



PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

1 MARCH 2022

REPORT TITLE:	THORN HEYS RESPITE PROVISION ON WIRRAL
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF COMMISSIONING FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES AND AUTISM WIRRAL HEALTH AND CARE COMMISSIONING (WHCC)

REPORT SUMMARY

Thorn Heys is a health service provided by Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) for short breaks for adults with a learning disability. The model of care was established over 20 years ago and due consideration is required to ensure that people's needs continue to be appropriately met. This service is commissioned by NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), funding is part of a block contract with CWP, therefore budgets are in sight but not pooled. The service is located on the Ashton House site, the buildings are owned and managed by CWP and have been subject to review in line with the needs of the cohort of people accessing the service, the service model and the wider offer of respite care services in Wirral.

This report provides an update on work to date. The report sets out that the consultation process will begin in June 2002, following further work between NHS Wirral CCG and CWP.

This matter affects the Oxton Ward. This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION

The Partnerships Committee is recommended to note the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 During the last few years we (Wirral Health and Care Commissioning (WHCC = Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Wirral Local Authority)) have seen a reduction in the number of people and their families accessing the short breaks provision at Thorn Heys. The service has also been temporarily closed for an extended period during the Covid-19 pandemic where families were supported with alternative arrangements as required. Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) have undertaken a joint needs assessment of the 13 families who use the service. The assessments resulted in the following outcomes:

- The majority of users of the existing short break service at CWP could access appropriate care and support through other existing social care provision (10 out of 13 families).
- There remain 3 individuals who would need oversight of, or interventions, by a trained nurse during the course of short break provision. These needs could be met by another short break service provided by another health care provider, subject to assessment of need and discussion with families.

1.2 In summary the needs of the 13 families could be met as follows:

- Service with a qualified nurse on site by another health care provider – 3 families
- Adult Social Care Short Break Service – provided by individually commissioned complex care respite services with the independent sector from a community care framework– 4 families
- Adult Social Care Short Break Service – Provided by commissioned adult disability short break services at Tollemache Road, Birkenhead. – 6 families.

1.3 Tollemache Road is a 10-bed short break service based in Birkenhead Wirral, offering people with learning disabilities a break away from their family home. There is an established contract in place for this service provision until April 2024, with an option to extend for a further 2 years.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 Based on the outcomes of the joint needs assessment, the following options need to be considered as outlined in table 1.

Table 1

OPTIONS	BENEFITS	CHALLENGES
1. Maintain the current Thorn Heys service offer	No change to families and provides continuity of care.	This is an outdated model and does not comply with the Transforming Care Programme (TCP). This does

		<p>not provide any degree of choice for short breaks appropriate to individual needs.</p> <p>This does not address the findings of the Short break Summary of need report from CWP.</p> <p>The service is currently registered as a hospital with Care Quality Commission (CQC) which is not appropriate to the level of care for short breaks that people require.</p>
<p>2. Utilising current provision such as, Tollemache & another health care provider which can provide nursing input if required.</p>	<p>Effective use of current capacity has been tested throughout the pandemic and has been acceptable to the majority families using the alternative service provision.</p> <p>This is more appropriate to individual need and addresses the outcomes evidenced in the joint needs assessments.</p>	<p>There will be a potential future cost on the Adult social care budget for short breaks for the alternative facilities.</p>
<p>3. Utilising other options such as Direct Payments, Personal Health Budgets and Shared Lives services</p>	<p>These options can deliver both flexibility and choice for people who require a short break service</p>	<p>There is a link to the current Adult Social care review of its Direct Payments offer, linked to the personal health budget offer</p> <p>Work would need to be undertaken with the community care market to either soft market test or set up a framework for people to choose from, which may include supported breaks as an alternative</p>

It is worth noting that in considering option 2, there would be possible financial implications for some families who currently access short breaks with no charge applied at the point of access, as this through an NHS model.

- 2.2 The following was the proposed timeline, as agreed by NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and CWP communications, for this possible redesign, this however will now have to be revised as CWP have paused this process due to operational pressures.

Revised timeline, subject to confirmation;

- **January 2022** – NHS Wirral CCG and CWP pause process due to operational pressures.
- **June 2022** – business case from CWP
- **June 2022** – commence consultation process with families for 2 months
- **August 2022** - internal governance process, papers submitted to appropriate groups in Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Wirral Council governance processes
- **September 2022** - possible implementation of results of consultation and ICB and Wirral Council approval

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Transforming Care Programme (TCP)

The national Transforming Care Programme (TCP) aims to improve the health and social care service provision in order for more people with learning disability live in the community, with the right support, at the right time and closer to home.

In order to deliver the aims, there are two key priorities:

- That people with learning disabilities and or autism have a good and meaningful life with the support needed to live in the community
- That people with learning disabilities and or autism have access to high quality, appropriate and timely health and care services

3.2 The report refers to carers as someone who provides, unpaid, physical and/or emotional support to a family member or friend who has a physical or learning disability, ill health, frailty due to age, a mental health or substance misuse problem and without help would not be able to remain living in the community. A carer can be under or over 18 years of age.

3.3 Short Break Care Context

Short Breaks is short term, temporary care for people who are normally cared for in their own home by a family member or carer who is not paid for their caring tasks. Respite care is beneficial to both service users and carers as it enables the carer to have a break from their caring responsibilities and enables the service user to have a break without the carer.

The aim of short breaks care is to enable personalised, quality, informal care arrangements to be sustained. It encompasses a wide range of different short-term services, with the overall purpose being to provide 'a break' which is a positive experience for the person with the care needs and for the carer.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is potential for people who were not previously charged to be charged under Local Authority charging arrangements. Currently, the service at Thorn Heys is delivered free at the point of delivery as an NHS service, as described in section 2 of this report.
- 4.2 There is potential for additional costs to be attributed to the Adult Social Care budget to meet the needs of those people taking up a commissioned service.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to meet the requirements of the Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014.
- 5.2 The Council will ensure adherence to the contract procedure rules and procurement legislation as part of any soft market testing or procurement activity.
- 5.3 The Council has a statutory duty to assess and meet identified need under the care act for both informal carers and the people they care for.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The consultation and engagement process with people who use the short break services, and their families will inform any future commissioning requirements
- 6.2 There is no risk of redundancy to staff as they are employed by CWP and would be redeployed within the trust should this need arise.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The management of any risk has been undertaken through the Equality Impact assessment (EIA), Quality Impact Assessment (QIA) and Data Protection Impact assessment (DPIA). (These are attached as appendices).
- 7.2 There is a risk that the current market may not be in a position to tender for any potential new service, based on local current intelligence. Mitigation alternatives are outlined in table 1.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Our (WHCC) aim is to undertake a full consultation with people who use the short break service at Thorn Heys and their families in 2022, as outlined in the timeline provided in section 2.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 NHS Wirral CCG and Wirral Council have a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

As part of the above options and proposed redesign process we have undertaken the following:

- Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Quality impact Assessment (QIA)
- Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

No major issues have been identified through these assessments. These will be revisited and revised as the change process goes forward.

9.2 Details of the associated EIA can be accessed here:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Commissioners will aim to minimise environmental impact through its commissioning process. There are no environmental or climate implications associated with this report.

10.2 Travel for people who use the services will be kept under review and minimised where possible to reduce environmental impact.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no community wealth implications arising from this report.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Norma Currie**
Head of Commissioning for Learning Disabilities and Autism
Wirral Health and Care Commissioning (WHCC)
0151 651 0011
Wiccg.communications@nhs.net

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – QIA
Appendix 2 - DPIA

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Care Act 2014
Children and Families Act 2014.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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