

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...”

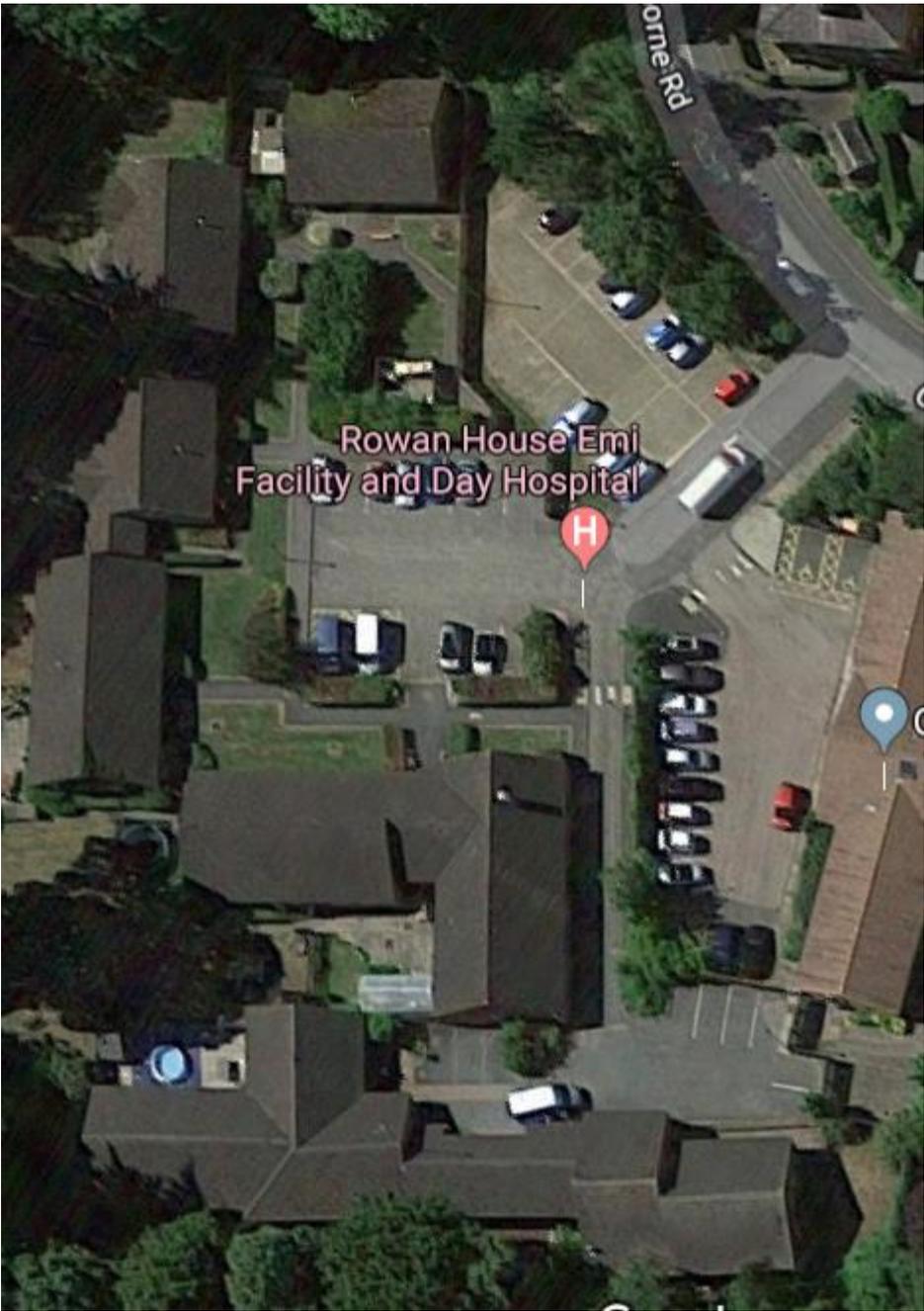
Cabinet report published on Wednesday 29th May 2019

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