

BRIEFING NOTE for Councillors:

Linked Service Centres Update

5 September 2013

Update

1. Platters Farm Lodge successfully transferred from Medway Council to the Kent-based charity Strode Park Foundation on 15 April 2013. TUPE transfer of staff enabled continuity of care. The building is owned by Medway Council and let on a full repair and maintenance lease basis to Strode Park Foundation. The service continues to offer intermediate care with therapeutic input and respite care for adults. Platters Farm Lodge will continue to offer the range of services that it historically has offered as these deliver very good outcomes for service users and respite for family carers. Additionally, discussions are underway regarding future service developments which may include some discrete respite provision for adults with dementia (including adults with early onset dementia) and services to adults with physical disabilities, as per local need and Strode Park Foundation's expertise and experience. Feedback from service users, family carers and staff is that the transfer has gone well and that the service continues to offer high quality care.
2. Nelson Court and Robert Bean Lodge successfully transferred from Medway Council to family-owned and run care provider Agincare on 1 September 2013. Residential care staff and unit managers TUPE transferred which ensures continuity of care for the residents. The day care services at both of these units will remain with Medway Council whilst a full review of the day services is undertaken – this is underway. Agincare have met with relatives of residents at Nelson Court and Robert Bean Lodge, and with staff and trade unions, to set out their aspirations for these residential care homes going forward. Agincare now own these two care homes and will be investing in the services.
3. An update has been provided to residents, family carers and staff, including a frequently asked questions sheet. CQC will be undertaking inspections (announced and unannounced) and Medway Council will be monitoring these services via our contract inspections (announced and unannounced). CQC and Medway Council share intelligence on care providers in Medway and meet regularly to review quality of care in local services, and work together as appropriate.
4. Cllr Brake will be visiting these services later this month to hear directly from residents, family carers and staff on how the transfers have gone.

If you have any queries or would like to visit the services please do not hesitate to contact me. Information packs on the providers are available on request. Thank you.

David

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