

COUNTY COUNCIL – 20 July 2010

QUESTION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Question from Silvia Ebert, Ringmer, East Sussex

I understand there is discussion about the future of the Care Home in Ringmer, known as 39 Harvard Road. In the event of private providers showing an interest in taking over the ownership and running of 39 Harvard Road will you require them to provide a number of respite beds, particularly for people living in or near Ringmer and who are likely to be patients of the local GP practice?

Response by Councillor Bentley

A decision will be made by Cabinet on 27 July about the future of the 39 Harvard Road service. If a decision is made to close the unit, consideration will be given to re-developing the site in partnership with a private provider. Proposals about how this may be taken forward will be reported to Cabinet in December 2010.

It has, however, already been agreed that any proposals would include the provision of a number of respite beds for use by people living in or near Ringmer. This is likely to include patients of the local GP practice.

2. Question from Mary McPherson, Ringmer, East Sussex

Is it possible that the Council, in its search for Best Value, will sell 39 Harvard Road, Ringmer to the highest bidder who might be a commercial developer seeking to build housing, shops or light industry rather than to a Care Home provider?

Response by Councillor Bentley

Any use of the Council's property assets has to meet a best value test both for the service concerned but also in the interests of the wider council tax payer and this is especially true when considering what to do with potentially surplus assets.

Work is underway to identify how best the 39 Harvard Road site can be re-developed as a care home, in partnership with a private provider. Proposals about how this may be taken forward will be reported to Cabinet in December 2010. Cabinet will then make the decision on whether to proceed.

If Cabinet decides not to develop a care home at 39 Harvard Road then consideration will be given to how best to either use, or dispose of, the site. Any decision will be taken in the context of the County Council's priorities and the need to ensure that best value is achieved.

3. Question from Christine Tutt, Ringmer, East Sussex

Could you give me the figures for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010, for people in the Ringmer and Lewes area who applied for:

- a) Full-time Care;
- b) Long-term Respite Care i.e. repeated periods of respite to relieve carer;
- c) Short-term Respite Care ie. after an illness, including Step-Down;

Could you let me know:

- o How many of those were **not** (or are **not**) accommodated in Ringmer or Lewes;
- o How many were placed in 2 star-rated accommodation or above?
- o If applicants were not placed in the Ringmer or Lewes area, what reasons were given by the Social Workers responsible for their placement?

Response by Councillor Bentley

It is important to note that service users and carers do not apply for a specific care service. Their needs are assessed and, if eligible, a range of options are discussed and agreement is reached as to the most appropriate solution (or combination of solutions) to meet each individual's circumstance.

The following table contains the number of individuals living in each of the Lewes and Ringmer Parishes who received local authority funded support for long term residential care and short term or regular respite care, for 2008, 2009 and for January to June 2010. The table also shows whether the care received was located in the Ringmer and Lewes Parishes. The figures do not include those individuals who required nursing care or specialist residential care for people with dementia, as 39 Harvard Road is not registered to provide this level of support.

Ringmer Long Term Placements			
	2008	2009	2010 (part)
Total Ringmer Clients	3	1	2
Number placed in Ringmer	0	1	0
Ringmer Short Term & Respite Placements			
	2008	2009	2010 (part)
Total Ringmer Clients	24	21	7
Number placed in Ringmer	12	14	5

Lewes Long Term Placements			
	2008	2009	2010 (part)
Total Lewes Clients	14	11	1
Number placed in Lewes	1	3	0
Lewes Short Term & Respite Placements			
	2008	2009	2010 (part)
Total Lewes Clients	52	65	26
Number placed in Lewes	0	2	0

All service users were placed in 2 star-rated accommodation, or above

The decision on where an individual's temporary or permanent placement is made is a joint one which takes into account a number of factors. This includes an individual's wishes and preferences, such as including cultural and religious beliefs, as well as connections with the local or other community and proximity to family and friends. On occasion service users are placed out of the county to be near their adult children. The role of the social worker is to identify all of the options and assist the service user and their family, consider a range of factors, including suitability of placement, quality, availability and affordability, before jointly agreeing the option that offers the best solution.

4. Question from Peter Gardiner, Ringmer, East Sussex

Given that Harvard Road has been consistently rated as 2 stars under the Care Quality Commission:

- a) How many people have Social Services placed in the private sector in 1 star Care Homes during the last two years?
- b) Is the Council aware that some rooms in 1 star Homes are basement rooms, with inadequate day-lighting and no disabled access?
- c) How many Councillors on the relevant Scrutiny Committee have visited 1 star Homes during the last two years, and
- d) Have any such Councillors indicated that they would be satisfied to place their relatives in them?

Response by Councillor Bentley

Adult Social Care has introduced a policy of only making placements in care homes rated two stars, or above, with the exception of emergencies or where service users or their families express a choice to enter lower rated provision. In relation to the specific questions:

- a) Adult Social Care placements into one star rated care homes:

2009/10: total of 3205 placements, of which:

- 45 service users chose to move to one star rated care homes
- 67 service users had one star rated care homes chosen for them by their families
- 10 service users were placed into one star rated care homes in an emergency situation
- 9 service users were placed into one star rated care homes by social workers

2010/11 (to date): total of 517 placements, of which:

- 8 service users chose to move to one star rated care homes
- 11 service users had one star rated care homes chosen for them by their families

- 3 service users were placed in one star rated care homes in an emergency situation

b) There are a wide range of care home services in East Sussex and Adult Social Care is aware that a number have issues with their building and environment. As stated, Adult Social Care has introduced a policy of only making placements in care homes rated two stars, or above.

c) No Councillors on Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee have visited one star care homes during the past two years.

d) No Councillors on Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee have expressed a view in relation to this matter.