

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE 15 APRIL 1999

NOTE: A full copy of the report mentioned below has been sent to all members of the Social Services Committee. If you have any queries on this report please contact Peter Hull, Room 222, County Secretary's Department, County Hall, Hertford. (Telephone: 01992 555565)

REVIEW OF ACCOMMODATION AND RESIDENTIAL CARE PROVISION FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

The review of residential and accommodation needs of people with learning disabilities has now been completed.

Change plans for the next four year cycle to achieve the required services in the east, north west and south west parts of the County have also been agreed as follows:-

1. East Area

The total number of new places is 118, comprising 69 from the existing services at Lintons, Hoddesdon, Spring House and Roehill House, Hatfield, and a growth of 49 places. The location of existing respite beds will be changed to create more flexible services.

The required new places will be provided as follows way:-

(a) Respite Care Provision

By removing the 6 places distributed between Apton Road, Bishops Stortford, Lintons, Roehill and Spring House. In addition, there are 2 further places required to reflect community need. The 8 resulting places will be provided on two sites in East Herts, in 2 units of 4, accommodating people with a range of disabilities.

(b) Residential Care Provision

By providing:-

- a 12 bedded unit for people with learning disability who have additional mental health requirements, on the Roehill site in Hatfield to accommodate 6 people with moderate and high/very high needs.
- a 12 bedded unit accommodating the needs of those who are elderly and frail on the Spring House site in Welwyn Garden City to accommodate 7 people with moderate needs and 5 with high or very high needs.
- a 12 bedded unit for people with downs syndrome who are suffering from the effects of premature aging on the Lintons site in Hoddesdon to accommodate people with low, moderate and a small number of high and very high need. This unit will accommodate the needs of those with a physical disability.
- a 12-bedded unit at Apton Road, Bishops Stortford to accommodate people with general needs who have moderate or low dependency. This unit will provide 3 more places than the predicted requirement but will then form a unit of a practical size to manage.
- a 12-bedded unit at Hoddesdon on the site of Lintons to accommodate people with severe behavioural problems who will be of moderate and high dependency.

(c) Supported Housing

A total of 25 places of 12 hour-supported housing is required. There will be two new proposed developments, one in Bishops Stortford and one in Ware, each for 7 places of supported housing. Negotiations are at an early stage but it is anticipated that these developments will provide a substantial amount of the County Council's requirement leaving a deficit of 11 places.

It is anticipated that this shortfall could be met by boosting the existing Housing Support Team in Hatfield to provide a higher level of support to vacancies existing in HCC staff group homes.(i.e. from independent to 12-hour support)

There is a requirement for 24 places of 24 hours supported housing. Dependent upon the availability of sites, two 12 bed supported housing units will be developed, one in Welwyn and one in Hoddesdon.

(d) Independent Tenancies

A total of 4 independent tenancies are required. It is anticipated that these can be provided through nominations to District Housing accommodation.

2. North West Area

The number of changes required to accommodation in the north west is relatively small, due to the St Albans Supported Living Scheme which has addressed the issues of inappropriate arrangements of services at two Hertfordshire County Council hostels, Roundwood and Beaconsfield Road. The former is being substantially refurbished, the latter replaced, with supported housing developments. The total number of new places required is 47. This comprises 43 places of new demand and 4 places lost through the St Albans scheme rearrangement.

The Panel placement process has also affected the arrangement of services at Lawn Lane, Hemel Hempstead and has made some of the necessary changes in private and voluntary provision in the Area. Changes required, therefore, are substantially reduced as they are already in progress.

(a) Respite care provision

Respite care is currently provided by a voluntary organisation and in 2 beds at Roundwood. Owing to registration standards the 2 beds cannot be provided at Roundwood in a long term care unit. The other respite care unit is unsuitable for this purpose, as it cannot cope with high needs physical disability or challenging behaviour without substantial alteration. Alternative arrangements will be made to site respite care in North West Herts in a separate unit where special facilities are available for people with physical disabilities and challenging behaviour. The total number of places to be provided will be 8 and places currently purchased in the private and voluntary sector will be re-used for people with low to moderate dependency.

(b) Residential care

A total number of 21 residential care beds are required, and provision will be made of a 12 bedded residential care unit on a site in Hemel Hempstead for people who are suffering from the effects of premature aging and who have a physical disability.

An 8-bedded unit will be required for people with moderate and high needs who have behaviour management difficulties and this unit will be placed on a site in the St Albans area.

It is anticipated that the remaining bed required can be purchased in existing private and voluntary care provision.

(c) Supported housing

A total of 14 places of 12 hour-supported housing is required. It is anticipated that 8 supported housing places of the 14 required will be provided on the Tring Library site.

This will leave a shortfall of 6 places and there is a requirement for nine, 24 hour supported housing places. A 15 place supported housing project will be developed with flexible staffing arrangements in order to incorporate the needs of both groups.

Staff support to existing HCC Group Homes will need to be increased in order to provide consistent levels of care across existing supported tenancies.

(d) Independent tenancies

A total of 3 independent tenancies are required. It is anticipated that these tenancies can be secured through nominations to a local Housing Association, which specialises in providing housing for people with learning disability.

3. South West Area

The requirement for change in south west Herts is not as significant as in other areas of the County. This is due to the large-scale development of resettlement projects within the south west and to ensure that all HCC hostels currently meet registration standards. The number and type of places currently available therefore in the main, meets the needs of the population of south west Herts.

The total number of places required is 40, which matches exactly the projected growth over the next 4 years. The required new places will be provided as follows:-

(a) Respite care

All respite care to be amalgamated on one site at Tannerswood Close, Abbots Langley. This will require extensive refurbishment and enlargement of the respite care unit and conversion of an existing office building, and will in turn free 3 respite beds, in the private and voluntary sector, which can be used for long term care for people with high physical dependency needs.

(b) Residential care

A total of 18 residential care places are required primarily for people with moderate to low dependency. It is proposed to develop a 12-bed unit for people who are aging with moderate to low dependency in the South Oxhey Area.

A new 6 bedded unit for people of moderate to high dependency with additional mental health needs is proposed for development in the Abbots Langley area.

(c) Independent tenancies

Only one independent tenancy is required and this will be met through district housing nominations.

(d) Supported housing

Staff support to existing HCC Group Homes will be increased to provide additional support during waking hours.

A total of 18 supported housing places are required, 7 with 24-hour support and 11 with 12-hour support. Two 9 bedded schemes will be developed, one in Hertsmere and one in 3 Rivers to ensure a fair distribution of learning disability resources across the South West Herts Area.

Detailed negotiations are to take place with District Council Housing Departments to establish joint plans for supported Housing developments in each quadrant of the County to determine the extent to which there is a need for the County Council to tender for such provision.

Work on the consultation strategy involving residents, relatives and carers is at an advanced stage. Meetings with the main advocacy organisations are planned to discuss and finalise detailed proposals regarding user and carer consultation in respect of development proposals and plans. A Conference of users and carers is planned in May to ensure there is broad support for the proposed strategy.

P A Webb
Chairman
County Hall, Hertford

15 April 1999