

Report for: Cabinet, 6 March 2018

Title: Osborne Grove Nursing Home

Report

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1. Introduction

This report sets out a recommendation of the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel in relation to Cabinet's decision of 12 December to close Osborne Grove Nursing Home, which was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as required under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules at Part 4 Section G of the Council's Constitution (paragraph 1.3i).

2. Background

At its meeting of 8 February, the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel heard from the relatives of residents of Osborne Grove Nursing Home, and from representatives of the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Care Quality Commission, as well as the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Culture, the Director of Adult Services and the Assistant Director for Commissioning.

The Panel heard that relatives have deep concerns about the process for closing Osborne Grove, and did not feel that they were fully and impartially informed about their rights and options. They also did not understand the rationale for closing the centre, and set out their favourable impressions of the facility, noting the worry created for the Nursing Home's staff.

Their greater concern was for the wellbeing of relatives, who were comfortable at Osborne Grove and for whom moving would cause a risk. The level of uncertainty they faced was unnerving, and the possibility of being re-located far away would impact negatively on the ability of family members and friends to visit and support residents.

The Panel also heard that the Care Quality Commission had improved its assessment of Osborne Grove, and that normally an inspected centre would have a longer period in which it could improve than had been the case at Osborne Grove, where the Cabinet took its decision to close the Nursing Home fairly quickly after the worrying inspection report that found the site inadequate.

The Panel suggested that the Council's intended meeting with families be held as a matter of urgency, and also that families should be provided with a pack of information that would give them advice on the process of closure, their rights and options. I understand that these suggestions have been acted on, which we welcome.

The Panel heard that the options appraisal for the future of the site, that had been expected to be considered by Cabinet in January, had been delayed as the options were developed further. The Panel noted that this was for the future provision of nursing care on the Osborne Grove site, and felt that it would be

sensible for those options to be considered before the potentially unnecessary disruption and risk that would accompany closure.

Ultimately, the Panel were of the view that the Cabinet should be asked to pause the process of implementing its decision to close Osborne Grove, pending the Options Appraisal being available.

In considering the Panel's recommendation, the Scrutiny Committee were also concerned at the potential for current residents to have to undergo more than one move as a consequence of the closure of Osborne Grove.

Members had heard that the Whittington Hospital had expressed interest recently in working with the Nursing Home, which we would imagine could be included in the Options Appraisal as a different model for the existing Nursing Home.

Members also noted that there was a lack of nearby alternative provision that was assessed as 'Good'.

Finally, it was discussed that, if the Options Appraisal included an option for the current facility to be continued, then it would be better for current residents to not be relocated, if they may be returned to the Nursing Home following the consideration of the Options Appraisal.

The Committee wished to be clear that, in approving the Panel's recommendation, it did not expect the embargo on new residents being transferred to the site to be lifted.

3. Recommendations

- That Cabinet pauses the implementation of the decision to close Osborne Grove Nursing Home, allowing the options appraisal for the provision of nursing care on the site to be taken into account.

4. Background Documents

Appended to this report is the report to the 12 December meeting of Cabinet *Corporate Plan Priority 2 – Outcome of Consultation and decision on proposal to close Osborne Grove Nursing Home*, and the relevant extract of the minutes of that meeting.