



St Kilda, Brixham

Report of the Torbay Overview and Scrutiny Board

At its meeting on 27 April 2016, Torbay Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board were updated on the current proposals for St Kilda care home in Brixham. It was reported that the building was unfit for purpose in the longer term and that services could be re-provided elsewhere. The Board noted that consultation was currently being undertaken with service users and their carers, staff and voluntary organisations likely to support future service provision.

At that stage, the Board asked that a task-and-finish group meet to gather feedback from the community on the proposals in relation to St Kilda and that the Director of Adult Services report back to the Board with the results from the consultation and engagement process prior to a decision being made.

The Board was updated on the consultation activity which has been undertaken with key stakeholders at its meeting held on 18 May 2016. At that meeting, Councillor Stockman provided feedback of the task and finish group. The Board discussed the capacity and quality of alternative service provision in Brixham and considered this against whether the current facility at St Kilda is fit for purpose.

The Board accepted the conclusion outlined in paper presented to it, namely:

“As stated the building is such that it is not suitable for redesign or refurbishment in terms of fit for future service provision which means that the present spend on maintenance of St Kilda means that money is being spent on repair not care.

The over-riding question is will people have services that are as good or better than they are presently receiving if St Kilda was to close and that in doing so money is being spent on care rather than unnecessarily spent on repairs. The proposals are designed to have people receive services more locally and in establishments that are more modern. It is considered that these proposals are able to meet the concerns raised and enhance the well-being of those that require the service provided.”

(Note: Prior to consideration of the proposals in relation to St Kilda, Councillor Bye declared a non-pecuniary interest as a close family member was a service user.)