

Cllr Peter Black
Convener
Adult Services Scrutiny Panel

Please ask for: Councillor Mark Child
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Our Ref: MC/HS
Your Ref: ref
Date: 8 May 2018

Dear Cllr Black

Further to your Convenor's letter of 18th April in relation to the Residential Care and Day Service for Older People Commissioning Reviews, I have responded below to each point in turn that the Panel raised.

1. Panel would like to see some of the capacity for complex needs provision shared with other providers.

Response: This is currently, and will remain the case. People will have a choice between Council run and Independent Sector provision; it is just that we want to increase our capacity to deliver complex care as the independent sector are less able to increase theirs, and there is a growing need.

2. In relation to the proposed closure of the Parkway site, the Panel felt there was no clarity about what will happen to the site if it does close. It is noted that the value of this site was taken into account in assessing the decision to close it but witnesses were unable to provide any detail as to what that valuation was based on, and whether it was consistent with proposals in the report to retain it for private residential care nor who and how that ambition would be delivered.

Response: We cannot pre-empt any final decision on the way forward. Therefore, there are no firm proposals at this stage for the future use of the site should it close in the future. However, the Cabinet paper sets out some options that could be considered. As with all sites, should they become surplus to need there is a process to go through to maximise the asset value and the Council has a capital programme that currently prioritises school building. As Cabinet Member, if the proposals are agreed following the consultation, I will attempt to influence decisions surrounding the disposal of the site to the benefit of Social Services. In terms of the evaluation exercise, the value of all sites was calculated using exactly the same criteria so there was a fair comparison.

3. The Panel felt there was a possibility of strong opposition to the proposals from residents of Parkway and would like to know how the Authority will then proceed if a resident refused to leave.

Response: Effective communication and collaboration with both staff and residents will be critical to any successful outcome should the proposals proceed. If the proposals go forward, we would work with each individual to identify appropriate move on plans and support them through the process giving them the time they needed to make decisions. We therefore envisage that it is very unlikely that we would reach a position where a resident refused to leave. If this eventuality did occur, we would need to take appropriate legal advice surrounding how we managed the situation. Our previous experience of managing this type of situation when Cartref closed was that we were able to work with residents and their families effectively to find suitable alternative homes.

4. Panel felt that third party top up fees for private residential care is an issue which needs to be addressed. We felt that it could be a factor for some residents in choosing where they are to be rehoused but that this was not taken seriously enough in the responses to questions on the matter.

Response: At this stage, it is difficult to quantify whether the issue of top-up fees will be an issue for those residents affected. It will be entirely dependent on where individuals move onto, if top-up fees apply and if individuals feel that this is a significant factor in reaching a decision on the way forward. Each case will need to be looked at individually should this issue arise. In addition, the capital threshold that is taken into consideration when determining the financial contribution that individuals pay has increased to £40,000 this year, which will also reduce the amount that people need to pay over time.

5. Panel would like confirmation that there will be an annual review of all residents of residential care by competent people to assess their ongoing needs.

Response: Undertaking a review at least annually of all Local Authority funded residential care placements in Swansea is a statutory requirement. This review must be undertaken by a suitably qualified professional.

6. The Panel would like more detail on alternative day care provision for non-complex clients who will no longer be able to access the remaining three day centres for elderly people.

Response: As explained at the Panel, each individual will have a review. That review will determine if they have complex or non-complex needs. If they have non-complex needs, the social worker undertaking the review will work with the individual and their families/carers if appropriate to determine an individually tailored move on plan. This plan will not involve alternative day-care provision, but support to meet any identified needs. There are a huge number of events, locations, groups and meetings taking place all over all of our wards. The process, as happened in The Beeches, was to match up people with opportunities that suited them. This again would be worked on with Social Workers and Local Area Coordinators where we had them, and subject to follow ups to make sure everything was OK, and that frequently people said they were happier with the new arrangement than the Council service.

7. Of the two day centres which are due to close, one is in a very small and distant community from the city. The Panel would therefore like to know what provision is being made for Pontarddulais.

Response: Not all residents attending the Hollies Day Centre live in Pontarddulais itself. Some actually live nearer to other day services. Those who have complex needs will be offered an alternative place in another day service; in all likelihood for those in the Hollies, that will be Llys Y Werin in Gorseinon which is a short distance from Pontarddulais itself.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Child', written in a cursive style.

**Councillor Mark Child
Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing**