

## **RESPITE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES IN HEREFORDSHIRE**

**Report By: Head of Social Care (Adults)**

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

1. To update the Committee on the situation with respite care services for people with a learning disability.

### **Financial Implications**

2. There is a potential budget implication of up to £95,000, which would have to be accommodated within the budget planning process for 2005/2006.

### **Background**

3. In October 2004 the Committee received a report outlining the current situation with respite provision for people with learning disabilities in Herefordshire.
4. This report showed that although there was sufficient resource to meet current demand there were certain pressures on the service:
  - Respite beds blocked by emergency placements
  - The cancellation of planned respite because of emergency placements.
  - Nature of demand (weekends)
  - The changing needs of service users and their carers
  - Changing expectations and the availability of other support options.
  - CSCI (Commission for Social Care Inspection) requirements to split long and short stay provision.
5. The report identified the need to take some short-term actions to address the immediate pressures with the need for a longer-term strategy to meet the changing needs and demands.
6. This Committee requested that (a) options for future respite be explored further; (b) reasons for emergency admissions be explored further; a new strategy for short breaks be considered and referred to the Cabinet Member (Social Care and Strategic Housing), based on the review and subject to

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Lydia Bailey – Service Manager, Learning Disability Services on 01432 261555

considerations (a) and ( b); and feedback on the review recommendations be provided to the Committee.

7. The findings of the review which informed the Scrutiny Report have been used to identify issues that need an immediate response and those that need a longer-term solution.

### **Immediate response**

8. Separation of short and long-stay placements: Currently two respite beds have long-stay residents occupying them. We need to separate short-stay and long-stay placements, so that the different needs are not being met within the same house. The cost of moving these two people into long-term placements would be up to £95,000.

#### Proposal

- Over the past few months, it has been possible to reduce the number of blocked beds across the service and only two now remain.

It is proposed that we make a commitment to moving these two individuals on to new placements within a timescale agreed with CSCI and that we then implement the new interim placement agreement (Appendix 1) to ensure that any new emergency placements are moved on within an appropriate timescale.

9. Emergency Placements: We need to ensure that emergency placements are prevented wherever possible and that where they are inevitable, they are dealt with appropriately and within agreed timescales, so that beds do not remain blocked and that they do not become long-stay placements.

#### Proposal

- That we ensure that we have robust services to ensure that people who are in crisis can be supported, where appropriate, within their current placement and do not need emergency placements. This will be achieved by developing a crisis support service funded by the PCT as part of the PCT Local Development Plan (LDP) from April 2005.

10. Equitable allocation: We need to ensure that Short-breaks are allocated in an equitable and transparent way to all service users.

#### Proposals

- That we begin to develop more innovative ways of offering short-breaks or respite to carers on an individual level, based on person-centred planning.
- That we identify a transparent and equitable way of allocating short breaks to individuals, which takes into account their level of need and the other services which are being provided.
- That we learn from other Local Authorities, who have already tackled this issue, to ensure best practice.

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## Longer-term Issues

11. Changing demand: The needs of younger people coming into the service are different to those who are living with older carers and who are used to having a building based service. Therefore in the future there will be less demand for this type of service. More people will wish to have different patterns of service, including support at home, direct payments etc.
12. Changing need: Short-break services have to meet the needs of a range of individuals with very differing levels of need; this includes increased people with a profound and multiple disability. In the longer term our current resources may not be able to provide this service because of physical restrictions.

## Longer-term solutions

13. It is proposed that a longer term-piece of work is completed by a Change Manager for learning disability in partnership with the Service Manager, Assessment & Care Management, to identify future needs more accurately and enable the commissioning of appropriate services to provide short-breaks and emergency bed provision, alongside the development of innovative alternatives to this type of provision.

## RECOMMENDATION

**That the progress on the short break strategy be noted.**

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None