)

Bryan Allbut (Church of England)

Parent Governor Representatives (for education matters)

Vacancy

Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
5	Future Provision of Overnight Unit-Based Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities	1 - 42

Agenda produced and published by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP. To obtain further information or hard copies of this agenda, please contact Alyson Grice 01905 844962/Samantha Morris 01905 844963 email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website [here](#)

Date of Issue: Friday, 24 May 2019

This page is intentionally left blank

AGENDA ITEM 4**CABINET**
6 June 2019**FUTURE PROVISION OF OVERNIGHT UNIT-BASED SHORT
BREAKS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND ADULTS
REPLACEMENT/RESPITE CARE****Relevant Cabinet Member**

Mr A C Roberts
Mr A Hardman

Relevant Officer

Director of Children, Families and Communities
Director of Adult Services

Local Members

Mr N Desmond
Mr S Mackay
Mr L Mallett
Ms T Onslow
Mr P Tuthill

Recommendations

1. **The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families and the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Services recommend that Cabinet:**
 - (a) **notes the information relating to short breaks respite provision for children with disabilities and overnight replacement/respite care for adults with disabilities contained in this report, in particular the results of the co-design activity as outlined in paragraphs 28 – 39 below and appendix 1 attached, and the progress in relation to the decisions made by Cabinet in July 2018 in relation to the need for further transformation in the way that the needs of families are met through short breaks provision of all types;**
 - (b) **considers whether they are minded to agree the proposed future delivery model for the delivery by Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust of short breaks provision, and if so to authorise the Director of Children, Families and Communities to finalise the consultation documentation and carry out a consultation on the proposed changes to overnight short breaks provision to ensure future sufficiency, sustainability and quality of provision, as described in paragraphs 47 - 55 below;**

(c) **authorises the Director of Children, Families and Communities, in consultation with the Director of Adult Services, to continue co-design activity with parents, carers and wider stakeholders on short break/respice provision, as part of the continuous review of provision, including the provision for young people approaching the age of 18 to ensure appropriate transition to adult services and/or independent living; and**

(d) **receives a further report on the outcome of the consultation in paragraph (b) above in order to make a final decision on the future delivery model.**

Background

2. This report is to update Cabinet on the provision of short breaks for families and replacement/respice care for adults with learning disabilities, to outline a proposed model for the future delivery by the Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust (WHCT) of overnight short breaks/replacement care provision and, if appropriate, to seek agreement to the launch of a consultation with families, professionals and wider stakeholders, on the proposed future delivery model for overnight unit-based short breaks for families in Worcestershire.

3. The findings and recommendations in this report have considered the decisions of Cabinet in July 2018 including those relating to the CMR response to the CYP Scrutiny Task Group report "Future provision of Overnight Unit-Based Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities". Cabinet is referred to previous reports on the topic including the 14 December 2017 and 12 July 2018 Cabinet reports.

4. Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 and the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 require local authorities to provide services which are designed to give respite breaks for parents and carers of children with disabilities in order to assist them to continue to provide care or to do so more effectively.

5. Regulation 4 of the 2011 Regulations states that: "In performing their duty a local authority must provide, **so far as is reasonably practicable**, a range of services which is **sufficient** to assist carers to continue to provide care or to do so more effectively", including overnight care.

6. Short breaks are part of a continuum of services which support children in need and their families. Local authorities must provide, as appropriate, a range of provision including day and overnight, care as well as educational or leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes. Short breaks take place in the child's own home, the home of an approved carer, or in a residential or community setting.

7. The duties on local authorities in relation to short breaks for individual disabled children and families can be summarised as follows:

- Duties to assess (both the child and their parent carer(s))
- Duties to decide, subsequent to the assessment, whether it is necessary to provide short breaks
- Duties to provide short breaks sufficient to meet needs where the decision is that it is necessary to do so, taking account of both the child's needs and the wider family context.

8. All disabled children are considered to be a child 'in need' (see section 17 of the Children Act 1989) and therefore the Council has a general duty to safeguard and promote their welfare by providing a range and level of services appropriate to their needs. If a disabled child or their parent requests an assessment then there is a duty to assess in each case, including any needs for carer support.

9. The National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended) states that a primary duty on Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) is to commission healthcare services "to such an extent as it considers necessary to meet the reasonable requirements of the persons for whom it has responsibility." A specific duty rests with Clinical Commissioning Groups to assess for and meet continuing care needs for children, in line with a [national framework](#). Packages of care for such needs which cannot be met from ordinarily commissioned services will be agreed in discussion with the parent/carer.

10. There are important co-operation duties on local authorities and CCGs including:

- the Children Act 2004 which requires local authorities and health bodies to co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area
- the National Health Service Act 2006 which requires NHS bodies and local authorities to co-operate to advance the health and welfare of their populations
- the Children and Families Act 2014 which imposes a range of duties in relation to co-operation including a requirement for joint commissioning arrangements to be in place.

11. From the age of 18, adults with disabilities who are eligible for Council-funded services under the Care Act 2014 can receive "replacement care", also known as "respite" from caring or "short breaks". This is the support provided to an individual due to a carer having a break from their usual caring role, and usually involves overnight care for one or more nights. These can be planned breaks or short notice in emergency situations. Planned replacement care is identified in an individual's needs assessment and support plan, which sets out the number of nights of replacement care required for that individual per year. Planning the transition from children's short breaks to adults' replacement care provision is an important part of a young person's transition into adulthood.

Commissioning of Short Breaks Provision in Worcestershire

12. Improving outcomes for vulnerable children and young people, which includes those with a special education need and/or a disability (SEND), is a key priority within the Children and Young People's Plan.

13. Worcestershire's [Strategy](#) for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and [Worcestershire Local Area SEND Action Plan](#) recognise the need for improved joint assessment of children and young people's needs, the need to build better relations with parent carers and the need to improve joint commissioning arrangements including the provision of personalised budgets and better joint planning and preparation for the transition into adulthood. The five key workstreams of the Action Plan, which are informing the design of a range of services which is sufficient to assist carers, are:

- The Local Offer
- Embedding the graduated response
- Assessment and planning

- Joint Commissioning and Leadership and
- Workforce and Engagement

Within this plan section 4.16 relates specifically to the redesign of overnight short breaks. Furthermore, within the Joint Commissioning and Leadership workstream, a new project has recently commenced to develop strategies across Education, Health and Social Care for ensuring effective transition into adulthood for young people with SEND aged 14-25.

14. In Worcestershire a range of short breaks is available, including community-based provision (including holiday and term-time play-schemes) to specialist services including residential (unit based) and family-based overnight and weekend care.

15. Commissioning of short break provision must have regard to the needs of carers who would be unable to continue to provide care unless breaks from caring were given to them, as well as the needs of those carers who would be able to provide care more effectively if breaks from caring allowed them to undertake education, training or any regular leisure activity, meet the needs of other children in the family more effectively, or carry out day to day tasks which they must perform in order to run their household. Short breaks in themselves should:

- Help to support a child or young person's social and emotional development
- Helps to support a child or young person learn new skills
- Provide a child or young person with new experiences
- Promote the welfare and safeguard children and young people

16. Re-commissioning activity during 2018 has increased the number of providers able to deliver 1:1 support, in turn increasing choice and flexibility for families, and community short breaks (group-based activity) continue to be delivered by providers in school and community settings across the county. See paragraph 32 below for further details of these changes.

17. Direct payments are also available to families who wish to access support in a way that meets their individual circumstances and the local authority has a duty, where requested, to prepare a personal budget, which is an amount of money identified by the local authority to deliver provision as set out in an Education, Health and Care Plan and to give greater choice and control for parents and young people over how their support is delivered. The number of families accessing these payments has increased as outlined in paragraph 32 below.

18. Overnight short breaks prioritise support for those families with children and young people who require a high level of support and where an overnight short break is needed to give carers a break from caring. They are available to children and young people via a social care assessment of need. This assessment is carried out by the Children with Disabilities team (0 – 16 years) or the Young Adults Team (16 to 18 years). Overnight short break provision can be delivered in a family home (foster care) or residential overnight units.

19. In Worcestershire, CCG's contribute to the cost of providing short breaks/respite care for children with exceptional healthcare needs in a number of ways, including unit based provision, in the family home and/or at Acorns hospice.

Summary of commissioned overnight short break respite provision in Worcestershire

Name/location of provision	Name of provider	Description
Osborne Court, Malvern	Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust	All age site with two bungalows for CYP use – one 5 bed unit and one single occupancy bungalow. Site is CQC registered and the CYP main unit is also registered with Ofsted as a Children’s Home. (Note: whilst the main unit is registered as a six bed unit, WHCT are currently commissioned to provide 5 beds) Ofsted registration of the single occupancy bungalow as a Children’s Home is underway
Ludlow Road, Kidderminster	Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust	Single 4 bedroom bungalow CQC registered and registered with Ofsted as a Children’s Home. Transition to 4 bed occupancy (from 6) to be completed by August 2019 as required by Ofsted
Kidderminster Short Breaks Unit, Moule Close, Kidderminster	Worcestershire County Council	4 bedroom unit Registered with Ofsted as a Children’s Home
Bromsgrove Short Breaks Unit, Providence Road, Bromsgrove	Worcestershire County Council	6 bedroom unit of which 4 are currently funded/registered for use with Ofsted as a Children’s Home. Application has been made to Ofsted to make the necessary changes to the registration to include the existing additional 2 bedrooms.
Family based overnight provision	Barnardo’s Services Limited	Currently accessed by 18 CYP Registered with Ofsted as an Independent Fostering Agency
Acorns Hospice, Worcester	Acorns	Overnight short break provision can be purchased by the Council when appropriate. Registered with CQC as a hospital.

20. The pre-consultation review of unit-based overnight provision in 2017 highlighted the differences in regulation of the short break overnight residential units. In line with published guidance it has since been confirmed that each of the four overnight units falls under the regulations for Children's Homes and requires registration with Ofsted.

21. The application to register Osborne Court Short Breaks Units is progressing. Ofsted have undertaken the pre-registration inspection and confirmation of registration is expected shortly. Regulation 44 (independent) visits have commenced. On the pre-registration visit, Ofsted informed the Trust that the two-bedroom bungalow on the Osborne Court site requires a separate Ofsted registration. The application to register this bungalow is underway.

22. The unit at Ludlow Road is now registered by Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust with Ofsted. An unannounced inspection is anticipated to take place in the next few months.

23. The two Trust led units are also registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and are rated as Good.

24. All overnight units receive a monthly independent visit (known as Regulation 44 visits) to ensure that standards are maintained and that any actions required are being addressed.

25. The two Council-led units are both judged by Ofsted as Good (Providence Road, Bromsgrove, July 2018 and Moule Close, Kidderminster, October 2018). Application to make amendments to the registration for the unit at Providence Road, to bring into use the additional two beds as agreed by Cabinet in July 2018, has now been submitted to Ofsted.

26. Barnardo's Independent Fostering Agency, which delivers the family based overnight short break service was rated Good in February 2016 by Ofsted and Acorns Hospice were rated overall by the CQC as Good in April 2016.

27. In July 2018 Cabinet agreed a number of recommendations in relation to the provision of overnight short breaks for children with disabilities. This report updates on action taken following that report and makes a number of recommendations for provision going forward.

28. In September 2018, two co-design events were held by the Council and Families in Partnership (Worcestershire's Parent Carer Forum) with parent carers, professionals and providers to work together to design future provision of overnight short breaks. Full notes of the themes from the discussions at the events are contained in Appendix 1 (as shared with participants following the events). The themes and response can be summarised as:

- *Where appropriate, reduce/delay the need for overnight short breaks by providing support together with improved information and guidance (before families reach crisis point) and improving the system around direct payments to families.*

29. The Children with Disabilities social care team are currently reviewing the process and support for direct payments and the Worcestershire Local Area SEND Action Plan covers a number of these areas of required improvement including the provision of information and guidance.

30. It is a fundamental principle that we are providing services based on need and therefore it is important that there are a range of services in place that meet a range of need. We need to ensure that we have the right children and young people accessing specialist short break provision and that we work with families and extended families to care for their children with our support.

31. Re-commissioning in 2018 of short break provision delivered by 1:1 support workers has increased the availability of this as an option either instead of or in some cases in addition to overnight short breaks provision.

32. The impact of these activities is shown in the table below:

March 2018:	March 2019:
29 children accessing short breaks via support workers	128 children accessing short breaks via support workers
5000 support hours delivered (per year)	18,000 support hours delivered (per year)
150+ families accessing Direct Payments	180+ families accessing Direct Payments

33. As a result of feedback, including from the co-design events, changes are being made in the way the Council's Short Breaks Statement is presented. This is information that the Council has a duty to provide but parent carers have said that they are confused about what a short break is, the different types of short breaks available and the process of accessing support. To address this, all information about short breaks will in future be presented clearly on the SEND Local Offer website, instead of in a separate document.

34. The content for the website is being drafted with the parent carer forum, Families in Partnership and a short video explaining about short breaks is in draft. The key messages will be the same in all formats and the directory of short break groups and activities will also be reviewed to make sure it is easy for parent carers to search for and find a group that is most suitable to the needs of the whole family.

- *Help short break units be more cost effective (i.e. use the resources we have in the best way). A number of ideas related to this theme were discussed including wider use of the units themselves, increasing availability of family based overnight provision (by the use of foster families), technology to assist families and short breaks providers to care for and keep children safe, and to reduce the number of times that overnight short break provision is booked but not used.*
- *Bringing in additional funding. Ideas included selling space in the units at times when it is available (for compatible uses such as childcare or groups and meetings) and sharing the cost of units with other adult services or other authorities.*

35. A number of changes have been implemented by managers of the Council-led units to trial different ways of using these units more effectively. These are outlined in more detail in Appendix 2 to this report. They include greater use of the units for day and tea-time visits, for both overnight and other users, and flexibility for families in the holidays.

36. A short breaks steering group, of commissioners, social care professionals and other officers and Families in Partnership representatives (Worcestershire's parent carer forum) meets monthly to develop responses to these themes and provides regular updates via the Local Offer website and directly to those who participated in the co-design events.

37. At the end of April 2019, the Council held its first joint short breaks provider forum. The event brought together providers of groups and activities (schools and community groups), one-to-one support work and overnight short breaks (unit-based and family-based) as well as social workers from the Children with Disabilities and Young Adults Team and a parent carer representative from Families in Partnership (the parent carer forum). Providers were asked to introduce themselves and share information about what they deliver; to each other and to social work teams. This was well received as it allowed social workers to find out more detail about the services available to the families they work with, and similarly allowed support work providers to find out about the range of groups and activities they could access with young people.

38. Attendees provided positive feedback about the flexibility in the new contracts for providers to change their offer to best meet the needs of families. It was also noted that communication had improved between providers, social workers and commissioners which helped services to run more smoothly. Those attending supported the proposal to hold this forum every term to allow continued networking opportunities and as an effective way to contribute to the continuous review of short breaks delivery.

39. The Council and CCGs recognise the value of feedback in shaping services and, as noted above, are committed to improving engagement with service users in the co-design of quality services that provide value for money. Commissioners appreciate the time and effort that parents continue to make in respect of this redesign activity.

40. Further research into factors impacting on current and future demand for overnight short breaks has been carried out by the Council's Research & Intelligence team. These factors were shared at the co-design events include

- Birth rate
- Birth rate of children with disabilities
- Prevalence of disability
- Severity of disability
- Children with needs moving in or out of the county
- Availability of other, similar services in the area – e.g. Acorns Hospice short break provision
- Design and availability of other services accessed by families e.g. 1:1 support, day care, community and school based provision
- Design and access to alternative overnight short breaks provision E.g. home based provision (foster families), personalisation and direct payments

41. Further data on the numbers of children with disabilities can be found in the [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Profile on Children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities in Worcestershire](#) published recently on the council's website.

42. Using population estimates and applying current levels of need for SEND, it is estimated that by 2037 there is forecast to be an increase in the number of children with SEND. This forecast estimate is across the spectrum of SEND need and therefore it is not possible to translate this as a forecasted need for an increase in overnight short breaks requirements.

43. It is evident, from the potential impact of factors that may increase or reduce the demand for overnight short breaks in the future, that provision of a number of different types of specialist short break provision, which are responsive to fluctuating demand, are required. Sufficiency of provision of all short break provision, and an understanding of demand, is kept under constant review.

Commissioning of replacement care for adults in Worcestershire

44. The majority of replacement care provision for adults is commissioned by the Council on a block purchase basis, including a block contract for provision at Osborne Court in Malvern and Church View in Bromsgrove via a contract with Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust.

45. Cabinet received reports on 8 February 2018 and 14 June 2018 on "Future Provision of Replacement Care Services for Adults with a Learning Disability". Following Cabinet approval, pre-consultation engagement was carried out with individuals using replacement care services, family carers, professionals and wider stakeholders, on how learning disability replacement care services should be delivered in the future. The engagement work identified the importance of replacement care for adults using services and their carers and generated many ideas about how services could be organised differently in the future.

46. Cabinet endorsed the aim of improving outcomes and efficiency of replacement care provision for adults with a Learning Disability and requested the Director of Adult Services and her commissioners to work with the providers of commissioned replacement care services to remodel the way services are provided, ensuring maximum value for money by exploring options and implementing improvements as appropriate. This work included a strategic review of current provision based on current and future identified needs in order to maximise usage and potentially reduce or increase capacity where appropriate, and continued partnership working with Health (Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups) to ensure best use of health-led services.

Delivery of overnight short breaks and replacement/respite care by WHCT

47. As agreed by Cabinet in June and July 2018, officers from both Children, Families & Communities and Adult Services, have worked collaboratively and with Worcestershire Health and Care Trust to provide clarity on the cost, capacity and monitoring arrangements for the current service delivery of overnight short breaks provision. In addition, the same group of officers from both organisations have worked together to consider the changes needed, in order to remodel the way services are provided to meet current and future needs and ensure maximum value for money, by exploring options and implementing improvements.

48. In order for the Council to meet their sufficiency duty in relation to the provision of short breaks (see paragraphs 4 - 7 above), as far as reasonably practicable, and taking into consideration the decision to increase provision at Providence Road unit by two beds (July 2018 Cabinet decision), consideration of the options for the delivery of overnight provision has looked at ensuring overnight short breaks for adults and children can be delivered by the Trust in an appropriate setting that is both sustainable and cost effective. Increasing provision at Providence Road together with the impact of Ofsted requirements on bed capacity at Ludlow Road, and a review of capacity required from WHCT, has resulted in the proposal of a revised delivery model by the Trust.

49. A number of options were modelled by the Trust which could meet the revised capacity requirements. These were considered by both the Council and the Trust and the preferred option would look to consolidate provision at Osborne Court, as outlined below, and to cease the delivery of provision at the Ludlow Road unit, which as a four-bed self-contained unit is not an operationally viable or cost-effective provision. Currently the Osborne Court site provides both children's and adults' services and the existing configuration includes 5 children's beds and 4 adult beds.

50. The proposed option includes a significant upgrade to two currently mothballed bungalows and further improvements to the existing units at Osborne Court. This will result in additional capacity with a further 4 beds for children, of which 2 will be commissioned by the Council, and additional capacity for adults with the proposed commissioning of an additional bed. This also creates an option for a self-contained 1- to 2-bedded area for adults at some point in the future if required.

51. The proposed investment into the site is significant and involves a reconfiguration of accommodation resulting in two children's units located next to each other and the adult service moving into the refurbished bungalows. A further additional single occupancy unit is available for those children and young adults with the most challenging behaviours who require a service on their own. This unit is currently designated as children's provision only (and is subject to Ofsted registration) but the intention is that in the future young people reaching the age of 18, with an assessed need for respite provision, will be able to be funded by adult services to continue to use the provision. This change is already being implemented for current users of the service, where appropriate, as they reach 18.

52. The proposals respond to the views expressed by both parent carers and families accessing adult replacement/respite care in relation to the availability of provision, particularly for those transitioning between the two services, and would deliver a site with all-age provision. Engagement with families and individuals using adult services provision during 2018 highlighted that replacement care is a vital service for carers enabling them to sustain their caring role. For people using services it was highlighted that any changes for people with learning disabilities can cause huge anxiety and have a massive impact; they often rely on routine and continuity. The services give carers peace of mind that their family members are being well looked after, and the continuity of staff in the services is very important. It was felt that services could be more effectively co-ordinated by working more closely together.

53. In relation to this set of proposals, the Trust have stated: "An increase of service on the (Osborne Court) site will provide greater resilience than a small isolated service and provide some benefits of economy of scale, particular with regards to staffing skill mix and out of hours cover. The investment also provides a higher quality and suitable environment

and offer to all our service users, adults and children, from the Osborne Court campus which has facilities such as the Hydrotherapy pool, sensory rooms, extensive gardens including an adventure playground and polytunnel and two vehicles (one being wheelchair accessible) for off-site community-based activities. The additional capacity in an enhanced environment ensures the current and future services for both adults and children's is more sustainable and responsive to changing demand and young adults will be better supported when transitioning into adult services. A single site allows familiarity at the point where young people transition into adult provision and from a value for money and resourcing perspective; single site provision is more sustainable, flexible and responsive to future changes in demand and need."

54. The proposed future delivery model for overnight unit based short break provision by the Trust, is considered by social work services and commissioners as meeting sufficiency, sustainability and quality requirements and does not include any proposal to stop or reduce delivery of overnight respite that families need. The care needs of children, young people and their families are assessed through their social work assessment – **overnight respite will continue to be provided to any family who needs it.**

55. Cabinet are asked to consider the proposed future delivery model as outlined above. If Cabinet are minded to agree the proposed changes they are also asked to authorise the Director of Children, Families & Communities to carry out a consultation, with families and professionals in relation to the proposed future delivery model as outlined in the draft consultation document attached as appendix 3, and to bring a future report to Cabinet in the autumn with a recommendation on whether the proposals should in fact be agreed.

Financial Implications

56. The Council's 2019/20 Base Budget for Children's Replacement Care is £2.331m. This includes additional funding of £0.540m approved by Council in February 2019 to rebase the budget to reflect current replacement care costs and to remove a shortfall in the Children's Budget following the withdrawal of Public Health Ring Fenced Grant funding for Ludlow Road.

57. The following table sets out the financial impact of the options now available to the Council and shows:

Current Costs - The current budgeted costs of replacement care in 2019/20 broken down by provision type.

No Change - The forecast impact of making no change to the current configuration of WHCT delivered provision for which the implications would be:

- Current costs reflect the budget for this provision for 2019/20, however WHCT have indicated that without any change to the delivery model there would need to be an increase in costs in future years to cover the costs of delivery across two sites. This equates to an increase in costs of £0.113m, in order to meet the existing cost of service (currently £68k more than income from Council) and additional NHS pensions and pay award pressure from 2019/20, and
- Refurbishment costs at Ludlow Road are not included and are likely to be higher than £0.3m estimated in 2018 due to OFSTED requirements.

Proposed Costs - The proposed cost of the revised delivery model which, if agreed, would result in a net cashable saving against 2019/20 budget of £0.124m based upon:

- A reduction in the cost of WHCT unit-based provision of £0.287m,
- The proposed contract value supporting the WHCT investment of approximately £0.6m
- The estimated increased costs of £0.150m to fund additional provision at the Council-run Providence Road (based on 2018 estimate), and
- Additional Support costs of approximately £0.013m.

The proposals would also avoid the additional "no change" cost of £0.113m.

	Current costs	No Change	Proposed costs
WHCT unit-based provision	£1,043k	£1,156k	£756k
WCC provision	£931k	£931k	£1,081k
Additional support costs and alternative provision (Thorn Lodge)	£140k budget	£140k budget	£153k
Family based	£217k	£217k	£217k
Totals	£2,331k	£2,444k	£2,207k

Legal Implications

58. The statutory duty to provide short break provision is contained in Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 and the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 which require local authorities to provide services which are designed to give respite breaks for parents and carers of children with disabilities to assist them to continue to provide care or to do so more effectively. These provisions are summarised in paragraphs 4-8 above. In performing these duties, local authorities must have regard to the needs of those carers who would be unable to continue providing care without respite breaks, and those who would be able to provide care more effectively if respite breaks were given. More generally, Section 27 of the Children and Families Act 2014 requires the Council to keep under review the social care etc. provision for children and young people who have SEN or a disability and consider the extent to which that provision is sufficient, having regard to the assessment of needs and joint health and wellbeing strategy.

HR Implications

59. There are no direct HR implications for the Council arising directly from this report. Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust continue to work with their staff regarding any implications in relation to the provision of overnight short breaks.

Public Health Impact Assessments

60. A Public Health Impact Assessment of the proposals will be completed at the conclusion of any consultation agreed as a result of this report.

Privacy and Data Protection Impact Assessments

61. No implications.

Equality and Diversity Implications

62. The Council is fully aware of its Public Sector Equality Duty obligations as set out in numerous reports to Cabinet. We have determined that a detailed Equality Impact Assessment in respect of the proposed delivery model would be beneficial and this will be included as part of any future recommendation report.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Themes from the co-design events

Appendix 2: Changes to service delivery at Council-led units

Appendix 3: Draft consultation document

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points
County Council: 01905 763763

Specific Contact Points for this report
Debbie Herbert, Lead Commissioner for Vulnerable Children and Families
Tel: (01905) 846831
Email: dherbert2@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Children, Families and Communities) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and background papers for the meetings of the Cabinet held in July 2015, on 16 May 2016, 14 December 2017, 14 June 2018, and on 12 July 2018.

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 1

Overnight Short Breaks Co-design Event Thursday 27th and Saturday 29th September 2018 Feedback of themes from the meeting

Attendees:

- Thursday – 54 (plus 4 observing councillors)
- Saturday – 20 (plus 1 observing councillor)

Two events were held by Worcestershire County Council and Families in Partnership (Worcestershire's parent carer forum) with parent carers, professionals and providers to work together to design the future of overnight short breaks. We heard a lot about the value of short breaks for the child/young person and for the parent carer and rest of the family. Attendees shared and suggested ideas for overnight short breaks for how and what could be done differently. This is an example of how parent carers and professionals are working together to co-design services. Co-design is about building an equal and reciprocal relationship where everyone's knowledge and skills are used to create better outcomes.

Since the events, the Overnight Short Breaks Steering Group have considered each of the ideas alongside Families in Partnership and discussed what we were already doing, any quick wins and what else could be done. The Steering Group is made up of parent carer representatives from Families in Partnership as well as County Council officers across adults' and children's services covering commissioning, contracts, research, finance, legal and communications.

These are a summary of the ideas that were generated during both meetings. We have divided these ideas in to three main themes:

1. Reduce/delay the demand for overnight short breaks

These are ideas that would provide support to families to help to build resilience, reduce the need for them to use overnight short breaks altogether, reduce the number of overnight short breaks needed or delay the use of overnight short breaks. These ideas include:

- Provide more support early on to families
- Improve the information and guidance available to allow families and professionals to find the support families need before reaching crisis point (either online, via a helpline or face-to-face)
- Improve the support system around Direct Payments to make it easier for families to find and recruit direct payment workers

The key outcomes within the SEND Improvement Plan address many of these ideas and work has started on these actions. The key outcomes within the SEND Improvement Plan are:

1. **The Local Offer** - Create a SEND Local Offer website that contains information about what support and services families can expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
2. **Embedding the Graduated Response** - Embed the 'Graduated Response' which sets out the support that schools and settings should make available to children and young people with SEND
3. **Assessment and Planning** - Review assessment and planning processes and ensure that Education, Health and Care Plans are being planned and reviewed effectively
4. **Joint Commissioning and Leadership** - Improve partnership working and service delivery between all agencies
5. **Workforce and Engagement** - Ensure professionals understand their responsibilities around SEND and improve engagement with parent carers, professionals and providers

The SEND Improvement Plan can be found at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDupdates

2. Help short breaks units to be more cost effective (use the money we have in the best way)

These ideas would help us to save money on what we are already delivering, or change the way services are run to use the money in a better way. The ideas generated included:

- Introduce daytime, evening and/or afterschool short breaks for families who need the break but not necessarily overnight
- Strengthen and grow the family-based overnight short breaks offer
- Make use of technology to assist families and short breaks provision to help care for and keep children safe
- Find ways to reduce times when overnight short breaks are booked and don't get used

The Steering Group is looking at the ideas generated and thinking about if they can be put in place and what benefits this would bring. Our first response to cancellations is that we are asking parents to let units know as soon as possible if they can't attend their break, so that it can be used by other families.

3. Bring in additional funding

Ideas to bring in extra funding include:

- Selling space in overnight short breaks units in the daytime (e.g. for childcare, support groups, meetings etc.)
- Share the cost of overnight short breaks units with adult services by using one or some of the units specifically for young people aged 16 to 25 years or using units for adults on days where they are closed for children

- Units could offer overnight short breaks to children and young people from other counties which would bring in funding.

We are working with the Health and Care Trust around the above options for how units could be used in the future.

What's happening next?

The Overnight Short Breaks Steering Group meets every month. In November we will share a further update on these options and plans going forward.

This page is intentionally left blank

Worcestershire County Council Overnight Short Break Units

Since the January 2018 consultation around Overnight Short Break Units, the County Council has been talking with parent carers, professionals and providers about how short breaks could be delivered differently to continue to meet the needs of current and future families. Two co-design events were held in September 2018 that generated some innovative ideas for how the County Council's in-house overnight short break units (Bromsgrove Short Breaks Unit, Providence Road and Kidderminster Short Break Unit, Moule Close) units could be used to offer alternative short break services, use the units in the most efficient way and to offer support to more families. Unit managers have been scoping out these ideas and have plans to make their short breaks offer more flexible to better meet the needs of families. The changes described below are already in progress:

- Moule Close has changed its opening hours and is able to provide additional activities for current unit users and non-unit-users as a result. In response to feedback the unit is no longer open on Sunday nights however this has had no negative impact on the families currently accessing Moule Close and has caused no reduction in the number of overnight stays that families receive.
- Moule Close staff have been able to deliver one-to-one support to young people on an agreed emergency basis
- Moule Close is starting to offer teatime/evening activities to young people
- Another Local Authority is funding overnight short breaks at Providence Road for a young person which generates a small income that is reinvested in to the unit to offer additional activities for current unit users and non-unit-users
- Providence Road is offering daytime short breaks to families currently accessing the unit who need a break during school holidays

Additional services that are being planned for May-September 2019 include:

- Moule Close is increasing the activities provided in the units for current users, focusing on three themes: Life Skills, Arts & Crafts and Health & Fitness. From September, this is planned to be offered to additional young people, not just those who currently access overnight short breaks at the unit
- Moule Close is planning to hold Parent Forums at the unit to enable parent carers to meet and support each other
- Providence Road and Moule Close are reviewing how both units will be used over the August school holiday to offer more daytime short breaks. Past occupancy figures have shown that families access overnight short breaks less during the summer holidays. Therefore, the units could close for one or more nights over August and offer daytime short breaks to more families (including those who don't currently access the units) whilst still meeting need for overnight short breaks.

Further additional services that are being scoped include:

- Running activity courses for young people in areas such as life skills and personal care for a set number of weeks, gaining a certificate of completion at the end of the course (this could be offered to young people both accessing and not accessing the units)
- Using the units and facilities during the day for:
 - Stay and Play sessions for parent carers with young children
 - Family contact sessions for any families needing specific spaces and facilities
 - Direct Payment workers to bring young people to use the unit and facilities

Proposed changes to the provision of overnight short breaks for children with disabilities

Consultation document

What are the proposals?

The proposal is to:

- 1) Develop the Osborne Court campus in Malvern to:
 - a. create 4 more bedrooms for children in the unit currently used for adults - 2 beds will be for Worcestershire County Council to use and 2 will be for other providers (e.g. other Council's) to buy
 - b. refurbish an empty building to create 5 bedrooms for adults (one more bed than the current unit)
 - c. improve support for young people moving to adult services
- 2) Close Ludlow Road short breaks unit in Kidderminster

Please note: We are not proposing to stop or reduce the overnight respite that families need. The care needs of children, young people and their families are assessed through their social work assessment – overnight respite will be provided to any family who needs it. If you have questions about your current need for overnight respite please contact your social worker or the Children with Disabilities Social Work Team: 01905 *** or Young Adults Team: 01905 *******

What is the consultation about?

The Council and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust have considered ways in which the Trust can deliver overnight short breaks. The option that we are consulting on includes making improvements to the Osborne Court campus and to close Ludlow Road Short Breaks Unit. Worcestershire County Council is consulting with service users to find out their views on the proposals. More information on the proposals are included below in pages 4 to 9 below.

Consultation questions

Anyone who would like to share their views on these proposals can:

Use the online survey available at [LINK](#).

Complete the paper version below and post it to us at: Vulnerable Children and Families Commissioning Team, Worcestershire County Council, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NE

You can also email shortbreaks@worcestershire.gov.uk or call 01905 843657.

1) Do you think your needs for overnight respite could be met through these proposals?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Not sure

Comments

2) Do you think the proposed changes to Osborne Court would help make the move from children's to adult services smoother?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Not sure

Comments

3) Do you have any other comments about these proposals?

Please continue on a separate page if needed

DRAFT

Overnight short break units for children with disabilities

Background information and more detail about the proposals

In March 2017 we started talking to parent carers, children and young people, professionals and providers about how short breaks were currently delivered. This included overnight short breaks as well as other types of short breaks such as 1:1 support and groups, activities and clubs. We wanted to find out what worked well and what could be changed or improved. Parent carers have said they want:

- Available services – that can accommodate the growing demand and meet individual needs
- Accessible services – available in different places across the county with limited travel times and easy referral processes with broad criteria that are open to all
- Continuous services – to help the move to adulthood a smooth process
- Flexible services – that are there when families need
- Information and guidance – easy access signposting about what is available
- Worthwhile respite for they child – where they can develop social skills and independence
- Worthwhile respite for parent – where parents can have a 'real break' e.g. without the stress of travel, caring for other children etc

We then ran a consultation in January 2018 about redesigning the way overnight short break units are currently run.

We received feedback about these proposals from families, professionals, providers and through a Scrutiny Task Group (a group of councillors who spoke to families and officers about the consultation process). We took a recommendations report to a Cabinet meeting in July 2018 and, amongst other things, it was agreed that we would:

- Continue to deliver overnight short breaks at Ludlow Road but there may be changes proposed about overnight short breaks from April 2019 onwards
- Talk to Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust about changes to their contract for delivering overnight short breaks at Ludlow Road and Osborne Court, and about how their service can be more flexible in the future to meet the needs of children and young people
- Increase the number of beds available at Bromsgrove Short Breaks Unit (Providence Road) by registering the two additional bedrooms with Ofsted so they are available to use if needed
- Work with families, providers and staff to co-design short breaks, including looking at support for young people who are reaching 18 to help them move to adult services and/or live independently

[Click this link to read the full report that was taken to Cabinet in July 2018, including the feedback that we received from the consultation](#)

From July 2018 onwards we continued to speak to parent carers, professionals and providers about overnight short breaks. We ran two co-design events in September 2018 and got lots of ideas about how to deliver overnight short breaks differently. We divided these ideas in to three main themes:

- 1) Reduce/delay the demand for overnight short breaks (e.g. provide more support early on and improve information to help families to find the support they need before reaching crisis point)
- 2) Help short breaks units to be more cost effective (e.g. introduce daytime, evening and/or afterschool short breaks for families who need the break but not necessarily overnight)
- 3) Bring in additional funding (e.g. share the cost of overnight short breaks units with adult services by using some spaces for young people aged 16 to 25 and sell overnight short breaks to other local authorities)

[Click this link to read more about the co-design events](#)

What has changed with overnight short breaks?

We are in the process of registering the two additional bedrooms at Bromsgrove Short Breaks Unit (Providence Road) to be able to use 1 or 2 of the beds as needed. We have also listened to the ideas from the co-design events and have been using our two council-run short breaks units in different ways to be more flexible and meet the changing needs of families. We have been developing these ideas with the staff and families at our units. These have included:

- Offering tea-time visits and short breaks in the day time
- Workers from units taking young people out on days that the unit is closed, to access the community and use the facilities at the unit on a one-to-one basis

Conversations with Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

Since July 2018, Worcestershire County Council has been speaking with Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust who currently deliver overnight short breaks at Ludlow Road in Kidderminster and Osborne Court in Malvern. We have been talking to them about:

- What needs to be provided (overnight respite at a residential unit for children, young people and adults with a range of health and behavioural needs)
- The Ofsted registration process for Osborne Court and Ludlow Road
- How units could be used to deliver services in the future
- Changing the way we currently pay for short breaks services

What are the proposals?

Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust has now proposed to:

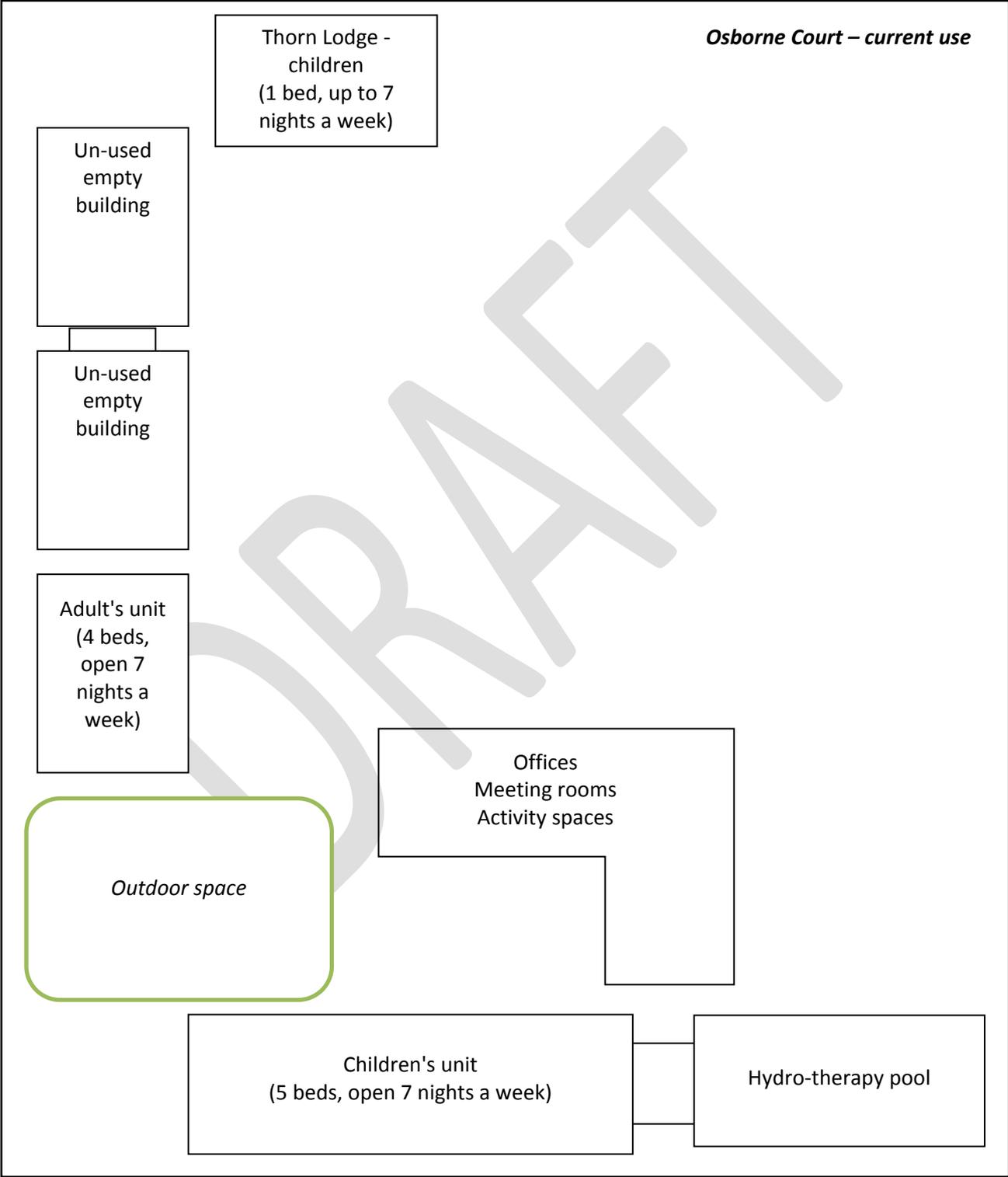
- 3) Develop the Osborne Court campus in Malvern to:
 - a. create more beds for children and adults
 - b. improve support for young people moving to adult services
- 4) Close Ludlow Road short breaks unit

How is Osborne Court currently used?

As can be seen in the below diagram, Osborne Court currently has:

- A children's unit which has 6 beds (5 are funded) – open 7 nights a week
- Thorn Lodge which has 2 beds and is open up to 7 nights a week but mostly used as a single occupancy bungalow for children and young people with the most challenging behaviours

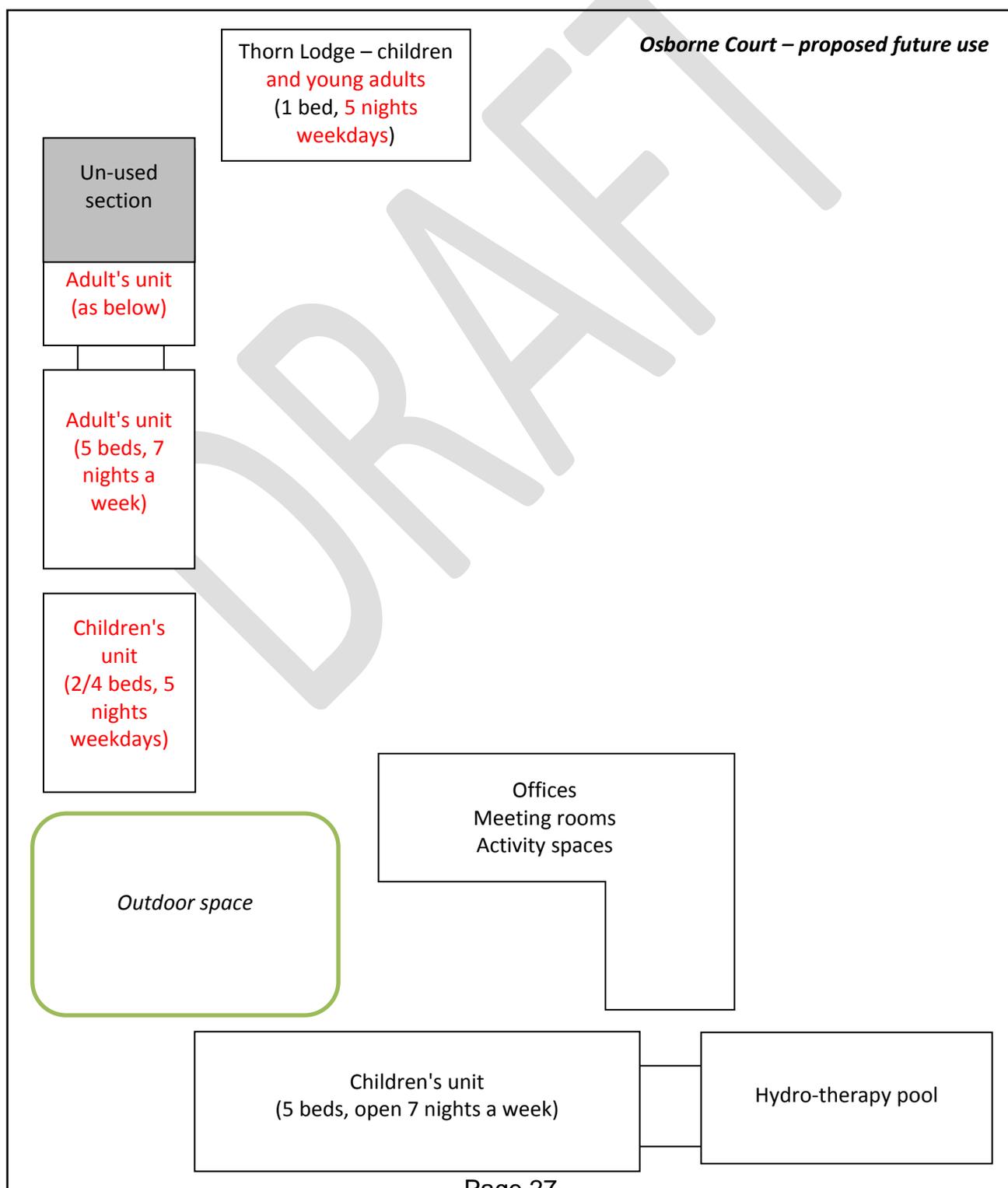
- An adult's unit which has 4 beds – open 7 nights a week
- 2 un-used empty buildings (these are semi-detached)
- A hydro-therapy pool – used by both adults and children at different times
- A block for offices, meeting rooms and activity spaces



How would Osborne Court be used in the future?

As can be seen in the diagram below (changes are highlighted in red) the proposals are to:

- Keep using the current children's unit as it is now
- Refurbish over half of the current empty un-used buildings to use for adults (this will create one extra bed for adults)
- Refurbish the current adult's unit to create 4 extra beds for children and young people (2 to be used by Worcestershire County Council, 2 available for other providers to buy e.g other Council's)
- Continue using Thorn Lodge for children and young people with complex needs - but for 5 nights a week instead of 7 (weekdays only). This unit can also be used for young adults who are preparing to move to adult services when they reach 18



Why would Ludlow Road be closed?

- These proposals would mean that current and future families would access alternative respite units that can be flexible to their needs, better support the move from children's to adult services and not be under constant review and threat of closing
- It is not possible for Ludlow Road short breaks unit to offer the same flexibility, sustainability and support for young adults as can be delivered at Osborne Court. The costs to refurbish Ludlow Road would be much higher, and even still couldn't provide everything that Osborne Court can

What are the benefits of these proposals for families?

- There will be more beds available for both children, young people and adults – meaning current and future families will have their need for respite met
- Increasing the beds available for adults at Osborne Court means that:
 1. More young people will continue getting respite as an adult on the same site. This includes young people with complex needs who may be able to continue to access Thorn Lodge over the age of 18
 2. The move from children's to adult services will be smoother as young people will already be familiar with the Osborne Court campus and staff
- The refurbishments and change-around means that units will be a better quality and children and young people will have access to more outdoor space
- Changing the way we pay for Thorn Lodge will mean that the unit can be consistently used for young people with more complex needs and those preparing to move to adult services
- In 2018 a recommendation from the Scrutiny Task Group stated that: "the outcome of this consultation should result in an overnight short breaks service that is stable, resilient, sustainable and responsive and not under constant review". These proposals would do this.

What are the benefits of this proposal in terms of funding and meeting future need?

- This model is sustainable for Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust and delivers an all-age pathway and provision on one site
- The change in how respite is bought from Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust means that Worcestershire County Council is:
 1. Clearer on how much things cost so we can plan and budget for the future
 2. Able to buy respite more flexibly depending on the changing needs of families
- This proposal would meet current and future respite needs at a lower total cost than current provision

What are the negatives of this proposal and how would they be managed?

- These proposals, if agreed, involve change for families currently using Ludlow Road. Alternative respite would in some cases be further away from the family home and/or school and the transition to alternative respite could be unsettling for children/young people and their families.

- This would be managed by carrying out assessments, where needed, with each family to identify alternative overnight provision and a detailed transition plan agreed to make the change as smooth as possible. The changes at Osborne Court, if agreed, would not be ready before April 2020 so there time to plan the changes with families.
- There will be less respite in the north of the county
 - This would be managed by looking at transport and travel as part of the change planning with families for current users, and in the way in which we decide which units are appropriate for families in the future. Additional beds are already available at Bromsgrove Short Breaks Unit (Providence Road) which is accessible for some families in the north of the county.

DRAFT

This page is intentionally left blank

Overnight Unit-Based Short Breaks



Background

- March 2017 – started talking with families, professionals and providers about short breaks delivery
- January 2018 – consultation started - redesign proposals for overnight short break units
 - Extensive feedback from families, professionals, providers and Scrutiny Task Group
- July 2018 – Cabinet meeting which agreed to:
 - Continue to deliver at Ludlow Road (with possible proposed changes from April 2019)
 - Talk to Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust about changes to their contracts (Ludlow Road and Osborne Court)
 - Register 2 additional beds at Bromsgrove Short Breaks Unit (Providence Road) with Ofsted
 - Work with families, professionals and providers to co-design short breaks – including looking at support for young people reaching 18

Feedback – for background

- Parent carers said they want short breaks to be:
 - Able and flexible to meet growing demand and individual needs
 - Available in different places across the county
 - Have easy referral processes and broad criteria (open to everyone)
 - Continuous services (to help the move to adulthood)
 - Worthwhile respite for the child and parent carers
- Scrutiny recommended:
 - “the outcome of this consultation should result in an overnight short breaks service that is stable, resilient, sustainable and responsive and not under constant review”

Co-design feedback

- September 2018 - two co-design events
- Three main themes came from the discussions:
 1. Reduce/delay the demand for overnight short breaks (provide more support early on)
 2. Help short breaks units to be more cost effective (e.g. offer daytime and afterschool short breaks)
 3. Bring in additional funding (e.g. share the cost with adult services by using some spaces for young people aged 16-25 and sell services to other local authorities)

The proposals

The Cabinet report recommends that Cabinet “considers whether they are minded to agree the proposed future delivery model for the delivery by Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust of short breaks provision, and if so to authorise the Director of Children, Families and Communities to finalise the consultation documentation and carry out a consultation on the proposed changes to overnight short breaks provision to ensure future sufficiency, sustainability and quality of provision...”

Cabinet report published on Wednesday 29th May 2019

Families have been advised of this date and there will be links to report on WCC website

The proposals

The proposed delivery model is to:

- Develop the Osborne Court campus in Malvern and:
 - create 4 more bedrooms for children in the unit currently used for adults - 2 beds will be for Worcestershire County Council to use and 2 will be for other providers (e.g. other Council's) to buy
 - refurbish the majority of two empty buildings to create 5 bedrooms for adults (one extra)
 - improve support for young people moving to adult services
- Close Ludlow Road short breaks unit in Kidderminster



[Google maps link](#)

Osborne Court – current use

Thorn Lodge - children
(1 bed, up to 7 nights a week)

Un-used empty building

Un-used empty building

Adult's unit
(4 beds, open 7 nights a week)

Offices
Meeting rooms
Activity spaces

Outdoor space

Children's unit
(5 beds, open 7 nights a week)

Hydro-therapy pool

**Osborne Court – proposed future use
(changes in red)**

Thorn Lodge – children
and young adults
(1 bed, **5 nights weekdays**)

Un-used section

**Adult's unit
(as below)**

**Adult's unit
(5 beds, 7 nights a week)**

**Children's unit
(2/4 beds, 5 nights weekdays)**

Offices
Meeting rooms
Activity spaces

Outdoor space

Children's unit
(5 beds, open 7 nights a week)

Hydro-therapy pool

Key benefits of the proposals

- More beds available for children and adults at Osborne Court
- Increasing beds for adults at Osborne Court means that:
 - More young people will continue getting respite as an adult on the same site meaning the move from children's to adult services will be smoother
 - Thorn Lodge can be used for children with more complex needs and those preparing to move to adult services (post 18)
- Refurbishments will mean units are better quality and children will have access to good facilities and outdoor space
- Would meet current and future respite/short break needs at a lower overall cost
- Proposals would deliver a stable, resilient, sustainable and responsive service for families that is not under constant review

Key concerns (subject to decision making process)

- Change for families currently using Ludlow Road
 - Transition plans need to be in place at the earliest opportunity ie discussed as part of consultation process and beyond
 - Earliest date from which changes would be implemented in full (for CYP) is April 2020
 - Travel and transport can be reviewed as part of transition planning for current service users

Key points for families

- The proposals would mean that current and future families would access overnight short breaks in units that:
 - Are flexible to respond to future assessed need
 - Can better support the move from children's to adult services where appropriate
 - Form part of a stable suite of short break provision
- Ludlow Road:
 - It is not possible for Ludlow Road to offer the same flexibility, sustainability and support including transition for young adults as can be delivered at Osborne Court – the costs to make changes at Ludlow Road would be much higher and still wouldn't deliver everything that Osborne Court can. Ludlow Road is not 'operationally viable or cost-effective provision' as a four bed self contained unit

Timeline

Date	Activity
22 nd May	Letter sent to parent carers with brief information giving link to report and invite to meeting (date already shared)
29 th May	Cabinet report published on WCC website (this is when the proposals will be made public)
Monday 3 rd June	Meeting with parent carers to explain proposals and information in Cabinet report
Tuesday 4 th June	CYP scrutiny panel consider report
Thursday 6 th June	Cabinet meeting – Cabinet to consider proposals and agree or disagree to consult on the proposals
<i>13th June – 1st August (responses will be considered after this date whilst report is drafted and agreed)</i>	Consultation (if agreed) – carried out through an online survey/written responses and meetings with families if requested
<i>18th – 25th September - provisional</i>	Cabinet report published – this will share the recommendations following the consultation (i.e. the final decision)
<i>Thursday 26th September - provisional</i>	Cabinet meeting – Cabinet will agree or disagree the final proposals
<i>1st April 2020</i>	If proposals are approved, this is the earliest date when the Osborne Court refurbishments are likely to be ready and families can move to Osborne Court/start accessing the additional bedrooms. Some families could choose to move to alternative units/provision earlier if necessary and available