

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



Tell us how this might affect you

Online: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/short-break-changes

For general enquiries or comments about this consultation
phone 0116 305 5223 or email ShortBreaksConsultation@leics.gov.uk

Public consultation: Please submit your views by midnight on 20 June 2021.

Why change?

The Care Act 2014 sets out the council's requirements to provide care and support to adults with eligible needs and their carers. 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. The Act also places duties on councils to ensure that suitable services are available to meet local need.

In June 2018, proposals to develop a replacement Short Breaks facility on the site occupied by Hamilton Court residential care home and Smith Crescent Short Breaks Service were approved. This would have given the council sufficient short breaks accommodation in the county to meet demand and ensure that the long-stay residents of The Trees would be able to continue residing in the care home following a period of refurbishment.

In February 2019, funding was approved to develop supported living accommodation and a replacement short breaks facility on the site currently occupied by Smith Crescent Short Breaks Service in Coalville, and the former residential care home, Hamilton Court. This site is known as Cropston Drive, Coalville.

A tender to build the proposed development has recently been paused as the council did not receive bids in line with the funding that was made available. At the same time, reviews of the care and support needs of former residents of The Trees have been completed, leading to an opportunity to review the future use of the refurbished accommodation at the site in Hinckley.

We now want to consider how best to use the existing accommodation, as opposed to developing additional short breaks provision in Coalville. This would allow the council to consider the best use of the Cropston Drive site to meet the future care and support needs of the whole community.

Services affected by this consultation are:

- Smith Crescent Short Breaks Service in Coalville – The council is proposing to close the short breaks service at Smith Crescent in Coalville and support the individuals accessing the service to make use of the short breaks facilities elsewhere in the county.
- The Trees Residential Home in Hinckley – The council is proposing to use the whole of The Trees in Hinckley for the provision of short breaks.

Smith Crescent

Smith Crescent is an accommodation based respite / short breaks service for people with learning disabilities located in Coalville. It was built some time ago and is dated in terms of its facilities and its layout. 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 who 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 service is currently suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the limitations of the building have resulted in a decreasing number of people being able to make use of the service and presents challenges to delivering sustainable services in the longer term.

The Trees

The Trees Residential Care Home in Hinckley has recently benefited from a £1.1 million refurbishment to improve the facilities that are available, reflecting that good, high quality care remains a priority for the council. The investment was originally made to enable the former long-stay residents to return to their place of residence once the refurbishment had been completed. As the residents have all now made the decision to remain in their alternative placement, the council will need to decide how best to fully utilise the newly refurbished facilities.

The building comprises of two areas. Cedarwood is the current short breaks accommodation, which has four beds available.

The overall demand for long-stay residential care for adults with learning disabilities is reducing as we seek alternative options that support people 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. It would not be in line with the council's strategic direction for The Trees to return to providing long-stay residential care services.

Service availability

There continues to be a need for accessible short breaks services locally and this type of service is not consistently available from the Independent Sector (the council provides most of these services directly).

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the need for short break accommodation continued to be high, although the service at Smith Crescent is not as well used as other short breaks services across Leicestershire. Services based at Melton, Wigston and Hinckley see much higher occupancy rates ranging from 70-75 per cent, compared to 40 per cent at Smith Crescent.

Currently, The Trees uses four of its available beds for the purposes of short breaks, these proposals set out our plans to use all 12 beds at The Trees for short breaks. The impact of the proposals is set out in the table below, which shows the current and proposed future availability of services.

Current Service Availability		Proposed Service Availability	
Carlton Drive, Wigston	7 beds	Carlton Drive, Wigston	7 beds
Melton Short Breaks, Melton	5 beds	Melton Short Breaks, Melton	5 beds
The Trees, Hinckley	4 beds	The Trees, Hinckley	12 beds
Smith Crescent, Coalville	6 beds	Smith Crescent, Coalville	0 beds
Total	22 beds	Total	24 beds

Changes to Smith Crescent Short Breaks Service

We are proposing to close the short breaks accommodation at Smith Crescent in Coalville and to use the recently reconfigured and refurbished accommodation at The Trees in Hinckley for the purposes of short breaks. 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 in Hinckley would become an option for those people, along with other short breaks services in the county, located in Wigston and Melton.

The support would be tailored on an individual case-by-case basis and will consider things like transport arrangements, access to existing daytime support and transitional stays that are not part of their existing care and support plans.

Changes to The Trees Residential Home

The recently refurbished area of The Trees has eight fully accessible bedrooms and associated communal space. This area was due to reopen for the former long-stay residents to return to, however they have all made a decision to remain in their alternative placement. The proposal is to use the newly refurbished area for short breaks. This would result in a total of 12 short break bedrooms on the site - comprising of the eight newly refurbished beds, in addition to the four already used on the site for short breaks. The overall number of short breaks beds in the county would increase from 22 to 24.



How will the consultation work?

The views of people who are directly affected by these proposals are really important to us. In advance of this consultation taking place, direct engagement with people who go to Smith Crescent, their families, and staff who work there, has taken place so that we can understand in more detail what they think of the changes being put forward.

The formal consultation begins on 10 May and will end at midnight on 20 June 2021.

To submit your views please fill out the consultation survey and make sure it reaches us by midnight on 20 June 2021 at the latest. The survey is available online at: **www.leicestershire.gov.uk/short-break-changes**

There will be consultation discussions with users of SmithCrescent, and/or their family members, carers and staff. Advocacy support will be available, as required, to ensure that current users are able to participate.

Paper copies of the survey are available on request by calling 0116 305 5223.

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 5223 or email

ShortBreaksConsultation@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 2021, 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

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 5223 to ask for information in printed or alternative formats.

જો આપ આ માહિતી આપની ભાષામાં સમજવામાં થોડી મદદ ઇચ્છતાં હો તો 0116 305 5223 નંબર પર ફોન કરશો અને અમે આપને મદદ કરવા વ્યવસ્થા કરીશું.

જેવર તુહાનું ઇસ જાણકારી નું સમજણ વિષે કુચ મદદ ચાહીલી હૈ તાં વિરખા કરવે 0116 305 5223 નંબર કે ફોન કરે અઝે અસીં તુહાડી મદદ લઈ વિસે હા પૂર્ણ કર દવાંગે।

এই তথ্য নিজের ভাষায় বুঝার জন্য আপনার যদি কোন সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয়, তবে 0116 305 5223 এই নম্বরে ফোন করলে আমরা উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির ব্যবস্থা করবো।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات سمجھنے میں کچھ مدد درکار ہے تو براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر کال کریں 0116 305 5223 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 5223，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 5223, a my Ci pomożemy.

