

**Title of meeting:** Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing & Social Care

**Date of meeting:** 8 September 2020

**Subject:** Providing respite care to citizens with a learning disability

**Report by:** Innes Richens - Chief of Health & Care Portsmouth

**Written by:** Andy Biddle - Director of Adult Care.

**Wards affected:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Full Council decision:** No

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**1. Purpose of report**

1.1. The purpose of this report is to :

- a. Update the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care on the response by Adult Services to the need for respite at Russets
- b. Describe how Russets will respond to providing respite in the short to medium term.
- c. Seek endorsement to continue exploring options for the future respite offer for the city.

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that

- Respite recommences at Russets as soon as possible given the planning and building works constraints (at the earliest 1<sup>st</sup> September).
- Engagement work commences with the two residents who have expressed a wish to move from Russets.
- Planning is undertaken to consider how long term accommodation is managed in Russets, (by 1st January 2021).
- An options appraisal for respite provision for adults with learning difficulties in the city is developed in line with the commissioning intentions of the Integrated Learning Disabilities service for respite in the short, medium and long term.

**3. Context**

3.1 Russets provides short-term respite care and accommodation for adults with a learning disability aged from 18 years and can also support individuals who may have a physical disability, autistic spectrum condition or behavioral needs. Russets is a bed based service that offers planned and emergency respite for up to 11 people at a time. There are two flats which offer permanent accommodation for 7 people.

- 3.2 Respite care is provided to people who are living with their family in their own home. This acknowledges the need for cared for person and carer to have a short break, the frequency of which is determined by need and situation.
- 3.3 Russets was built in 2001 for the purpose of providing respite accommodation. Day service provisions at New Road and Henderson Road were built at the same time, under the same Private Finance Initiative. Following the initial build, facilities management support is provided via the contractor for the remainder of the contract period, (to June 2032).
- 3.4 Between 2012 and 2015 a number of properties providing accommodation to people with a learning disability in the city closed. This led to placements for 7 people on the first floor at Russets. This was initially a temporary arrangement until other properties could be identified.

#### **4. Reasons for recommendations**

- 4.1 Last Year Russets provided 2058 nights of respite to 53 families. On 22<sup>nd</sup> of March Russets closed its respite service in order to protect the 7 permanent residents who also use the building as their home. This meant that by September 2020, 1029 nights of respite will have been lost.
- 4.2 Maintaining the closure of respite services could lead to the following risks.
  - Some families could move into a crisis situation which may lead to a breakdown in accommodation and care arrangements for the person with care and support needs.
  - Potential breach of the Care Act by failing to deliver the assessed and eligible needs for both service users and carers.
  - An increase in complaints
  - A potential Increase in the cost of respite, through having to provide respite with other providersAll of which could lead to an increase in the numbers of people requiring residential care
- 4.3 The first floor of Russets is occupied by the permanent residents and is easily isolated from the respite service. There is a need to provide separate staffing for each service which means that there are fewer staff available for respite care. As shown in the plan below



4.4 Based on current legislation/rules/guidance<sup>i</sup> only a maximum of two households may gather together indoors. This means currently being able to support two people with care and support needs at any given time for Respite. This is contingent on building control permissions to change the fire exits for respite clients and building works to the value of £1500 being completed on the ground floor. As in the plans shown below



- 4.5 It is proposed that in the short term from 1<sup>st</sup> September respite stays at Russets are divided into two and three night stays for two people with care and support needs at any given point. This would allow sufficient time in between visits to allow for Infection Prevention & Control, (IPC) measures to be implemented in the rooms.
- 4.6 Two of the permanent residents have indicated that they would like to move from Russets. If these moves could be achieved this would enable the respite offer to be increased to between four to six people per stay and could be done as soon as one of these residents have moved, as this would offer more flexibility within the building to consider use of the first and ground floors.
- 4.7 The issues associated with this proposal are
- Engagement with residents, family, advocates and named workers would be required.
  - Moves are likely to take until the end of January 2021 to complete.
  - Cost, as there may need to be an increase in staffing establishment to support this offer with a consequent change to the staffing profile.

It is proposed to bring a further detailed paper to Portfolio decision making meeting, containing detailed proposals for respite provision from 2021/22 onward.

5. **Equality impact assessment**  
Completed - no adverse impacts are anticipated.

## **6. Legal implications**

- 6.1 The provision of respite services at Russets is governed by the PFI contract for the provision of residential respite care and day care services in Portsmouth, and associated services ("the PFI Contract"). The PFI Contract provides for accommodation for the purposes of respite care as well as facilities maintenance, transport and catering services. However, the respite care element is provided directly by Portsmouth City Council's staff.
- 6.2 One of the recommendations in this report relates to gradual recommencement of respite services at Russets, forming part of the service description under the PFI Contract. Discussions have been had with the service provider and no impact on the service provision under the PFI contract has been identified, negating the need for a formal variation to the contract.
- 6.3 However, an amendment to the Service Operating Manual may be required.

## **7. Finance comments**

- 7.1 The staffing budget for respite services at Russets is sufficient for an average of 4-10 clients per week depending upon individuals needs assuming that clients attend day care for a proportion of the day.
- 7.2 During current restrictions individuals will not be able to attend both respite and day care during the same period, therefore requiring more support hours per individual during a respite stay. In addition to this the ratio of clients to staff will need to be increased, due to the need for COVID-19 social distancing requirements to be maintained. The initial proposed opening of Russets to an average of 2 clients is within the budgeted staffing taking into account these enhanced requirements with some staffing budget available for further support.
- 7.3 The proposal to provide respite on the first floor mitigates the risks of a breakdown of the individuals' current living arrangements and the potential of need to provide emergency and long stay placements at a cost of £50,000-£100,000 per person per annum.
- 7.4 If the proposal to reconfigure the Russets site to accommodate more respite clients during this period of restricted operations, then there is a potential for costs associated with additional staffing levels to be £200,000 per annum. This is envisaged to be a temporary cost pressure whilst operations are restricted for COVID-19 secure measures.

Signed by:

**Appendices:**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ..... on .....

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Signed by:

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-people-from-outside-your-household-from-4-july>