

Appendix A
Alternative and Complementary Education and Residential Services
(ACERS)

BUILDING BETTER SERVICES

Consultation in relation to the implementation of the restructure of the residential overnight break service for children with disabilities.

We are holding a consultation to hear your views about how we restructure our overnight break service for children with disabilities.

This consultation only deals with choosing the location of the first of the new units to be built to cover Preston, South Ribble and Chorley

Two locations have been identified as possible places to build the new units. These are:

Lynnhurst, Stansfield Lane Farrington, PR25 4UA
Rydal House, Chorley Hall Road Chorley, PR7 1RJ
Information and site plans for these are available [here](#).

The existing units that are proposed to merge into the new unit, when completed, are

Maplewood, Ash Grove, Bamber Bridge, PR5 6GY
Long Copse, Astley Village, Chorley, PR7 1TH
The Bungalow, 82A Black Bull Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 3PY

You can find background information about this consultation and the wider work we are doing to improve our Short Breaks offer below.

The consultation aims to gather views and preferences about the proposed sites and merging units from 'stakeholders' - those people who will potentially be most affected.

We also need to assess possible impact on people and organisations that will be affected.

Recommendations following the consultation will be presented to Cabinet for approval, early in the New Year following completion of the consultation.

This information will be made available to all stakeholders and we'll keep you updated about next steps on the ACERS website.

BUILDING BETTER SERVICES

Background information

Why we are holding this consultation

An agreement was made at the Cabinet making session on 10 October 2013, which means that;

- **We are able to run this consultation about the location of the site of the first new Overnight Breaks Unit**
- **Using these views, we will be able to put together some proposals for the closure of specific existing units, and re-location onto the site of the new provision.**

This forms the first part of the work to replace the County Council's existing in-house overnight break provision with new, high specification facilities, in accessible locations, which better meet the range of needs and demands of children with disabilities.

This restructure was agreed by the Cabinet on 18th March 2013 after a 12 week consultation, which looked at the wider county council's strategy for providing short breaks for children and young people with disabilities.

The recommendation that was accepted by the Cabinet was for four new units to be built. This would be subject to ongoing review that would reflect the future demand for the service. It was recommended that the building of the new units should be carried out in a coordinated and phased way.

It is really important to us to ensure that the current service is maintained, throughout the process, with a minimum of disruption.

The first phase of the restructure has involved:

- identifying the first new site
- revisiting and confirming the specification for the building (this is to make sure the needs of the children, young people and families are met to the highest standard)
- commencing construction (as soon as the necessary surveys, building regulations and planning permissions are received).

This phased approach will let us monitor and assess the process so that we can make any improvements that are identified, to the other new builds.

Why we are looking at as Preston, South Ribble and Chorley first

The location for the first new unit to be built has been identified as Preston, South Ribble and Chorley area.

This is in order to address issues around the current units serving this area, in particular longstanding structural problems with the Maplewood building. These issues have been highlighted also through Ofsted inspections. It will not be cost effective to spend money to carry out the necessary work on Maplewood, especially in the light of the planned new builds.

Also, the Bungalow unit is restricted in its size and capacity to provide the necessary specialist equipment to meet more complex needs. This also supports the plan to build the first new unit in this area.

Other considerations to be taken into account in selecting the site were

- Size of the site and general environment, including space for outside activities.
- Closeness of the new overnight unit to accessible travel routes/public transport;
- Adequate parking facilities reflecting the need for sufficient accessible parking bays and covered entrances.

A site search has been carried out and a number of potential sites considered. Taking into account the above criteria the sites identified as good options are:

- Lynnhurst, Stansfield Lane Farrington. A former Adult Social care facility which is no longer used and was 'declared surplus' in March 2013.
- Rydal House, Chorley Hall Road Chorley. A former Children's Integrated Services facility which was also 'declared surplus' in January 2007.

The existing buildings on these sites would be demolished and replaced with the purpose built unit.

The existing units that are proposed to merge into the new unit, when completed, are:

Maplewood House, Ash Grove, Bamber Bridge, PR5 6GY
Long Copse, Astley Village, Chorley, PR7 1TH
The Bungalow, 82A Black Bull Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 3PY

The aim is to provide specialised accommodation within the new unit for the assessed needs of all current children. The new unit will have 6 beds and potentially be open for 364 nights.

It is recognised as part of the restructure that a number of posts would be reduced and that some of these may be absorbed through unfilled vacancies, a programme

of Voluntary Redundancy and redeployment. The proposed staff structure will also be reviewed as part of the wider implementation of the restructure.

How we are consulting

- The consultation will run for eight weeks, to allow enough time to gather written responses and arrange opportunities for face to face consultation with everyone we need to.
- Letters will be sent to all stakeholder parents to inform them of the consultation process.
- Staff of the named units will be informed of the consultation process in writing.
- Written responses will be submitted via the ACERS website in response to specific questions with opportunity/invitation to provide additional comments.
- Hard copies of the Consultation Questionnaire will also be made available on request.
- A meeting with stakeholder parents will be held in each named unit.
- A meeting with staff will be held in each named unit.
- Views will be gathered from children and young people.
- Further information on the proposed sites and new unit will be accessible via the ACERS website and at the consultation meetings.
- A Frequently Asked Questions page will be available on ACERS website which will be updated during the consultation to respond to questions raised.

Who we are consulting with

- Parents of children currently accessing the 3 named units.
- Children accessing the 3 named units.
- Staff of the 3 named units.
- Commissioners of the service- IDSS

Next Steps

The consultation will run for 8 weeks from the 11 November 2013 until 6 January 2014.

Following a period of time to collate and analyse the responses, recommendations will go to Cabinet early in the New Year.

Information on the outcome of the recommendations will be shared with stakeholders.

Updates will be available on the ACERS website and by contacting any of the above.

Progress on identifying locations for the units to be build to serve other areas will be shared with stakeholders via ACERS website.

