

Birch Avenue / Woodland View Update for Scrutiny Committee

This briefing has been supplied by NHS Sheffield / CCG at the request of the Scrutiny Committee. It briefly describes the current position regarding the Birch Avenue and Woodland View care homes.

A paper was presented to the NHS Sheffield Board on 11 January 2011 proposing the withdrawal of the top-up funding arrangements from the two homes. This would almost certainly have led to the closure of the homes.

A four month consultation which provided extensive feedback from residents, relatives, staff, other stakeholders and the public, expert advice to the Board, the opportunity for care assessments of the majority of residents, full analysis of the care home market, an assessment of the quality of care provided and a number of other inputs all led to an alternative proposal being presented to the Board in July.

The NHS Sheffield Board decided on July 5 2011 that the two homes should be re-commissioned as providers of enhanced care for people with dementia.

New admission criteria were agreed and came into effect on August 1 2011. Both homes have been operating to the criteria since that time.

Contracts were agreed with South Yorkshire Housing Association (Birch Avenue) from April 1 2012 and with Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust (Woodland View) from July 1 2012.

From this time usual contract monitoring arrangements have been in place. Providers have been working hard on development plans to ensure that the homes are able to deliver high quality care to people with dementia who have enhanced care needs.

NHS Sheffield CCG would expect that any operational concerns that residents / their family and friends may have should be discussed with senior staff within the homes in order to find resolution. We understand that suitable fora and mechanisms exist for such discussion and would hope these can continue to be used appropriately. We will of course intervene if there are concerns about the quality of care provided.

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