

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date: **9 March 2004**

By: **Director of Social Services**

Title of report: **Gilda Crescent, Polegate**

Purpose of report: **To inform the Cabinet of the progress of the discussions with Health and for a decision to be made about the future of the home.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Cabinet is recommended to:**

- 1. note the progress made in the discussions with Health to provide at Gilda Crescent a rehabilitative unit, with nursing input, for older people along with a county wide need for a unit to provide respite care for young, severely disabled adults;**
  - 2. agree to the home remaining open to operate one unit in which to care for the current long stay residents and to move towards operating two units providing the 'living at home' programme and one unit to provide respite residential care for young, severely disabled adults and with the remaining unit continuing to offer respite care whilst the discussions with Health continue;**
  - 3. agree, should the discussions with Health be finalised satisfactorily, that the unit continuing to offer respite care should move towards becoming a rehabilitative unit, with nursing input, for older people and that the unit it is planned should offer respite residential care for young, severely disabled adults (as set out in 2. above) should also offer respite care with nursing for young, severely disabled adults;**
  - 4. agree to the phased transfer of the respite care service currently operated at Gilda Crescent to the independent sector; and**
  - 5. agree to continue the policy of not admitting long stay residents to Gilda Crescent and for the Lead Member for Social Services and Health to receive a further report in twelve months to consider the configuration of the home.**
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### **1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 The financial information regarding the cost of purchasing respite residential and nursing care for young, severely disabled adults is commercially sensitive. It has, therefore, been provided in a separate confidential report.

### **2. Background**

2.1 In November last year, the Cabinet received a report on the outcome of the review of Gilda Crescent. The home has a total of 39 places with 6 places occupied by long stay residents. 8 places are used for the 'living at home' programme and the remaining 25 places are used for respite care.

2.2 The home was designed as five units each with its own sitting and dining areas. The advantages of the design are less institutionalised care along with the ability to accommodate people with differing needs. The disadvantage is that more staff are required to be on duty than is the case with the more traditional care home. This is reflected in the high unit costs of £481.56 per week when compared to the Council's standard weekly rates for purchasing residential care for older people, which are between £256 and £295.

2.3 One of the units at Gilda Crescent provides eight places for the 'living at home' programme which is designed to assist older people retain their independence by supporting them to return to, or remain living in their own homes, either after, or to avoid, a stay in hospital. The November report contained the results of an exercise which was carried out to assess whether the scheme is effective in its aim to assist people to continue to live in their own homes. The exercise found that from a random sample of 50 people who used the programme before 2000/01, 26 (53%) were still living at home. From a sample of 110 people referred to the programme in the last two years, 80% are still living at home. On these results, the programme clearly achieves its aim.

2.4 The November report also informed the Cabinet of the discussions with the Eastbourne Downs Primary Care Trust about the possibility of setting up a rehabilitative unit, with nursing input, for older people, along with a County wide need for a unit to provide respite care for young, severely disabled adults. Gilda Crescent, with its unit structure, lends itself to providing such care. Therefore, before making a decision about the future of the home, the Cabinet agreed to receive a further report in March 2004 to allow the discussions with Health to continue.

2.5 Unfortunately, because of current financial pressures, the Primary Care Trust is unable to commit the resources necessary to develop the rehabilitative unit, with nursing input, for older people. However, there remains a commitment to provide such a service once the current financial pressure eases. In the meantime, it is proposed that the unit identified for the rehabilitative programme should continue to offer respite care. In the event that the discussions with Health are finalised satisfactorily, it is recommended that the respite care be transferred to the independent sector and the rehabilitative programme be set up.

2.6 There remains a need for a specialist county-wide resource to provide residential respite care for young, severely disabled adults. Currently, the service is purchased from various independent sector establishments at a higher cost than if it was provided from one of the units at Gilda Crescent. Should the negotiations with Health prove successful, the nursing input to the proposed rehabilitative unit could be extended across to the unit it is proposed provides respite care for young, severely disabled adults and so care for people with extremely complex needs. In addition to providing a much needed county wide service, there would be considerable financial benefits to the Authority.

2.7 There is also an identified need to provide further places offering the 'living at home' programme. Gilda Crescent, with its central location and unit structure, is an ideal establishment in which to extend the scheme. It is recommended, therefore, that one of the units currently offering respite care move towards becoming a second unit operating the 'living at home' programme with the respite care being transferred to the independent sector.

2.8 The day care unit is unaffected by the proposals and will continue to operate as at present.

### **3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation**

3.1 With its central location and unit structure, Gilda Crescent is ideally placed to operate specialised provision, which the independent sector is either not providing, or is providing at a higher cost than if directly provided by the Authority. As it is currently configured, with the exception of the 'living at home' programme, the home provides long stay and residential care which could be purchased from the independent sector at far lower cost. It is recommended, therefore, that Gilda Crescent moves towards providing cost effective specialist services with the aim of assisting severely disabled young adults and older people maintain their independence.

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Background Documents - Cabinet reports October 2001, May 2002 and November 2003

