

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Consultation on the future of Baytree House short breaks unit for people with learning disabilities in Torbay

#### 1. Why do we need to consider new options for short breaks?

Over the last four years we have seen a decline in the number of people using the Baytree House facility. A factor in this is that many people are now moving away from traditional overnight placements and opting for more flexible care arrangements.

Those who do use the unit have increasingly more complex care needs meaning Baytree House may not always be the most appropriate care setting.

Our operational commissioning strategy for people with a learning disability was approved in 2015 and following a public consultation, we revised our short breaks policy in April 2015. These both made a commitment to ensure that carers and clients can access a wider range of mainstream and support services. The implementation of the Care Act will also provide people with the opportunity to create a support plan that gives them more choice and control of the services they receive and we need to look at ways in which we can implement this.

#### 2. What options have been considered to keep Baytree House open?

A number of other options have been considered to improve the occupancy at Baytree House including, using the unit for other activity, looking for a new provider to run services from the existing building or moving Baytree House to another site.

Whilst there would be some advantages to these options a full assessment has been done and by closing Baytree House and reinvesting up to £250,000 from your combined personal budgets into new services, we can provide a wider range of support services that will ensure we can better meet peoples care needs and ensure financial sustainability.

A social enterprise would not have been a viable option in this case.

#### 3. There has been a delay in assessment reviews. Could you not just reassess everyone and increase the amount of referrals into Baytree House to improve the occupancy?

Whilst delays in assessments may occur from time to time this does not account for the low, and consistently reducing, level of occupancy for the unit over the last four years. People are already changing the way they use short breaks and reducing occupancy is an ongoing problem for the unit, whilst any delays in reassessment are sporadic and temporary.

#### 4. I don't use Baytree House, so what does this have to do with me?

Although you may not use Baytree House currently, we still want your direct input in this process. As a carer of a person with a learning disability, you may well want to access a new or alternative type of short break in the future. By taking part in the consultation you will be

helping to create a short breaks market that will provide you with much more choice and control you should you wish to access it in future.

### **5. Is this about saving money?**

Like any organisation the NHS has to ensure that services are cost effective. Currently the unit is only occupied 45 percent of the time. With staffing and building costs, it is just not sustainable to keep Baytree House running in its current form.

The building will require a high level of investment in the coming years to keep it safe and up to standard and all this will come at a high cost.

Like every public sector organisation we have to work within our set budget. By closing Baytree House we can reinvest up to £250,000 into high quality alternatives that will be sustainable for the future, whilst ensuring we meet our financial target.

### **6. Will I lose a service?**

You will continue to receive services that are in line with your care needs assessment. This process is about working with you to find suitable alternatives that meet your needs but that are reliable, high quality and ensure financial sustainability for the future.

By taking some time to work with you we can look at short breaks differently. We can create more choice and flexibility for people to use their personal budgets in a way that is more meaningful for them and in line with national policy.

### **7. Will Baytree House close?**

It is envisaged that Baytree House will remain open until April 2016, after that new care provision will be put in place. This will be after a consultation has taken place and been evaluated and we have worked with you to find an option that best meets your needs.

### **8. Do you already have alternative services in mind?**

You are the experts in your care and situation and we wanted to get your input through the co-design process before developing any alternative service.

A number of options do already exist within the short breaks market and anyone who attended the last co-design meeting will have had the chance to see and talk to other providers that already exist within Torbay, our commissioners are also looking at ways in which we can widen the market, based on your feedback.

Through the support planning process we want to find the very best solution for you and your loved ones to ensure quality, flexibility and sustainability.

### **9. How can you guarantee the new service will meet my care needs?**

The Care Act, which came into force in April 2015, requires us to focus on the person, their needs, choices and what they want to achieve. It will put you in control of your life and the

care and support you receive and provide people who use services, and carers, with clear legal rights to a care and support plan. The Trust will ensure it uses this approach to make sure people receiving short breaks have choice and control.

You will receive a care review with SPACE (Support Planning Active Communities and Engagement) and they will give you a full care review. This is usually done annually but will be brought forward as part of this process. In this you will be able to outline your needs and we will be able to seek out options that meet them.

#### **10. What if I don't want to combine my personal budget to be part of the new short breaks provision?**

It is your personal budget and you can use it in whatever way you like to give you the care and support you need to function in your role as a carer.

Those who do want to combine their budgets to find a new short break can do so and we will fully support them in this process.

#### **11. What will happen to the Baytree building once it has closed?**

Baytree House is owned by Torbay Council. The Trust have a lease agreement with them. This lease is known as a 'peppercorn rent' meaning the Trust pays very little for the use of the building. If new options are put in place and Baytree House closes the property will go back to Torbay Council and they will make a decision as to what happens with the site.