

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER

15 June 2016

Report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care

**CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF ADA BELFIELD
HOME FOR OLDER PEOPLE, BELPER**

ADULT CARE

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform Cabinet Member of the commencement of a period of consultation on the proposed closure of Ada Belfield Home for Older People in Belper ("Ada Belfield").

2. Information and Analysis

2.1 Background

On 3 May 2016 Cabinet approved a proposal to consult on the proposed closure of Ada Belfield. This report sets out the scope and practical arrangements for this consultation which will run from 16 June 2016 to 11 August 2016. This consultation will be on the basis that current and future residents in Ada Belfield would be supported to transfer to the new accommodation when it is completed and that Ada Belfield would only close once the new development is completed.

Cabinet was informed that the potential development of a new care home on Derwent Street, Belper (the former Thorntons factory site), as part of an integrated facilities scheme, is contingent upon the closure of Ada Belfield and that this new development would become a direct replacement for Ada Belfield. The home is in need of significant investment (in the order of £850,000) in terms of essential maintenance and refurbishment to meet minimum standards. In addition to the strategic need to develop specialist residential care for people with dementia in the Amber Valley area, there is also a need to maintain "non-top up" quality residential care. It is further

proposed that the new care home should be increased to 40 beds as this would assist with affordability in terms of the staffing model.

This proposed approach is a variation from the Revised Strategy for Accommodation and Support for Older People agreed by Cabinet on 16 June 2015. That report identified the need to retain Ada Belfield as there was a strategic importance to maintaining service provision in the Belper area. This remains the case. However, the revenue costs involved in maintaining the home are now considered to be unsustainable and it is, therefore, appropriate for consideration to be given to closing this home and replacing it with a new facility in Belper.

To make the proposed replacement home financially viable it would be necessary to use the current revenue budget for Ada Belfield to fund the new facility. On this basis, before the development of the new care home could proceed, it is essential that consultation takes place with residents and their families at Ada Belfield. In addition to this, the Council will carry out an Equality Impact Assessment in respect of the proposed closure. It should be noted that Ada Belfield will continue to operate business as usual; the home will be maintained to an acceptable standard and will continue to accept new clients irrespective of the consultation or its outcome. If Cabinet determines in due course, having considered the responses to the consultation and the Equality Impact Assessment, that the Ada Belfield should not close, the plans for the integrated scheme would need further revision and a further report to Cabinet.

2.2 Consultation

The proposed closure of Ada Belfield requires a period of a consultation prior to any decisions being made. The extent of the potential impact will be determined through the period of consultation and will be taken into consideration and reported to Cabinet as part of the final decision-making on the proposals. The proposals would also be subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment.

The consultation process would involve an explanatory letter being sent to all residents and/or their carer/advocate as appropriate. Meetings with residents and their relatives and other interested parties will also be held. This will include the wider local community who will have a legitimate interest in the future care home provision in the area. Consultees will have a number of ways to respond which will take into account the age group of the residents. The consultation period of 8 weeks will run from 16 June 2016 until 11 August 2016.

There are currently 22 residents living at Ada Belfield, in addition regular day care and respite care clients will also be involved in the consultation. Any move would not take place until a comprehensive person centred assessment

had been conducted in accordance with the Council's established procedure for closure of establishments set out in the "Major Change and Closure Guidance".

3. Financial Considerations

The costs of undertaking the consultation have been estimated to be £500, which is to be met from the Adult Care budget.

4. Human Resources Considerations

If, as a result of the consultation on the proposed closure of Ada Belfield, a decision is made by Cabinet to close the facility, appropriate consultation with staff and trade union representatives would need to be undertaken. However it is envisaged that at this stage all of the staff from Ada Belfield would transfer to the new service.

5. Legal Considerations

Proposals to make changes in service provision such as those outlined in this report require consultation with those affected, including service users, staff, carers and any other interested parties. Any final decisions must also take into account the rights of service users as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998, specifically Article 8, "Right to respect for private and family life". In assessing these proposals, the Council should also have regard to its statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 and equalities legislation.

6. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: Human Rights, equality of opportunity, health, environmental, transport, property, social return on investment and crime and disorder considerations.

7. Background Papers

None

8. Key Decision

No

9. Is it necessary to waive the call-in period?

No

10. Officer's Recommendation

That Cabinet Member notes the commencement of a period of consultation on the proposed closure of Ada Belfield Home for Older People.

That Cabinet member also notes that the consultation will be on the basis that current and future residents in Ada Belfield would be supported to transfer to the new accommodation when it is completed and that Ada Belfield would only close once the new development is completed.

That a report on the outcome of the consultation and an Equality Impact Analysis is prepared for the Cabinet meeting on 20 September 2016 at which point if it is decided that Ada Belfield should not close a revised business case on the new care home development would be required.

Joy Hollister
Strategic Director – Adult Care