

LD Respite Public Consultation – Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why is this consultation happening?**

This consultation is happening so that the Tees Clinical Commissioning Groups can hear what people think about the CCGs proposals about how respite for people with Learning Disabilities and complex needs is provided. The current services that are commissioned directly by the CCGs are not sustainable, equitable or flexible enough to meet the current and changing needs of the local population. Talking to people will help the CCGs to improve respite services to better meet the needs of people with learning disabilities and complex needs, their families and carers. The CCGs are reviewing the services that are provided by the NHS and have found that there are many complexities in providing respite. Talking to people involved will help everyone understand the needs and the challenges.

- **Does this affect adults and children's LD services?**

This respite project will affect services for adults with Learning Disabilities and Complex Needs. Services for children and young people will be unaffected by the consultation but it will be important to hear the views of children and young people with Learning Disabilities and Complex Needs in relation to respite, particularly those who are approaching adulthood.

- **Have you already decided to close the overnight bed based provision at 2 Bankfields Court and Aysgarth?**

This is one of the options that is being considered and may be a possible outcome following the consultation process. There are no decisions that have been made about continuing or closing either facility at this time. The CCGs recognise that it is really important that there is a flexible range of options for people who have respite needs and that bed based provision will need to be still available as an option for the future in addition to alternative options. All respite options will need to be allocated in accordance with assessed needs.

- **Does this just affect respite overnight or the day services I attend?**

This mainly affects overnight respite services that are currently commissioned by the CCGs but may affect some of the day services that you attend. The choice of options available should increase, for example this might mean that there are extended sessions available at the day services.

- **Will I still be able to access my usual respite care during this consultation?**

Yes you will be able to access your respite services during the consultation. There will be no changes made to the services that are currently available until the consultation has finished.

- **Is this about cost cutting?**

The respite review is not about cost cutting or saving money. The same amount of money will still be available for respite across Tees. It is important that this money is spent wisely to make sure that people's needs can be met by the services that will be available. The CCGs recognise that value for money is really important and that the money is spent effectively and efficiently to meet the required outcomes for the people who need to use the service.

- Have you already decided to close the overnight bed based provision at 2 Bankfields Court and Aysgarth?
- **I currently access transport to get me to overnight and day respite services, will this change?**

Transport to respite services may change. Transport needs will be included and considered as part of assessment of need and care and support planning and an individual's health and social care budget may include provisions for transport.

- **If other beds are available, where will they be located?**

This has yet to be decided and would be included as part of any procurement exercise. If other beds are available instead of the current locations at Bankfields and Aysgarth, it will be important that the beds are available locally so that people can get services near to where they live. The CCGs recognise that it is important that the services are available across Tees and that individuals don't have to travel too far to get their services.

- **I/my family currently receive a good service and want things to stay as they are; why isn't this an option?**

The current respite services are struggling to meet the needs of their users and the parents and carers. Future respite needs are changing and the services need to accommodate these changes. It is important that available resources are allocated fairly and in response to the assessed needs of individuals and it is important that services are viable and sustainable for the future and are able to respond flexibly and quickly to changes in need and demand for the service.

- **Will the new services stay in the NHS or will a private provider be used?**

This will depend on the market and what the outcomes of the procurement will be. There is potential for respite services to be provided partly by NHS providers and partly by private providers.

- **Why are only two options being consulted upon?**

There were seven scenarios that were considered originally, ranging from complete closure of services to wholly community based outreach services, excluding bed based offer. The CCGs considered each of the options against a set of criteria based on the feedback from the initial engagement exercises and from the findings of the review. The two options that are being put forward for consultation are the possible options that best meet the needs and identified priorities for the people who use the service and for the CCGs. The other options were not good at meeting all the priority areas.

- **If Bankfields and Aysgarth close, what will happen to the staff?**

Depending on how services are purchased in the future and whether all or part of the current services continue, it may be that some staff are redeployed within existing NHS services, or they may be transferred to any new provider(s) that are appointed following procurement. Alternatively, the respite services may be delivered more flexibly in the community rather in hospital settings and the staff may still deliver (part of) the service but just do it in a different way.

- **Are Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust supportive of your approach?**

Yes, the CCGs are working closely with Tees Esk and Wear Valleys managers and staff to develop the respite offer and to develop a needs led assessment and allocations criteria. They support the approach to widen the offer and improve choice for people to ensure that needs and personal outcomes are met more appropriately.

- **What are the differences between the two options?**

With both options, there will be a needs led assessment and allocations process which will change how resources are allocated and with both options there will be the opportunity for people to have different types of respite/short breaks.

The differences are;

Option 1 – people would not get bed based respite from 2 Bankfields Court and Aysgarth, but could get alternative bed based respite services elsewhere e.g. in another residential community setting or a hotel, specially adapted caravan/chalet, B&B, or alternative accommodation, with the appropriate support. Depending on the assessed needs and resource allocation, people will be able to access alternative community based activities with appropriate support, in addition to or Instead of bed based provision. Different community bed based respite services are often less expensive than hospital bed based provision and peoples allocated resources may be able to go further.

Option 2 – Some people could still go to 2 Bankfields Court and/or Aysgarth for bed based respite services, if this is how they chose to receive their respite. Depending on their assessed need and resource allocation they may have the opportunity to access alternative community based services in addition to or instead of bed based services. Because of the need for ongoing

investment within the current NHS services there may be fewer opportunities for people to access alternative respite and short break opportunities.

- **The financial envelope is remaining the same, how is Option 2 affordable when you will still be paying £1.5 million for the beds in Aysgarth and 2 Bankfields?**

Depending on the outcomes of the consultation and analysis of the feedback, it could be that fewer beds are purchased within current settings and the financial resources will be used to provide people with a broader range of options to choose from which can more flexibly meet their respite needs. Different community based alternatives are often less expensive than hospital bed based provision and peoples allocated resources may be able to go further and enable them to achieve improved personal outcomes.

- **If the beds are continuing in Option 2, how will you be able to buy flexible community based respite services and outreach support services, where will the money come from?**

Depending on the outcomes of the consultation and analysis of the feedback, it could be that fewer beds are purchased within current settings and the financial resources will be used to provide people with a broader range of options to choose from which can more flexibly meet their respite needs. Different community based alternatives are often less expensive than hospital bed based provision and peoples allocated resources may be able to go further and enable them to achieve improved personal outcomes.

With both options, there will be a needs led assessment and allocations process which will change how resources are allocated and with both options there will be the opportunity for people to have different types of respite/short breaks, depending on the needs of each individual.

- **How will respite be allocated in future?**

With both options, there will be a needs led assessment and allocations process which will change how resources are allocated and with both options there will be the opportunity for people to have different types of respite/short breaks, depending on the needs of each individual.

- **If you go with option 2, will the number of beds reduce?**

Depending on the outcomes of the consultation and analysis of the feedback, it could be that fewer beds are purchased within one or both of the current NHS bed based settings. Alternative services, as described in the menu of services will be available for people to access to meet their needs.

- **What does the assessment and allocation process consist of?**

The assessment and allocations process is still being developed.

There are two main elements to the assessment and allocations process which considers the health respite needs of the individual and the circumstances and respite needs of the carer.

The assessment tool will result in a banding and subsequent resource allocation which will be responsive to the identified needs for each individual and their family.

The eligible health needs element considers the person's needs in relation to day to day living for example personal hygiene and dressing, nutritional needs and support, keeping themselves and others safe, supporting behaviours and other specific personal needs. The principles of this are centred around the Continuing Health Care Decision Support Tool.

The Carer circumstances and needs element considers what services are currently being received, the informal network of support that exists within the family and also the impact of the caring role on the person's wellbeing and ability to work or enjoy family life. The principles of this part are centred around the provisions of the Care Act 2015.

- **Who will carry out the assessment process?**

Depending on the circumstances of the individual and how they are known to services, the people undertaking the assessment and allocations process could be either the person's Care Manager or Care Co-ordinator, the Community Nurse or the Continuing Health Care Nurse Assessors. In each case the person who is undertaking the assessment, will do so with the person and their family and will engage with other relevant professionals who are working alongside the individual and their family.

- **What happens if there is overwhelming support for option 2?**

Hartlepool & Stockton on Tees CCG and South Tees CCG will consider the views of the people who have contributed to the consultation and will use this feedback to decide which option to go with that responds to the consultation findings and that best meets the needs and achieves the desired outcomes for the local populations.

- **How can I make my views known?**

Take part in events; complete the Learning Disability Respite Consultation survey. There is also a communications and engagement email inbox (NECSU.engagement @nhs.net) as well as a telephone number (0191 374 2795) that you will be able to contact.

- **When will any changes take place?**

Any changes to NHS respite services will take place on or after 1st September 2018.

- **When will a final decision be made?**

A final decision about what respite services will look like in the future will be made by the end of January 2018.

- **How will I find out?**

Information about the final decisions about what respite services will be like in the future will be publicised on the CCG websites. As part of the consultation activities there will be the opportunity to leave your contact details and people will be contacted directly after the consultation has finished.

These FAQ's are also available in an easy read format, which is available by contacting the NECS Engagement Team on 0191 374 2795 or NECSU.engagement@nhs.net