



Title                           **Update on Occombe House**

Wards Affected:           **Preston**

To:                               **Health Scrutiny Board**           On:    **22 September 2011**

Contact Officer           **Helen Toker-Lester**

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## **1. Key points and Summary**

1.1 This is a summary of activities undertaken in relation to Occombe House since our last briefing to the overview and scrutiny committee on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

The key areas covered in this report are,

- Meetings and involvement with families.
- The involvement of Vocal advocacy.
- Best interest decisions.
- Update regarding providers
- Visits
- TDA report
- Summary of next steps.

## **2. Introduction**

### **2.1 Background.**

Occombe is owned by Torbay Council on a site that also houses Fairwinds Special Resource centre. This site sits within the South Hams boundary. The house is the home of seven people who have a learning disability.

Work is underway at the moment to explore alternative provision for the long term residents of Occombe.

This report provides an update to OSC of the activities undertaken since the last meeting.

A large folder of information was given to the then chair, and new members are encouraged to look at this information in relation to policy background and previous papers that were instrumental in the decision making process. Family members at Occombe have also submitted information to the Overview and Scrutiny committee

previously.

### **Meetings and involvement with families.**

The last meeting with families regarding Occombe House took place on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 at Occombe farm. The meeting was attended by six out of the seven family representatives, and draft minutes are attached.

The Group agreed not to meet again until all the best interest meetings had been concluded so that we were clear about preferences of individuals decided through the meetings, it was felt at this point in the future we would have a clear understanding of how to proceed.-However this position may change.

### **The involvement of Vocal advocacy.**

Vocal were instructed to review the work of the Care Trust in developing its person centred plans and ensure that the correct processes have been undertaken in relation to developing the information.

They have been involved at Occombe following the agreement of family members and have reviewed the person centred plans and associated information.

Vocal were due to compile their report, however this has been delayed due to staff sickness problems in Vocal creating some capacity problems. Catherine Mundy of Vocal writes "I do apologise for the delay in this work. It is beyond our control. I do realise that this work is taking longer than thought , this is due primarily to the delay in being able to commence the work and the staff who originally signed up to the work no longer being available, Holiday time - Easter, Bank holidays and now summer has compounded this."

### **Best interest decisions**

The Mental Capacity Act is utilised to support effective decision making when individuals have been assessed as having no mental capacity to make a particular decision. It is often used to support large life decisions, financial decisions or health related decisions.

Families have had information about the process, and understand how they might appeal if they are dissatisfied with the decision making process. Some families are concerned about the knowledge care managers have regarding individuals as they may not have had long standing involvement due to natural staffing turnover. Care managers are gathering all the information regarding individuals prior to the best Interest meetings.

Some of the best interest meetings have been arranged, and the rest are being planned, -progress on these will be included in future reports.

One resident has alternative accommodation and support identified and she will be looking to move on following some introductory planning and financial arrangements, this follows involvement of her Independent Mental Capacity Advocate as determined by the Mental Capacity act.

## **Update regarding providers**

The third stage of our any willing provider process is almost complete and additional providers are now on our list. Some late submissions are being interviewed, and we due to conclude by mid September for those.

Some family members observed interviews where providers gave presentations. However, given the large number and time consuming nature of the programme not all families saw all providers. If at a later date families wish to engage in a choice of provider for a particular service Commissioning staff at the Care Trust will be happy to provide the current "long list" and facilitate interviews from a shortlist chosen with family involvement.

## **Visits.**

Visits to other services have been requested so people can see how different services are provided to people who have a learning disability in the community.

Visits have been arranged and some have been undertaken, - although it has been difficult to both make and keep appointments by involved individuals due to leave and other personal commitments. However we will still be arranging these into September and October so that everyone will have the opportunities to visit places that have an interest in.

## **TDA Report.**

This was circulated to families and discussed at the 1<sup>st</sup> July meeting. A copy is attached for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **Summary of Next Steps.**

In summary the next key activities are as follows,-

- Best interest decision making meetings.
- Visits to alternative providers.
- Receiving the Vocal report.

**Name of Head of Business Unit- Helen Toker-Lester.**

**Title of Head of Business Unit- Head of Commissioning.**

## **Appendices\***

Appendix                      TDA report.

## **Documents available in members' rooms\***

A folder of information is available in the member's room.

## **Background Papers:**

See above\*