

# Have your say on proposed changes to residential care and short breaks (respite care) for people with learning disabilities in Leicestershire



## Tell us how this might affect you

Online: [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/residential\\_care\\_and\\_short\\_breaks](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/residential_care_and_short_breaks)

For general enquiries or comments about this consultation  
phone **0116 305 5060** or email [carehomes@leics.gov.uk](mailto:carehomes@leics.gov.uk)

Public consultation: Please submit your views by midnight on **15 April 2018**

## Why change?

The Care Act 2014 sets out the council's duty to provide care and support for adults with eligible needs and to carers. The implementation of the Act changes the council's focus from providing particular services to instead meeting the needs of adults who require care and support. This recognises that everyone's needs are different and personal to them, and that the council must consider how to meet each person's specific needs on an individual basis. The Care Act also places duties on council's to ensure that suitable services are available to meet local need.

Hamilton Court Residential Home in Coalville, The Trees Residential Home (Ashwood and Beechwood) in Hinckley and Smith Crescent Short Breaks Service in Coalville are specialist services for people with learning disabilities. They were all built some time ago, are dated in terms of their facilities, and their layouts are not particularly accessible for people with physical and sensory disabilities. This has had an impact on the number of people able to make use of the services, which is reducing, and presents challenges to delivering sustainable services in the longer term. There have been no new referrals to the long term residential services at Hamilton Court and the Trees since October 2013. During 2017 the average occupancy rate at Smith Crescent was 38 per cent. In contrast, other short breaks services in the county had occupancy rates of 70-75 per cent for the same period.

Hamilton Court, The Trees (Ashwood and Beechwood) Residential Care Homes and Smith Crescent Short Breaks Service would require considerable immediate work to improve accessibility, modernise and repair the building. In the next five years maintenance costs of about £80,000 would be required for Smith Crescent and Hamilton Court. Additional significant investment would be required to improve the accessibility of the buildings.

The overall demand for residential care is reducing as we seek alternative options that support residents to remain in the community and as independent as possible. Many people who would have previously gone into residential care are now supported to find alternatives in the community which is better for their health and wellbeing. This coupled with issues around the accessibility of the buildings mean that the current vacancies in long stay residential services are unlikely to be filled by new people, making the service unsustainable in the long term.

There are a number of alternative independent residential care homes in the areas. The table below shows the number of homes and beds, and numbers for people with a learning disability aged 18-64 years in North West Leicestershire and Hinckley and Bosworth.

Area	Total number of care homes (beds)	Total number of care homes for adults aged 18-64 years registered for learning disabilities (beds)
North West Leicestershire	21 (593)	6 (108)
Hinckley and Bosworth	24 (707)	7 (74)
Leicestershire	166 (4,638)	31 (412)

There continues to be a need for accessible short breaks services and this type of service is not consistently available from the Independent Sector (the council provides most of these services directly). We are in the process of converting five of the short break beds on the site of The Trees into supported living accommodation for people with complex needs. As short breaks services, these beds were not well used due to being two-storey, having steep stairs, with no lift. To ensure there are sufficient accessible short breaks facilities to meet needs we want to create an additional 8 fully accessible new short break bedrooms. The best site available for these places would be at The Trees in Hinckley, alongside the existing short breaks service.

## **The council is proposing to:**

- Support the 11 residents to access suitable alternative accommodation/services and close Hamilton Court in Coalville and The Trees (Ashwood and Beechwood) in Hinckley.
- Close the 6-bedded short breaks service at Smith Crescent in Coalville and support the individuals accessing the service to make use of short breaks facilities elsewhere in the county.
- Expand short break facilities at The Trees in Hinckley through the closure, reconfiguration and refurbishment of The Trees (Ashwood and Beechwood)

The implementation of these proposals would enable the council to meet the changing needs of people who require social care services and save the council around £100,000 per year.

## **Services affected by this consultation are:**

- Hamilton Court Residential Home in Coalville
- The Trees Residential Home (Ashwood and Beechwood) in Hinckley
- Smith Crescent Short Breaks Service, Coalville and The Trees in Hinckley

## **What are the current services?**

### **• Hamilton Court Long Stay Residential Home**

Hamilton Court is a residential care home located in Coalville which is owned and operated by Leicestershire County Council. The home provides 24 hour on site support to eligible people with learning disabilities. The maximum occupancy of the home is seven however at the start of January 2018 there were four long term residents at the home. The property is two storeys and has two bedrooms on the ground floor and five bedrooms on the first floor.

### **• The Trees (Ashwood and Beechwood) Long Stay Residential Home**

The Trees (Ashwood and Beechwood) is a residential care home located in Hinckley which is owned and operated by Leicestershire County Council. The home provides 24 hour on site support to eligible people with learning disabilities. The maximum occupancy of the home is nine however at the start of January 2018 there were seven long term residents at the home.

Recently, we started to convert short break accommodation at The Trees in Hinckley into supported living accommodation (Lilac and Laburnum) and we refurbished and modernised Cedarwood short break accommodation. The proposed closure of Ashwood and Beechwood on the same site would provide an opportunity to redesign and refurbish these buildings to create an additional 8 fully accessible short break bedrooms. This would result in a total of 12 short break bedrooms on the site.

### • **Smith Crescent Short Breaks Service**

Smith Crescent is an accommodation based respite or short breaks service located on the same site as Hamilton Court, in Coalville. The building is two storeys, has six bedrooms and can accommodate up to six eligible people at any given time, dependent on the needs and compatibility of those staying there. Three of the bedrooms are on the ground floor and three on the first floor. The property was not purpose built, and is not well suited to support people with physical disabilities.

The service is used by eligible individuals needing 24 hour support who usually live with their family, and stay overnight; to provide a break to them and their family and/or carers. Unlike residential care, the short breaks service can be used for one night or several. Although the need for short break accommodation continues to be high, the service at Smith Crescent is not well used and in the last 12 months on average only two of the six bedrooms were made use of. Other short breaks services operated by the council across Leicestershire see much higher occupancy rates ranging from 70-75 per cent, compared to 38 per cent at Smith Crescent.

Despite the challenges associated with the design and layout of the buildings, latest CQC inspections (January 2017 for Smiths Crescent, July 2016 for Hamilton Court and October 2017 for The Trees) rated the services as being good overall, and 'Good' in relation to safety, effectiveness, caring, responsive and well-led.

## **Our Proposals in detail:**

### **Residential Care Homes**

We are proposing to support residents to find and move to suitable alternative support and accommodation and close Hamilton Court in Coalville and The Trees (Ashwood and Beechwood) in Hinckley.

Should closure of the service be agreed, the individual needs of each current resident of the homes would be reviewed in planning the services they receive in the future. We would involve them, their families/carers, and anyone else who knows them well in an assessment of their individual support requirements. The assessment would establish the services they need, what types of accommodation they would be interested in moving to and where they would like to be located.

The proposed change would lead to a reduction in residential care home beds for adults with learning disabilities. We believe there is sufficient long stay residential care accommodation in the Independent Sector available in the Coalville and Hinckley areas to meet demand and we are therefore proposing not to replace the current capacity.

## **Short breaks accommodation**

We are proposing to close the short breaks accommodation at Smith Crescent in Coalville and to expand the short breaks accommodation at The Trees in Hinckley through reconfiguration and refurbishment of the current residential care facilities. The new accommodation would have up to 8 fully accessible beds (in addition to the 4 existing beds at the service).

Support would be provided to those people currently accessing the short breaks service to ensure that they can continue to access short breaks as required. The improved facilities at The Trees Short Break Service in Hinckley would become an option for those people, along with other short breaks services in the county, located in Wigston and Melton.

Options for the future of the Smith Crescent and Hamilton Court site at Coalville would be explored. The size and location of the site provides opportunities for the development of accommodation based services for people with social care needs.

## **How will the consultation work?**

The consultation begins on 19 February and will end at midnight on 15 April 2018.

To submit your views please fill out the consultation survey and make sure it reaches us by midnight on 15 April 2018 at the latest. The survey is available online at: [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/residential\\_care\\_and\\_short\\_breaks](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/residential_care_and_short_breaks)

There will be consultation meetings for the current residents and users of Hamilton Court, Smith Crescent and The Trees, and/or their family members, carers and staff. Advocacy support will be available, as required, to ensure that current residents are able to participate.

Paper copies of the survey are available on request by calling 0116 305 5060.

If you are able to, please complete this survey online.

If you need help to complete this questionnaire or have any questions about the consultation, please call 0116 305 5060 or email [carehomes@leics.gov.uk](mailto:carehomes@leics.gov.uk)

Your feedback will be used to inform the decisions about these proposals.

## **What happens next?**

When the consultation closes, we will analyse the feedback and review the proposals. The reviewed proposals and the consultation findings will be presented to the council's Cabinet in summer 2018, where a decision will be made on how to proceed.

## You can view the latest information in a number of ways

Visit us online [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/haveyoursay)

Our web pages will be kept up-to-date with the latest information and developments. You'll also be able to access the survey here.

Follow us @leicscountyhall for general updates from the council, including the developments on the budget.

Alternatively, you can telephone **0116 305 5060** to ask for information in printed or alternative formats.

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ਚਾਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੋ ਤੇ 0116 305 5060 ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ  
ਅਸੀਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਮਦਦ ਕਰਵਾ ਅਵਸਥਾ ਕਰੀਯਾਂਗੇ।

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਕੁਝ ਮਦਦ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ  
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ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਦਵਾਂਗੇ।

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সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয়, তবে 0116 305 5060 এই নম্বরে  
ফোন করলে আমরা উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির ব্যবস্থা করবো।

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0116 305 5060 اور ہم آپ کی مدد کے لئے کسی کا انتظام کر دیں گے۔

假如閣下需要幫助，用你的語言去明白這些資訊，  
請致電 0116 305 5060，我們會安排有關人員為你  
提供幫助。

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tej informacji  
w Twoim języku, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 305 5060,  
a my Ci pomożemy.