

Overnight short breaks update January 2019

An update on Ofsted registration

Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust is going through the process of registering Ludlow Road and Osborne Court Short Breaks Units with Ofsted. As a reminder, both of these short break units are already registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). A change in national regulations means they now also need to be registered with Ofsted.

In November 2018 two Ofsted inspectors visited Ludlow Road to view the building and to interview Health and Care Trust staff. On 19th December, Ofsted confirmed that Ludlow Road is now registered and the Health and Care Trust has since received the registration certificate. Ofsted will undertake an unannounced inspection of Ludlow Road sometime in the next few months and the Health and Care Trust will let families know about that as soon as the inspection takes place. The Health and Care Trust is very mindful that continuity for the children, young people and families using these services is vitally important. They are in regular communication with us to discuss the impact of the necessary move from 6 beds to 4 beds later this year but they do not anticipate that this change will affect any current respite allocations.

With regard to Osborne Court, Ofsted has confirmed the registration process is underway so the Health and Care Trust is expecting a pre-registration visit soon.

What we'll be doing next

Families in Partnership, the parent carer forum, is working closely with us throughout this process and is planning further ways to get families involved in shaping ideas and services across all of our short break services.

We are continuing to work with adult services and families with older young people to see how we could make the transition to adult services better for young people.

We are also still in discussions with the Health and Care Trust around the costs of the current provision and to see how we can make services more flexible and responsive to changing needs. Following feedback from the co-design events in September, unit managers have started looking in to how respite could be offered differently (such as in the daytime during the holidays or weekends, or teatime visits) and what it would mean for staffing and the needs of individual children. This type of provision wouldn't replace overnight respite if that's what is needed, but responds to what some families have told us that they would like to have as an alternative option. Staff at the units will be talking to families about any of these possibilities as they continue to work out the details.

Timeline

Due to the amount of work being done and conversations that are happening, it has been agreed that we will take a report to Cabinet in June rather the original date of 31st January. This will give us more time to work together with families, providers and other professionals to come up with a set of proposals for overnight short breaks. We can then be sure that we're asking Cabinet to make recommendations on something that's the best option for children, young people and their families in Worcestershire.

What does this mean for families now?

We understand that this redesign process can be unsettling and want to assure families that we are not proposing to take overnight respite care away from anyone who needs it. The care needs of children, young people and their families are assessed through their social work assessment and respite will be provided if this is what is assessed as being the best way of meeting their needs.

Families in Partnership has been involved in this redesign process and representatives have spoken with families who access overnight respite to understand their views and needs. They are important members of our Steering Group and make sure that the views and needs of families are always listened to and taken in to account.

If you would like to share your views and/or work more with us on overnight short breaks you can contact Families in Partnership on: enquiriesfip@carersworcs.org.uk.

If you have any concerns about the support you currently receive to meet your or your families' needs you can speak to your social worker or the Children with Disabilities team at any time by calling 01905 844343.

Any queries about the content of this update can be emailed to shortbreaks@worcestershire.gov.uk or call 01905 843657.