

Westwood Short Breaks Consultation

Introduction

Westwood House is a Southampton based service operated by Solent NHS Trust that primarily provides short breaks to children and young people with complex health needs. Short breaks are provided as overnight residential care, outreach into the home, or day-care. The staff team is made up of qualified nurses and health care support workers with a nurse on duty at all times when the residential unit is open.

Statutory responsibility for the assessment of need and the provision of short breaks for children with disabilities lies with Local Authority social care departments. The NHS is responsible for providing the necessary healthcare to support the short breaks including financially contributing towards Local Authority short break contracts when appropriate.

An anomaly has developed where the NHS, as a single agency, has commissioned short breaks for a small group of children at Westwood House, effectively creating an alternative referral, assessment and choice of service provision to that which the majority of children with disabilities in the city access.

This creates the potential that not all families have the same opportunity to access the full range of short breaks available. This may be unfair and can also lead to unnecessary duplication and inappropriate and inefficient use of resources.

We want to ensure that all children with disabilities can access the right support through the same routes and the current arrangements do not support this.

Southampton CCG is therefore looking to transfer lead responsibility for the short breaks currently provided at Westwood House to Local Authority commissioned provision to ensure fairness of access for all children needing short breaks.

Services provided through the city council include:

- Residential overnight
- Family based overnight
- Outreach
- Direct payments
- Children and Young Peoples Information Service (CYPIS)
- The Buzz Network (play schemes and 1-1 service)
- Universal activities (school activities, leisure activities, support for parents and access to employment and training)

Further information about these services can be found on the City Council website;
<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/living/scchildren/ah/statement.aspx>

At this stage Southampton CCG is in the process of developing its proposals as to how it might transfer responsibility to the Local Authority. We have undertaken engagement with parents and carers through focus groups and one to one meetings in order to inform and involve them in our plans and would now like to consult with you on them.

What have parents and carers already told us?

One of the key messages from the engagement discussions we recently undertook with parents and carers was the importance of qualified nursing support. Therefore, we have ensured this is an option moving forward by proposing the development of a nursing team that could provide support as required to children in their short break.

As a result of the feedback we have received so far, we have been considering the following options.

- **Option 1 – Do Nothing.** As explained, we do not believe that we can leave things as they are on the basis that the current system is potentially inequitable. Health commissioners need to prioritise their resources appropriately. By transferring responsibility to Local Authority provision, we are able to achieve better value for money and free up resources to re-invest in health provision for disabled children e.g. community equipment, therapy provision, community specialist nursing
- **Option 2 – Transfer directly to the Local Authority’s current range of providers** – following the engagement we have already undertaken with parents and carers, we no longer believe that we can transfer care directly to the current range of Local Authority providers without putting in place some support for children’s nursing needs.
- **Option 3 – Transfer to the Local Authority’s current range of providers with NHS commissioned nursing support as part of the transfer package.** The nurses could support non-health settings by providing professional supervision and training focusing on either the needs of individual children or children with complex health needs as a group. When necessary the nursing team could also give direct nursing care to children in the place where they receive their short break. This is our preferred option and we would like to seek your views.
- **Option 4 – Direct Payments and Personal Budgets** - This option would involve identifying a personal budget that could increase the choices for families. This is likely to be an option for some families alongside the options identified above as opposed to an option in its own right. Again we are seeking your views on personal budgets.

Summary of what we are planning to do?

We are committed to ensuring that all children currently using Westwood will receive the same amount of short breaks as they are currently getting. We also plan to:

1. Transfer Short Breaks to Local Authority short break providers provision

- a. Southampton CCG is planning to transfer short break provision from April 2013 (i.e. those provided by Westwood House) to local Authority short break providers.
- b. Having engaged with the majority of families using Westwood House we recognise that we need to work with them individually to develop short break packages that meet their individual needs.
- c. Parents have told us they gain increased confidence in the quality and safety of the short break their child receives when qualified nurses are involved. We therefore plan to commission a nursing team to provide support as required to children in their short break.

2. Development of a nursing team to support short breaks

- a. This nursing team, which may have some health care support worker involvement, would be adaptable enough to work flexibly in different environments as required.
- b. The team will support the transition into alternative short break arrangements for children currently using Westwood House.
- c. When appropriate they will work directly with children with complex health needs and/or undertake training and supervision of those involved with providing care to individual children.
- d. The team would also develop training packages that support service providers working with children with complex needs who don't currently have nursing involvement.
- e. It is envisaged that this team would also be the team that supports the work of the school nurses in Cedar and Rosewood Schools.

3. Increase the use of Personal Budgets

- a. Southampton City Council and Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are championing the use of personal budgets/direct payments which we believe will increase flexibility and family choice. Southampton is currently involved in a national pathfinder.
- b. Social Care offer 'direct payments' to some families in receipt of their services which is an arrangement where families are allocated the monetary value of the resources they are assessed as needing which they can then use flexibly to buy their own services
- c. Effectively a personal budget is similar to a direct payment except it involves utilising resources from other sources which could include health funding.
- d. We would hope that some families will choose to use this opportunity to investigate whether a personal budget would be advantageous to their family.

Feedback Form

We want to hear your views on our planned proposals. This consultation will run from 8 October 2012 to 14 December 2012.

Please tell us what you think of our proposals by taking a few minutes to answer the questions below and returning this form to Laura White at FREEPOST RRYC-AUHZ-EHKE, Southampton City PCT, NHS Southampton City HQ, Oakley Road, Southampton SO16 4GX Attn: Communications Team or laura.white@scpct.nhs.uk

1. I understand the reasons why things need to change

Strongly
agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly
disagree

2. What would your concerns be about transferring provision of the short breaks you receive at Westwood to Southampton City Council providers?

3. What do you think about the development of a nursing team to provide support to children in their short breaks?

4. What do you think about increasing the use of direct payments / personal budgets?

5. Is there anything else you would like to say about 'short breaks' in Southampton?

What happens next?

The consultation will close on 14 December 2012 when we will collate all the feedback received into a report which will be presented to the Clinical Commissioning Group in December in order that a decision can be made about our plans moving forward. This will be communicated to all families using Westwood, staff and referrers.

Contact for further information

If you have any concerns or would like to discuss our proposals in more detail, please contact:
Jamie Schofield, Senior Commissioning Manager on 023 8029 6284 or communications@scpct.nhs.uk

About you

We want to make sure that everyone has had a chance to share their views. It would be helpful if you could provide us with a few details about yourself to help us see who has responded.

Are you

- Parent/Carer
- Staff member
- Representing an organisation – please state

Are you? Male Female

What is your age?

- Under 20 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59
- 60-69 70-79 80-89 90+

What is your ethnic group?

White: British Irish Any other white background

Mixed: White and black Caribbean White and black African

White and Asian Any other mixed background

Asian or Asian British: Asian Indian Asian Pakistani Asian Bangladeshi

Any other Asian background

Other ethnic groups: Chinese Other ethnic group Rather not say

Thank you for taking the time to give your feedback. Please return your form free of charge to:

FREEPOST RRYC-AUHZ-EHKE, Southampton City PCT, NHS Southampton City HQ, Oakley Road, Southampton SO16 4GX Attn: Communications Team

The deadline for responses is 5pm on 14 December 2012