

## Appendix A : Restructuring of the Residential Overnight Break Service for Children with Disabilities Service- Outcome of Consultation on first phase.

Data on responses received by questionnaire.

Total number of responses ( on line and hard copies) 37

By group:

total	parent	staff	other
37	11	26	

By area:

total	Central Lancs	South Lancs	North Lancs	East Lancs	unknown
37	23	1	1	11	1

Response to Questions 1:

1. Which of the following locations would you prefer for the site of the new overnight break unit? (Please choose 1 answer).

- Lynnhurst, Stansfield Lane, Farrington, Leyland PR25 4UA
- Rydal House, Chorley Hall Road, Chorley, PR7 1RJ
- No preference
- Neither site.

Lynnhurst site	Rydal site	No preference	Neither site	No response
29	1	6	1	0

Breakdown in relation to groups.

site	Parents/carers	staff	other
Lynnhurst	8	21	
Rydal	1	0	0
No preference	1	5	0
neither	1	0	0

## Response to Question 2:

2. Do you expect that existing units will close once the new unit opens?(please choose one answer)

- Yes
- No

yes	no	No response
36	1	0

Breakdown in relation to groups.

Answer	Parent/carer	staff	children	other
yes	10	26		
no	1	0		

## Comments.

Issues raised:

Issues	Total number of related comments	Parent	Child	Staff
Transport	4	3		1
Impact of changes of friends/staff	1	1		
Potential loss of capacity	6	3		3
Emergency placements	1	1		
Need to ensure new build in use before any closures.	2	2		

Examples of general views expressed:

Parents:

'Fantastic opportunity to take advantage of the environment at Lynnhurst site.'

'Fab new facilities'

'Could be opportunity to offer respite to 0-25- LCC could be leader in this'

' No unit should close until new build in use'

New unit should have a fully parent governors board/function'

**Staff:**

'Lynnhurst location good- close to motorway and road networks'

'Lynnhurst central to all 3 units, and has easy access from 3 motorways'

In my opinion no negative impacts, only positive ones in choice of Lynnhurst. Possible negatives of Rydal include increased traffic in a very bust area and impact on neighbours'

'Human element of merger will be complex and sensitive but I am sure achievable with some careful management'

' The merger of all the units will be a success due to the smooth running of all the units, the professionalism of the staff and the enthusiasm of everyone within the units'

'Lynnhurst is more central and has fantastic grounds. This will make it easier for families to transition'

There may be issues merging children with different types of disabilities into one building but this will be overcome with planning and good management'

**Responses from face to face meetings with parents/carers.**

Unit	Date	No of parents	No. Of staff
The Bungalow	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2013	5	11
Maplewood	19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2013	10	17
Longcopse	19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2013	3	9

**Parents.**

**Main Issues raised.**

- Transport- length of journey for some will increase- from school to unit or home to unit. For some journey from home to unit will be shorter. It was suggested that a mini bus be considered to help those parents without cars.
- Capacity of units to meet current and future needs.
- Building needs to be environmentally friendly.
- Impact on staff jobs.
- Age range service will provide for- several parents urged a wide age range to be catered for.

- Design of the building- a suggestion about a possible reconfigure of specialist bedrooms- this has been explored and is being implemented.
- Developing input from NHS.
- Opening date.

### **General responses**

- Many positive responses to the building specification and facilities.
- Positive responses to the opportunities to develop the outside space/environment at Lynnhurst site including family activities.
- Urge to move on with the restructure and have facilities in use.
- Assurance that parents will continue their support of the provision through fund raising , supporting activities etc

### **Responses from face to face meetings with staff.**

#### **Main Issues Raised**

- Capacity of units to meet current and future needs.
- Process for merging the units in relation to posts and staffing.
- Age range service will provide for.
- Time scales.

#### **General Responses**

- Very positive response to the new building and specifications.
- Positive response to Lynnhurst location based on accessibility and environment.
- Opportunity to further develop an excellent service – exciting.

**Issues raised in these meetings, written responses submitted by commissioners and those comments included on questionnaires have been addressed through a Frequently Asked Questions document. Copy attached as part of Cabinet Report.**

## **Consultation with children with disabilities currently accessing the service.**

### **'Tell us what you like to do.....'**

Following the consultation with staff and parents (19/11/13) the staff team developed a questionnaire with a view to preparing the children and young people who currently attend Maplewood House for Residential Overnight Breaks for change. We felt we had to offer the children and young people some tangible options to prepare them for new experiences, with new people, in new places.

The questionnaire was offered to all the children who attend Maplewood House for Residential Overnight Breaks. Sixteen children and young people completed the questionnaire with some support from their key workers. The young people indicated their choices by using pens, stickers or pointing to the appropriate symbol. The choices and number of votes per activity were as follows

Sensory play	14
Bowling	11
Picnic	14
Painting	10
Swimming	15
Football	6
Out to eat	5
Water play	13
Park/swings	10
Trampoline	11
Sensory room	15
Seaside	12

The young people have selected a significantly high number of activities related to the outdoor and physical activities. This indicates the need for the environment to provide good outdoor space that can be flexible, safe and secure. Not all of the activities could be provided within either of the 2 locations. However the Lynnhurst site offers greater potential to develop a number of these activities, and others, on the site.

## **Summary of consultation in respect of the 2 key questions and recommendations based on responses.**

### **Question 1. Site:**

- 78.38% preferred the Lynnhurst site.
- 2.70% preferred the Rydal site
- 16.22% had no preference,
- 2.70% preferred neither site.

### **Question 2 Closure of existing units:**

- 97.30% accepted that units would merge into the new unit.
- 2.70% did not accept this.

Although the majority of responses indicated a strong preference for the site at Lynnhurst, there was one respondent who preferred Rydal due to the more urban location and access to other facilities. While it is acknowledged that this location does provide close access to some facilities ie a local Leisure pool, the closeness of Lynnhurst to a number of motorways and public transport is considered advantageous in terms of better and easier access for parents from the areas to be served and access to a range of facilities across a wider area.

While the majority of respondents accepted that existing units in the designated area would be closed to merge with the new build, one response did not accept this. This related to the increased distance that young people, currently served by the Bungalow Unit in Fulwood, may have to travel to reach either of the proposed sites. The decision to replace the current units with new purpose built provisions has always included a reduction in actual buildings and the issue of increased transport for some young people raised and considered prior to the decision to restructure the service. This is balanced, to some extent, by the fact that journey times for some users may be reduced. The 2 proposed sites have been selected, in part, on their accessibility and the Lynnhurst is closer to the Preston area and more central to the whole area covered by the 3 existing units.

The impact of transport has been raised by a number of respondents through written comments and oral comments during face to face events. The two main issues identified are the potential increased distances travelled and subsequent costs. A suggestion has been made by one respondent, that mini buses be considered as part of the provision's offer and a feasibility study of this in terms of impact on travel and costs will be looked at. This issue will also be addressed through the management of placements and combination of young people accessing the unit at the same time.

The issue of capacity has also been raised by a number of respondents, both staff and parents. Based on current use, it has been calculated that the increased nights proposed for the new unit to be operational will meet current demand. Demand going forward will be monitored and reviewed.

## **Recommendation**

To approve the location and building of the first new Short Break Unit for Children with Disabilities on the following site: Lynnhurst , Stanfield Lane, Farrington PR25

To approve the area served by the new unit to be Preston, South Ribble and Chorley

To approve the closure of the existing units which serve Preston, South Ribble and Chorley areas when the new unit is functional.

**Audrey Swann**  
**Acting Head of ACERS**

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2014**