

MOTION – GIRTRELL COURT

Proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley

Seconded by Councillor Bruce Berry

Council notes that its decision to close Girtrell Court was predicated on choice for service users and not a budgetary saving as originally stated.

Council further notes that Labour Councillors voted to close Girtrell Court based on information provided by DASS that stated, of the 105 service users, only 55 service users wanted to continue with bed based respite, and the remaining 50 had chosen other options and venues.

However, in recent weeks, it has become clear that 82 service users wish to transfer from Girtrell Court to the alternative provision in Tollemache Road, with the potential for a further 11 service users, who have currently declined the service, but who we are told remain eligible to move over to the alternative provision, giving a potential total of 93 service users.

Council notes that Girtrell Court is a 20 bed, single floor, bespoke, respite centre, which provides 13 respite beds, 2 emergency beds and 5 placement breakdown beds. The alternative provision will comprise a 10 bed unit over three floors, providing 9 respite beds with 1 bed being available, part of the year, as an emergency bed, with no provision for placement breakdown.

Council further notes that service users have been informed, in a document provided by Sanctuary Supported Living that some of the respite is subject to short notice cancellation before, or cancellation during, respite. Therefore Council does not believe this alternative is 'equal to or better than' that currently provided at Girtrell Court.

Council now accepts it made the wrong decision, based on incorrect information, when proposing to close Girtrell Court.

Council therefore:

- (a) resolves to apologise to service users for the distress and trauma it has caused them;
- (b) instructs officers to halt the closure programme for Girtrell Court, work with Sanctuary Supported Living to provide and operate a 20 bed facility at Girtrell Court and, invest £1 million capital in the excellent bespoke facility that is Girtrell Court.