

Councillor Stephen Thomas
Chair Adult Services Committee
Hartlepool Borough Council

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20 October 2017

North East Commissioning Support Unit

Dear Sir/Madam

**NHS SOUTH TEES CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP AND NHS HARTLEPOOL AND STOCKTON-ON-TEES CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP CONSULTATION
TRANSFORMING CARE REVIEW –
RESPITE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES/COMPLEX NEEDS**

Hartlepool Borough Council's Adult Services Committee received a report and presentation on 5 October 2017 regarding the Public Consultation on Health Respite Care for Adult with Learning Disabilities. The Committee considered the two options presented for consultation, and expressed support for Option 1 which involves commissioning 'a range of beds in community settings instead of the beds within 2 Bankfields Court, Middlesbrough and Aysgarth in Stockton'. The Committee also noted that this was the favoured option during the recent public consultation event in Hartlepool.

In supporting option 1 the Committee raised two concerns which the CCG is asked to consider.

Firstly, it was highlighted that, at the present time, there are no beds available in community settings within Hartlepool that could meet the potentially complex health needs of the individuals concerned. While it was recognised that market engagement had taken place, with further activity planned, Members felt that it was essential to ensure that there were a range of choices available for Hartlepool residents that were accessible and provided by organisations with the appropriate skills and infrastructure to meet their needs.

The second issue relates to the financial envelope available for the service, which was identified as being £1.5m per annum across the four Tees Local Authority areas. While recognising the financial challenges faced across the public sector and the need to deliver services as efficiently and cost effectively as possible, the Committee were concerned that this level of funding may be insufficient to meet future need given the increasing number of people with complex needs moving into adulthood and the implications of the Transforming Care Programme, which will see more people with complex needs supported within local communities. The Committee requested that the financial commitment to this service provision be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it continues to be adequate to meet identified need.

As a final point, it was noted within the discussion that the term 'respite' can be perceived very negatively, and the CCG is asked to consider using the term 'short break care' (or something similar) as an alternative, to reflect that this type of care is usually planned as part of a wider care package and can be very positive for both the individual and their family / carer(s).

Yours faithfully



Stephen Thomas
Chair of Adult Services Committee