

People Scrutiny Committee – 26th November 2013
Public Questions

Priory & Delaware

Questions from David Easton to the Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care, Health & Housing

Question 1

All persons diagnosed with Dementia will be given a clinical rating as a result of their periodic MMSE test. Will the Council use that grading to define placement and ensure that Care Homes they wish to use understand the relevant term and are appropriately staffed and equipped (Hoists etc).

Answer 1

All current residents of Priory House will have a full assessment to ensure their needs are identified prior to locating to an alternative care home. The assessment will take into account all relevant information and residents will only move to a care home which is able to meet their needs.

Question 2

Given that some research suggests that the only thing that significantly reduces mortality rates in people with dementia who are moved from one residential home to another is the fact of transferring their known and familiar carers from their former home to the new home, can Councillors confirm that the staff team at Delaware House - at the time of transfer - will transfer with residents to the new service?

Answer 2

Residents currently in Delaware House will be remaining where they are and when we find a partner organisation to undertake the redevelopment, those residents will move over to the new building with support from staff to minimise any disruption or distress.

Staffing levels will continue to reflect the level of need of the residents at that time. All decisions about staffing will be made under the Council's relevant HR procedures.

Questions from Jacqueline Gardner to the Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care, Health & Housing

Question 1

The Council stated recently that if they felt it necessary to demolish the existing Delaware building, the residents would be moved only once. Can the Council confirm this today for the peace of mind of the residents and families and that the new facility will be built on the existing site?

Answer 1

There is no fixed plan as to where new facility will be located. It could be on the Delaware site as a new build or extension or a new build on another site. We will plan the work so that residents only need to move once.

Question 2

The council has acknowledged that it would be hard to find comparable dementia care to Delaware in the market (5.4d of the consultation document refers). Where, then, should residents be moved if the need arises during refurbishment or rebuild of Delaware?

Answer 2

If Delaware House is refurbished or rebuilt we will plan the work so that residents only need to move once.

Questions from Len Smith to the Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care, Health & Housing

Question 1

If the council decides to close Priory House what level of funding is the council prepared to pay to enable me to find a comparable home for my mother. Mr Boyle said at one of the meetings that if the home closed we would not be held to contract rates. can you confirm this will be upheld and for how long ?

Answer 1

We will find residents new homes that meet their needs and as long as they are reasonable, and within the available budget, the council will agree the costs.

Question 2

I am aware of the on-line Dynamic purchasing system which I find immoral and would ask for reassurance that you will not put my mother out for ' bidding ' and offer a choice of three homes as you do other vulnerable residents of Southend. What happens if I don't like any of the homes available?

Answer 2

It has been agreed that no residents from Priory will go through this process.

Questions from Grahame Addecott to the Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care, Health & Housing

Question 1

What level of funding will there be for (*family member*) to move in due course to a home comparable to Priory House? (Hold to contract rates?).

Answer 1

We will find residents new homes that meet their needs and as long as they are reasonable, and within the available budget, the council will agree the costs.

Question 2

Will a resident be placed in a new home with little or no consultation, or can (we) use the 18 month period as a time to find 3 or 4 private homes which are suitable for her?

Answer 2

No resident will be moved without the full involvement of the resident, relatives and other appropriate professionals. The 18 month period is to make sure we do this in the correct way with the least amount of disruption.

Questions from Lindsay Easton to the Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care, Health & Housing

Question 1

Will the Council maintain the ratio of staff to residents currently in operation at Delaware House in the new facility and will all the staff move with all the residents as is good practice in minimising trauma and deaths?

Answer 1

Residents currently in Delaware House will be remaining where they are and when we find a partner organisation to undertake the redevelopment, those residents will move over to the new building, with support from staff to minimise any disruption or distress.

Staffing levels will continue to reflect the level of need of the residents at that time. All decisions about staffing will be made under the Council's relevant HR procedures.

Question 2

Given that the Council has no detailed plans to share at this stage, what new consultation process is envisaged for planning and agreeing the process of moving residents and staff from Delaware House to the new facility and when is it envisaged that this process will start?

Answer 2

Once we have a partnership in place, a Project Board will be established to oversee the work. Detailed project plans will be drawn up and residents, relatives and staff will be involved in the planning for any move.

Questions from Catherine Noakes to the Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care, Health & Housing

Question 1

When a potentially violent resident needs to be moved, his challenging behaviour may lead to the need of him being sectioned, as previously. To avoid the trauma to other residents, social workers, police, family and all staff who may be involved in managing a dementia sufferer's care, will the Council assess such residents and minimise the number and distance of their moves to avoid the indignity to all concerned?

Answer 1

All residents will be individually assessed and any move required will be planned sensitively taking into account the specific needs of the individual. The primary aim will be to minimise any distress to residents.

Question 2

Would the Council confirm that the footprint of any propose new facility will be large enough to provide adequate width corridors for the required large recliner chairs on wheels together with passing spaces and rooms large enough for two or more carers to attend to the needs of their residents together with adequate space for visitors when residents may not be well enough to move to the lounge?

Answer 2

Any new facility will be designed to meet the needs of current and future residents.