

## **Update on restructuring of Lancashire Residential Overnight Break Service**

**Oct 2013**

### **Background**

The Overnight Residential Short Break Service provides overnight breaks and day activities for children with disabilities across Lancashire. Currently there are 8 units, some of which have limited accommodation and capacity to meet the needs of all children. There are also some buildings which require significant refurbishment. Following a review of buildings and the changing demands on the service a proposal to restructure the service was developed with the involvement of parents and other interested parties. Following a period of consultation Cabinet approved the proposal in March 2013. Part of the proposal involved the replacement of the current provision with 3 or 4 purpose built units. The approval was made for the building of 4 units.

### **Current Situation.**

The process to take the new builds forward is being led by ACERS service with support from Property Services, Estates and Inclusion and Disability Support Service.

It has been proposed to phase the building of the units in order to evaluate and learn from the process of building the first unit to inform any future changes or improvements.

### **Currently the priorities are to:**

- **Identify the location for the first build.**

The Central/South has been identified as the area for the first unit, due, in part, to the need to replace Maplewood which requires significant refurbishment. Estates and Property services have explored a number of alternatives. Considerations have been good transport links, room for outdoor space and proximity to other facilities such as leisure facilities. Two preferred sites have been identified, Lynnhurst and Rydale House. A report has been presented to cabinet in October to request approval to consult on the location of the first build and planning for the mergers of existing homes with the new provision.

- **To ensure that the specification for the building meets all requirements for the service to meet the children's', families' and commissioner needs and is 'future proof' for changing needs.**

A revised commissioning document has been provided by IDSS that details the service that is required. A working group, involving Senior Managers of the overnight service, operational staff and surveyors are developing the building specification. This involves looking at examples of similar service buildings, such as those of Adult Services and consulting with medical professionals. Meetings are underway and good progress being made. It is estimated that only one more meeting will be required.

- **Consultation Process**

If the request to consult is approved, ACERS managers will work with Communications to set up a consultation process which is planned to be 8 weeks duration.

**Timescale: December 2013**

**To plan for transition into new buildings.**

Agree the existing units that will move to the new building and to ensure that high quality provision for the children and families continue during any period of transition. Devise a staffing structure for the new provision and plans to address any possible impact on current staff.

**Timescale: January 2014**

**Projected Timescales**

**When the appropriate site is agreed and secured, it is hoped that building may be able to commence as soon as possible. Factors impacting on the timescales include any environmental issues around the site (bats/newts), building regulations, and the tendering process.**