

FUTURE OF ELMHURST RESIDENTIAL HOME FOR OLDER PEOPLE

PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: SOCIAL CARE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING

CABINET

9TH OCTOBER, 2003

Wards Affected

County-wide (Elmhurst is within Aylestone Ward)

Purpose

To receive an update on the progress of discussions with HPCT regarding the development of an EMI Resource Centre as authorised by Cabinet on 13th March, 2003 and advise on possible next steps.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendations/Reasons

If, following the Primary Care Trust (PCT)'s final consideration, the option in 8(c) is not agreed, then Cabinet is asked to review the position and decide on which of the two following options should be pursued:

- (a) The gradual run down of existing services (with service protection for existing residents) to enable the disposal of the property as surplus to requirements; or**
- (b) Make all of Elmhurst available to SHAW as part of the transfer in order to achieve intermediate/interim care, day services and carer support for the user group. This would be on a tapering commissioning and contract arrangement. Over time, this would release resources for Older Peoples Services. In the short term, it would contribute to reducing delays in the NHS locally for this user group.**

Considerations

1. Existing services at Elmhurst are EMI Residential and Traditional Residential places, Respite and Day Care.
2. On 13th March, 2003, Cabinet authorised the Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing to work with Herefordshire Primary Care Trust to develop a resource centre for older people with mental health problems at Elmhurst Residential Home, and that Partnership discussions be extended to include an independent sector provider to operate the facilities at Elmhurst Residential Home.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Stephanie Canham on 01432-260320

3. No agreement has so far been reached with HPCT on the development of an EMI resource centre, and although they wish to continue discussions HPCT are primarily interested in Elmhurst as office accommodation which would enable the Department of Mental Health for Older People (DMHOP) to be co-located.
4. Such co-location would further the integration of services under the Health Act Flexibilities arrangements which are in place. However, Elmhurst is not particularly suited to office accommodation, although the disadvantages were originally considered to be offset by the potential community care benefits in incorporating this as part of the EMI resource centre.
5. The long-term residential provision at Elmhurst has been run down in anticipation of the revised services originally considered as likely requirements of the resource centre proposal.
6. The negotiations with SHAW around the remaining 5 care homes already anticipates an increase in EMI capacity in the order of 26 places. Due to enhanced community options for older people in Hereford City, Orchard House will, over time, also have the capacity to absorb the existing reduced services currently provided at Elmhurst including the EMI provision.
7. The transfer of the remaining 5 homes is planned for April 2004. After transfer the Council will not have the support infrastructure to retain Elmhurst within its own management arrangements.

Options:

8. Should agreement not be reached with the PCT within the next four weeks to enter into an arrangement consistent with the decision of this Cabinet on 13 March 2003, that consideration be given to the following options:
 - a) Offer SHAW homes the option to purchase or lease the home as a going concern for independent residential or alternative use. This would secure the current residents placement at the home, however it could require the eventual relocation of some services.
 - b) The Council negotiates a minimum commissioning commitment with SHAW. This would also secure the current residents position but to secure the long term operation of Elmhurst in this manner will present an additional unanticipated financial burden on the Council.
 - c) Make all of Elmhurst available to the PCT and SHAW to provide office accommodation and alternative services for older people with mental health needs. This would lead to a contribution to resources for Older People's Services. This is the current agreed option from Cabinet on 13 March 2003.
 - d) Offer the home for purchase on the open market as a going concern. This would provide the opportunity to secure the current residents' position in the short to medium term.

Risk Management

In relation to recommendation option (b), there will be additional financial risk for the Council, given that the original service shape and economic analysis indicated disposal of some capacity.

Consultees

Herefordshire (NHS) Primary Care Trust

Background Papers

None identified.