



SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE IN EPSOM AND EWELL

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF MENCAP HOME AT THE PARADE, EPSOM

14th March 2005

KEY ISSUE

This report updates the committee on the current position following the decision by MENCAP to close a registered care home, 28 The Parade, Epsom.

SUMMARY

28 The Parade is an eight-bedded residential care home with five existing residents. MENCAP are not able to continue with the existing number of voids and are seeking to reconfigure their services to meet current and future needs.

The closure of a care home is a sensitive matter and the purpose of this report is to highlight some of the issues and discussions that have taken place between MENCAP and Adults and Community Care to safeguard the interests of existing residents.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

- i) Note the discussions that have taken place concerning the future of 28 The Parade, Epsom.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 28 The Parade is an eight-bed residential care home for people with a learning disability. It is currently occupied by five residents and therefore has carried three vacancies for some time.
- 1.2 In October 2004 MENCAP announced its intention to close the home, as it was no longer able to sustain the level of voids. Since then discussions have taken place to consider options for the future based on the assessment of the five residents. There has been considerable concern expressed and representation has been made to the Adults and Community Care Select Committee and to this Committee in November 2004 and January 2005. Reports were prepared for both committees', which gave background to the service within Mid Surrey and the issues that resulted in MENCAP's decision to reconfigure the service.
- 1.3 On March 9th a meeting was held with the Executive Member for Adults and Community Care and representatives of the relatives, which enabled a constructive dialogue to take place. It is reasonable to conclude that relatives are not convinced that the changes proposed are the best way of maintaining services in the future but a number of misunderstandings have been clarified.

2. ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

- 2.1 MENCAP have confirmed it is their intention to proceed with closure of 28 The Parade and have actively pursued redevelopment to provide two three-person supported living flats, one of which will be made available to the three existing residents assessed to be suitable. This work is being taken forward by a housing association who will be responsible for the physical upgrading.
- 2.2 Assessments of the five residents have been undertaken and has confirmed three of the residents will be able to remain at the Parade with appropriate support. The details of this support, and who will provide it, is still to be finalised. The service will, however, be subject to regulations laid down by the Commission for Social Care Inspection. The amount of support will be based on the needs of each of the residents but the move to supported living should not imply a reduction in the amount of support that can be made available. MENCAP has twelve similar schemes in Surrey and relatives have agreed to undertake visits in order to be reassured about the appropriateness of the service that their relatives may expect to receive.
- 2.3 Of the remaining residents alternative placements have been found which will be appropriate to meet their needs. It is a view of MENCAP that both of these residents would have had to move from The Parade, one of whom within the near future.

- 2.4 Discussions with MENCAP have established that every effort will be made to ensure a seamless transition from the existing regime to the new arrangements for the three residents who will become tenants. There may be a need for a brief “holiday” to allow for essential building to be completed satisfactorily. It has also been established that whilst 31st March was the target date for closure, this will not occur until the new arrangements are in place.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Assessments have now been completed in order to ensure that arrangements will be put in place that meet the needs of each of the residents. For three of the residents this will be at 28 The Parade, two of the residents will transfer to alternative residential accommodation.
- 3.2 Discussions with relatives and MENCAP have taken place and these will continue in an effort to work in partnership towards a common aim, including the viability of 28 The Parade in the long term.

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Background Papers: Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability for the 21st Century, March 2001