

LEA CASTLE CENTRE

MEETING WITH STEPHEN CHANDLER (on behalf of County Council commissioners) AND LOLA ABUDA (on behalf of PCT)

18 JANUARY 2008

Notes of meeting prepared by Dr Richard Taylor.

23 Worcestershire residents still at the Centre:

8 long stay, now referred to as campus residents. 5 of these have been at Lea Castle (LC) for more than 8 years, the longest since the 1970s. 3 have been moved from Brindley Street due to asbestos where they have lived for a long time also.

7 delayed discharges - 3 years residence on average.

8 people having treatment or assessment.

In the community 8 - 9 residents in 3 small care homes for whom alternatives are being arranged. No LC staff involved.

At Lea Castle now:

Austcliffe - 6 beds - autistic spectrum disorder - 4 residents from Worcs. 1 of these (campus) is being moved to Evesham with agreement.

Brunel - 10 beds - 7 occupied, 5 by Worcs. residents.

Bungalows - 5&6, 3 people, 1 (delayed discharge) moving to Evesham similarly.

7&8, 6 people

10, 1 resident.

1 of the 23 is detained under section 37 and so Home Office approval will be needed for a move.

Also at Lea Castle:

Ash - OT and physiotherapy provided by Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership Trust (WMHPT) soon to be moved next to BILD.

Some Worcestershire PCT children's services.

EEG and outpatients - for whole county and some from further afield.

Respite Care:

Arrangements are being made to phase this out at LC. 7 families rely on it. 4 are now satisfactorily helped at Church View, Bromsgrove under the management of the WMHPT. The other 3 are more complex and changes are being made, including an increase in staff (5 new posts for which LC staff will be encouraged to apply), that will enable Church View to look after them. It is essential that respite services at LC for these 3 are continued until the replacement services are ready.

Crisis Care:

There is a crisis resolution team for the North of the county. The WMHPT is looking to absorb these services into local mental health services but if impossible they may have to look outside the county.

Future needs for Worcestershire residents in addition to respite and crisis care:

1. Assessment and treatment beds - it is estimated that 6 - 8 such beds will be needed.
2. Specialist EEG services - the current 600 per year include users from all the West Midlands.
3. Out patient services.

General points:

1. It is accepted that moves are highly upsetting for these vulnerable service users and that it is essential to limit the moves to one per resident.
2. This means that services at Lea Castle must be maintained until their replacement is ready.
3. If the assessment and treatment services are to be replaced elsewhere, hopefully in Wyre Forest, this will take a long time. It would be sensible to look at the possibility of maintaining these services on a smaller part of the LC site either until the replacement services are available or as a permanent measure which would seem to me to have great advantages for residents, other users and staff. It would also maintain the service in the most suitable surroundings for residents and avoid the innumerable pitfalls around re-provision and planning consent. The re-provision of services for the elderly mentally ill at Lucy Baldwin Hospital in Stourport provides a prime example of the delays caused by planning and financing and all the associated red tape. These could be avoided by remaining on a small, more affordable part of the present site.

Richard Taylor, 19 January 2008.