



THE EXECUTIVE - INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

**COUNCILLOR A MCKEOWN
LEADER**

Monday, 20 April 2020

20/23

REVISED VISION AND STRATEGY FOR DIRECT CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To provide a response to the Derbyshire County Council public consultation on a proposal that includes the closure of a number of older people's homes including Goyt Valley House in New Mills.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

To make no formal response to the County Council consultation.

RESOLVED:

That the formal response to the consultation be as follows:

REVISED VISION AND STRATEGY FOR DIRECT CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE – RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION FROM HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

High Peak Borough Council has considered Derbyshire County Council's consultation on the Revised Vision and Strategy for direct care homes for older people.

In general, with regards to the current consultation concern has been raised by members as to the appropriateness of continuing with this consultation during the current COVID-19 situation.

The following comments have been made by councillors in respect of the consultation, with particular reference to the proposal that Goyt Valley House in New Mills is closed as soon as possible as part of Phase 2:

- The proposals will lead to a loss of capacity in High Peak – the area has already lost the Spencer Ward and respite and re-enablement at Eccles Fold, and the Cottage Hospital now only accepts outpatients
- This will worsen a shortage of care beds in the High Peak, and there will be an imbalance of provision towards the south of the borough
- Loss of capacity – leaves us at the end of the county with only two care homes which is not adequate – there are far more elsewhere
- Report suggests that there will be a different way of living for older people by 2035 but as we live longer more facilities will be required not less
- Some people would be able to stay in their homes with support, but not all would be able to
- Local authority facility is vital for maintaining care standards for residents and working conditions for staff

- Little or no capacity in the private sector run homes and what there is isn't up to the standards of the county-run care homes
- Undersupply of suitable housing for older residents with no guarantee that the private sector will be able to meet demand
- Possibility of people being placed out of the area could have a detrimental impact on conditions for elderly residents – including issues for friends and family members travelling to see their relatives – not everyone drives, public transport is limited and inclement winter weather in this area can also present travel problems
- Additional travelling also leads to additional costs and more greenhouse gas emissions
- There would also be a loss of existing relationships between carers and residents
- Older people need familiar support and surroundings to live in with their friends for their wellbeing as well as the volunteer sector that come into entertain them
- Could residents cope with a move and to where?
- There will be less respite care and more pressure on carers
- Query regarding the accuracy of evidence in terms of electrical wiring and repair costs about the Goyt Valley house
- Current experience with COVID 19 where non-essential travel is not allowed would make visiting relatives at a distance even more difficult

The Council requests that the above points are taken into consideration when deciding the future of the care homes, in particular, Goyt Valley House in New Mills.

ANY DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

A NOTE OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED, IF ANY

None