

Report to: **Scrutiny Committee for Social Services and Health**

Date: **17 March 2004**

By: **Director of Social Services**

Title of report: **Relocation of Residents as a Result of the Homes Review**

Purpose of report: **To inform the Committee how the residents have resettled as a result of individual decisions made during the review of the Council's directly provided homes for older people**

RECOMMENDATION - the Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note how the residents have resettled following moves made as a result of reviews of individual homes.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 The September meeting of the Scrutiny Committee received a report detailing the level of savings achieved as a result of the review of the County Council homes for older people.

2. Background

2.1 To date, six County Council homes for older people have been closed or the services reconfigured as a result of the homes review. Parker House, Eastbourne, Haldane House, Bexhill, The Moreton Centre, Hastings and Homefield Cottages have closed and the services at St Anthony's Court, Eastbourne and Thornwood, Bexhill reconfigured. However, only Parker House, Haldane House, St Anthony's Court and The Moreton Centre required long stay residents to be relocated.

2.2 As part of the preparation for the review, the advice of Age Concern and others was sought should a decision be taken which resulted in the move of any long stay residents. The advice received was that if the closure and transfer is carried out correctly it is possible for residents to move home with relatively little disruption. This is in line with the latest independent summary of the research undertaken, which concluded "there appears to be an association between the level of disruption and subsequent mortality, emphasising the importance of the need to take steps to minimise such disruption."

2.3 The summary of the research pointed out that criticism could be made of all studies, the most obvious being the lack of a control group i.e. there is no comparative data to show whether or not an enforced move from a care or nursing home has an effect on what research calls "transfer mortality". The only other source, the Government Actuary's Department: Office for National Statistics, which shows life expectancy at birth, and by gender shows:

- the life expectancy of a male born in 1901 was 45.7 years and in 1931 was 58.1 years;
- the life expectancy of a female born in 1901 was 49.6 years and in 1931 was 62.1 years.

2.4 The dedicated Team that has overseen the relocation of the residents has ensured that the guidance of Age Concern and others has been followed. Of particular importance is the preparation put into planning the resident's reception into their new home. Seemingly small considerations, such as what a person likes for breakfast and knowledge of their favourite TV programmes, are important to assist the resident settle in their new home. Although not thoroughly grounded in research, it is generally held that the first six months after a move is the critical period.

3. Haldane House, Bexhill on Sea and Parker House, Eastbourne

3.1 The decision to close both homes was made on 31 January 2002 resulting in twenty four long stay residents being moved. Of the three people who died within six months of being moved, all had been diagnosed with a terminal illness prior to their move. Since that time a further seven people have died, all but one in 2003 i.e. eleven months after the decision to close the homes.

4. St Anthony's Court, Eastbourne

4.1 Seven long stay residents were moved from St Anthony's Court as a result of the 30 July 2002 decision to use the home exclusively for respite and intermediate care. Two people have since died both of whom were diagnosed with a terminal illness prior to their move.

5. The Moreton Centre, St Leonards on Sea

5.1 The decision to close The Moreton Centre as a home providing long term care was made on 18 December 2002. As a result, six long stay residents were required to move. One person, aged 81, who had been ailing for some time was moved from Moreton to hospital and has since died.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Enforced moves of elderly people are carried out on a daily basis. This is most commonly when the care home in which they are residing can no longer provide the specialised care they require such as nursing home or dementia care. Good practice indicates that if the transfer is carried out correctly it is possible for residents to move home with relatively little disruption. Although not thoroughly grounded in research, it is generally held that the first six months after a move is the critical time after an enforced move. Of the four people who died within six months after they were moved, all had been diagnosed previously with a terminal illness.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report to Scrutiny Committee for Social Services and Health – 25 September 2003

Reports on Individual Home Reviews - Cabinet

Report to Cabinet – 28 May 2002

Report to Cabinet – 16 October 2001

Report to Cabinet – 31 July 2001

Report to Cabinet – 31 July 2001