

Stakeholder briefing – Learning Disability Breaks

Dear colleagues,

We're writing to inform you about forthcoming engagement about the use of NHS resources to meet the needs of people with a learning disability, and their family/carers across Derby and Derbyshire. These resources are currently being used to provide Learning Disability (LD) Short Breaks services in the north of Derbyshire.

Objective

By the end of the current Pre-Consultation Engagement, we aim to have answered the following questions:

- Can and should the NHS resources (which includes funding, workforce and buildings) that are currently being used to deliver NHS LD Short Breaks be used in a different way?
- What are the potential options?
- An assessment of how viable these options are.

The background

NHS Learning Disability Short Breaks are for people with a learning disability (LD).

They are provided in small residential units in the north of Derbyshire in a nursing led model of care.

Their aim is to provide a homely, enjoyable experience by caring for and engaging people with a learning disability in a variety of activities and social experiences of their choosing.

They are delivered by Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust (DCHS) and commissioned by Derby & Derbyshire Integrated Care Board (DDICB).

Services

The services are:

1. **Orchard Cottage in Darley Dale** - This is a detached bungalow, offering short-term respite, in adapted rooms with accessible baths and showers. It has been closed since November 2023 due to flooding.
2. **Rockley Core Units in Shirebrook, Bolsover** - These are two separate bungalows, offering short-term respite, in adapted rooms with accessible baths and showers. Rockley's capacity has been reduced by 50% since May 2023 because of the need to use half of the service for another purpose.
3. **Robertson Road Core Unit in Buxton** - This is a semi-detached house, with one ground floor ensuite.
4. **Amberley, Eckington, North Eastern Derbyshire** – closed prior to the pandemic due to staffing shortage.
5. **Valley View in Ashgreen, Chesterfield** – closed prior to the pandemic due to staffing shortage.

There has been a 43.9% reduction in the number of people using the short breaks since June 2018.

Around 60 people are currently using them, all of whom live in the north of Derbyshire. There are no equivalent NHS services in the south of Derbyshire, meaning those people who are eligible for respite typically use a local council or private provided service.

Our responsibility

Key policy and legislation requires all Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) to ensure that any care and support which people with LD and their families might need is high quality, person-centred, least restrictive and delivered as close to their home as possible.

Furthermore, all Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) have statutory responsibilities to:

- provide equity of access to services.
- deliver models of care in line with national guidance
- commission patient centred services which are fair, offer value for money, and are efficient and financially sustainable.

The purpose of the Joined Up Care Derbyshire Integrated Care System (ICS) is to bring partner organisations together to:

- improve outcomes in population health and healthcare;
- tackle inequalities in outcomes, experience, and access;
- enhance productivity and value for money; and
- help the NHS support broader social and economic development.

Case for change

There are several reasons why DDICB is considering the use of the resources currently used to deliver NHS LD Short Breaks services. These include:

- the potential health and wider inequalities that the current service model and criteria for access has created.
- the decline in number of people with an LD who use NHS LD Short Breaks.
- whether NHS LD Short Breaks makes the best use of the nurses and wider NHS roles currently used for delivery.
- the financial implications of continuing to deliver these services.

In the past NHS LD Short Breaks have only been available for people who live in the north of Derbyshire. Later, changes in policy, guidance and practice has meant that fewer referrals have been received for the services.

Those people who do not access these NHS services, but nevertheless are eligible

for respite support, they may have to make a financial contribution to their local government or private sector provided service.

Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board has been working alongside Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust and Derbyshire County Council to ensure that our health and care system is ready to have a more focused conversation with stakeholders, including people who use the service and their families, about whether Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board should continue to allocate its resources to the delivery of NHS LD Short Breaks.

Engagement

Regardless of when Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board have spoken to people who use NHS LD Short Breaks and their families the value that placed on the service has been consistent.

During the recent health and/or social care reviews, 97% of service users fed back that "there is nothing I dislike about NHS LD Short Breaks."

Recognising this, the Pre-Consultation Engagement has been designed to:

- provide enough time for meaningful engagement and co-design, with a 12-week programme and over sixty hours' worth of drop ins and workshops scheduled
- allow multiple ways by which people can have their voices heard including: face to face workshops, a website, email and mailboxes and the opportunity for individual meetings if times allows.
- ensure that everyone across Derby & Derbyshire who has an interest the best possible opportunity to have their voices heard by:
 - the offer of advocacy support for those people with LD who use NHS LD Short Breaks and their families.
 - a comprehensive Derby & Derbyshire wide Engagement Plan.

A full list of the opportunities to take part is published on the [DDICB engagement platform](#).

Next steps

Once the 12-week period has finished we will analyse what people have said to us and we will report back to Derbyshire County Council's Health Improvement and Scrutiny Committee.

To read the full case for change, see details of where and how you can give your views and all other accompanying materials, please visit the [DDICB engagement platform](#). A news story is also published on the [JUCD website](#).

Please circulate this briefing to interested colleagues.