

Appendix 4

Making Choices: Proposed Changes in the Provision of Statutory Residential Care for Older People in the South Eastern Trust:

Frequently Asked Questions September 2015

1. Why is change needed at all?

Transforming Your Care (TYC) - the regional review of Health and Social Care recommends that home should be the hub of care and older people should be supported to remain at home and within their local community. This was in response to the public's expressed preference:

“Throughout the TYC Review people expressed their preference for care at home or as close to home as possible...”

In response the Trust is proposing some changes to our provision of statutory residential care. We have worked closely with the Local Commissioning Group to develop our proposal.

2. What is the background to this consultation?

In 2011, the then Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Minister Poots, announced a review of Health and Social Care services in Northern Ireland. Transforming Your Care (TYC) took account of major pressures for change, including the fact that there are more older people in NI than ever before, the wishes of those who might use the service in the future and the financial pressures on services.

In March 2013 Minister Poots announced plans for reform to the NI Assembly. These included more support for older people who want to remain at home and changes to the care arrangements for those

who are unable to do so. These plans included proposals to reduce the number of Statutory Residential Care Homes and required Trusts to arrange to provide this type of care in other ways. See extract from TYC below:

“Throughout the TYC Review people expressed their preference for care at home or as close to home as possible. In response to this, the new model will provide more support to people who are sick or frail to maintain their independence and stay in their own homes for as long as possible. This applies whether that home is the family home, Supported Housing, a Nursing Home or Residential Home. However, there will be a much greater emphasis on enabling people to remain in their chosen home. Providing care, treatment and support in this way will change the current model, perhaps most noticeably in terms of the number of Residential Homes.”

In Spring 2013, some Trusts responded to the TYC recommendation to reduce Statutory Residential Care Homes by announcing they wanted to consult on future of their homes, this resulted in significant opposition.

3 May 2013 – Minister asked the Health and Social Care Board to work with Trusts to review proposals and produce a report on how TYC recommendation could be progressed.

The Health and Social Care Board carried out a public consultation between the 29 November 2013 until 7 March 2014 on the proposed criteria for evaluating the future role and function of Statutory Residential Care Homes for older people.

Health and Social Care Board - Good Practice Guide issued in November 2013 – Regional framework of good practice to be adapted during the management of Statutory Residential Care Home closure process and relocation of older people into another care arrangement to ensure the least disruption for residents involved. The South Eastern Trust is following this Guidance.

On 16 April 2014 Minister Poots made a commitment to current residents that they would be able to remain in their existing accommodation for as long as they wanted and as long as their care needs could continue to be met.

Summer 2014 - Local Commissioning Groups were asked by the Health and Social Care Board to undertake local needs assessments of services for older people to provide the context for change. Trusts used the agreed criteria and local assessments to evaluate each of the homes in their area and to draw up proposals for consideration by Local Commissioning Groups and the Health and Social Care Board.

3. When did the South Eastern Trust get approval to carry out this consultation?

Following approval by the Health and Social Care Board, the South Eastern Trust completed their evaluation on the future role and function of Statutory Residential Care Homes for older people against the evaluation criteria; taking into consideration the local needs assessments for older people's services. The South Eastern Trust recommendations were presented at the Health and Social Care Board Regional Board meeting on 19 May 2015, where the South Eastern Trust recommendations were endorsed for public consultation.

4. What older people's service does this consultation affect?

This consultation is in relation to Statutory Residential Care Homes for frail older people – Northfield House, Donaghadee. Statutory Residential Care Homes for older people with dementia are not affected.

5. What is a Statutory Residential Care Home?

A Statutory Residential Care Home is owned by a Trust. However, the majority of Residential Care Homes are owned by the Independent Sector. Residential Care Homes provide a service for those who need help with personal care due to old age, illness and/or infirmity, or disablement. A person may be in residential care if they can no longer manage in their own home. Services provided in residential care include meals and accommodation, help with personal care tasks such as bathing and dressing, physical and emotional care, and care through a short illness with staff available 24 hours; however no nursing care is provided.

Residential Care Homes are different from Nursing Homes.

6. What is a Nursing Home? Are they included?

Nursing homes are homes where residents require full time nursing care or support, or have a specific disability or medical need, for example those with complex medical needs e.g. stroke. An individual will be in a nursing home if they need nursing care on a frequent basis. Nursing homes will have qualified nursing staff available 24 hours a day.

No, Nursing homes are not included in this proposal.

7. How many Statutory Residential Care Homes are affected by this consultation in the South Eastern Trust?

Only one Statutory Residential Care Home is affected in the South Eastern Trust. This care home is called Northfield House in Donaghadee.

- this is our only Statutory Residential Care Home exclusively for frail older people; and

- the home does not include specialist facilities for people with dementia.

8. Which Statutory Residential Care Homes are not affected by this consultation in the South Eastern Trust?

The Trust believes that it needs to retain at least one Statutory Residential Care Home for older people with dementia in each of the Trust's localities.

There is not sufficient capacity within the Independent Sector to provide specialist dementia care across the South Eastern Trust Area. For this reason the Trust will be retaining five Statutory Residential Care Homes which will provide this level of care in:

- Newcroft Lodge, Holywood
- Mount Alexander, Comber
- Laurelhill House, Lisburn
- Drumlough House, Lisburn
- Ardview House, Ardglass

9. How many residents are there in Northfield House?

As at midnight, on Monday 14 September 2015, three permanent residents live in Northfield House, Donaghadee.

10. Are permanent residents still allowed to stay in the Statutory Residential Care Home affected by this consultation?

Yes, on the 16 April 2014, the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety reassured permanent residents within the Statutory Residential Care Homes affected by this consultation, that they would be allowed to remain in their home for as long as they wish and so long as their needs can continue to be met there. This commitment was restated in the Minister for Health, Social Services

and Public Safety's letter to residents of Northfield House in May 2015. The South Eastern Trust can assure current permanent residents that it is committed to this reassurance by the Minister.

11. When will the South Eastern Trust be readmitting permanent residents to Northfield House?

The Trust ceased permanent admissions to Northfield House in 2007 as part of the Trust's strategic review of statutory residential care. The Trust is proposing through this public consultation that Northfield House will be subject to closure in the future and the continued cessation of permanent admissions to the home will remain in place.

12. What are the Implications for staff?

The Trust values the contribution of staff in Statutory Residential Care Homes and acknowledges their skills and experiences in the delivery of high quality care. All staff will be kept fully informed and supported during any potential changes.

The accompanying Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) in Appendix 3 contains a full assessment of the equality implications on staff of this proposal.

13. What is this Consultation proposing?

The proposal for Northfield House is that this home will be subject to closure in the future, and the continued cessation of permanent admissions to the home will remain in place. A range of alternative community services are available including increased Domiciliary

based rehabilitation supported through the Enhanced Care at Home Model, or within the Independent Sector.

14. Where will services be provided if Northfield House closes in the future?

There are a range of services available now for older people and the South Eastern Trust is investing to further improve the range and choice, as follows:

- **Residential Care** – will continue to be available for those who wish to avail of it after a needs assessment is carried out by health and social care professionals and it is agreed that it is the best option for the individual. The majority of residential care in Northern Ireland is currently provided by the Independent Sector across the region.
- **Intermediate Care Beds** - Intermediate care provides a valuable service to people who need a period of recovery and rehabilitation after a spell of acute illness or trauma. These inpatient beds are mainly used by patients after they have had a stay in an acute hospital, but are not quite ready to go home.
- **Supported Living accommodation** – people who live in supported living schemes have their own self-contained homes with a lounge, kitchen, bedroom(s) and bathroom and care staff are available on the majority of sites 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are also communal facilities and activities available for those residents who like to socialise. The accommodation allows couples to remain together and allows families to visit and stay.
- **Reablement services** – Occupational Therapy (OT) led service to provide a short period of intense help and support to help people build up the confidence and skills to do things for themselves after a period of ill health in their own home.
- **Self-directed support** – gives people greater control over the services they receive by use of personalised budgets and

increased use of cash direct payments, changing the way care is delivered.

- **Assistive technology** – increased access to assistive technology and widening the access of this technology to older people to support them living at home. Many people are now familiar with ‘care alarms’, either worn by the individual or activated by a button somewhere in the person’s home. They are used by people who are living alone. Other devices include: falls detectors, low and high temperature sensors, movement sensors and carer pager alerts.
- **Domiciliary care packages** – people will receive the care and support they need in their own homes to live independently in the community for as long as possible.
- **Day Care services** – is to help older people stay in their community and function to the fullness of their ability. To help older people maintain, improve or relearn social life skills and activities of daily living.
- **Enhanced Care At Home (ECAH)** - is a scheme to support patients mainly over the age of 65 to: help patients to be as safe and independent as possible at home; provide enhanced medical care at home; avoid unnecessary admission to hospital; and enable them to leave inpatient Hospital/ Emergency Department as soon as they are medically stable to do so. Trust District Nursing teams will work in partnership with General Practitioners to provide care or support for up to fourteen days coordinating care provided by Social Care Staff, Reablement/Rehabilitation services, Specialist Nurses and Falls Service.
- **Community Rehabilitation Service** - provides rehabilitation in your own home or a short term care setting. The team deals with patients with all types of conditions to include: fractures, post trauma/surgery, mobility and functional problems; and loss of confidence.
- **Promoting health and wellbeing of older people and prevention of ill-health** – is about promoting good health and healthy ageing and preventing some of the conditions people experience in later life.

15. Who is the Trust informing of these changes?

The Trust has commenced a pre-consultation engagement with key stakeholders including residents, family/carers, staff and local elected representatives etc. The formal consultation process will commence on 28 September 2015 and close on 21 December 2015. The Trust has been and will continue to engage with residents, their families and staff throughout this process.

16. Have equality considerations been taken into account?

Yes, the South Eastern Trust has produced an Equality Impact Assessment which is an in-depth study of the equality implications of this proposal. This Equality Impact Assessment also forms part of the Consultation and is included in Appendix 3.

17. What has happened so far and what is going to happen next?

Step 1 - Consultation at Trust level on proposed changes to statutory residential care provision for older people. This will commence on 28 September 2015, for a 12 week period, until the 21 December 2015.

Step 2 - Consider feedback/potential impact identified from consultation and make final recommendations to the Trust Board currently proposed for early 2016.

Step 3 – The Trust will seek Health Social Care Board approval to the outcome of the public consultation.

Step 4 – Should the Health Social Care Board confirm approval, the Health Social Care Board will then refer the proposal to the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for endorsement.

Step 5 – If Ministerial endorsement is received, the Trust will then commence implementation and monitoring of changes.

The South Eastern Trust wish to reaffirm to the residents affected by this consultation, the commitment that each resident will be able to remain in their existing home, in Northfield House, for as long as they wish and as long as their care needs can continue to be safely met.