

MANOR HOUSE RE-PROVISION

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the Committee about the re-provision of Manor House Hospital (for people with learning disabilities) in Aylesbury and the likely impact upon Milton Keynes.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Manor House Hospital (for people with learning disabilities) is undergoing a re-provision programme due to finish by March 2001. Potentially, 19 residents may come to live in Milton Keynes with a considerable impact on services and local resources.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To note the report.

4. Background

- 4.1 Manor House Hospital in Aylesbury currently accommodates 94 people with relatively severe learning disabilities and a variety of other related specialist functions. In line with government policy, Buckinghamshire Health Authority are managing a programme to re-provide services for these people in the community.
- 4.2 Three providers have been selected to provide the services in the community with an available budget of £6.8 million for ongoing revenue costs and just over £3 million as a one off sum to facilitate change and allow for some double running.
- 4.3 It is currently estimated that approximately 19 residents may end up living in Milton Keynes, some of these have an existing connection to the area. The target date for completion of the re-provision is March 2001, although this may well prove to be quite an ambitious target.
- 4.4 Negotiations are well advanced between Buckinghamshire Health Authority (BHA) and Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) for funding to be transferred to BCC, under what is known as a Section 28a agreement, to pay for the services to be provided in the BCC area. The agreement would include a 2% allowance to cover social services costs (social worker, finance and contract monitoring time). This is a fairly normal arrangement that maximises available benefits funding and plays to strengths that Social Services Departments tend to have more of than Health Authorities.

- 4.5 Officers from this Council have kept a “watching brief” on the re-provision process, although it is only very recently that the likely numbers of people who may come to the Milton Keynes area has become clear.

5. **Issues and Choices**

- 5.1 Such re-provision processes are generally well recognised to improve the quality of life of the service users concerned (provided that they are well resourced and administered). Some of the potential benefits for Milton Keynes from participating in this process include:

- (a) additional skills and resources being brought into the area, which will benefit other service users in the area, both in the short and longer-term. In the short-term, a more diverse range of skills and facilities will benefit users as a whole. In the longer-term, the life expectancy of some of the service users is relatively short and financial resources are likely to stay here when they die;
- (b) new providers will be brought into the area who are likely to improve the competition in tender exercises for new services that are developed as Milton Keynes continues to expand and particularly push back boundaries in relation to innovative supported living practice and challenging behaviour services; and
- (c) creating a local quality benchmark for other services to be measured against (this may become a lever for improving health resourcing of existing services in Milton Keynes).

- 5.2 Some of the risks for Milton Keynes that need to be carefully managed include:

- (a) ensuring that there is a robust contractual framework, both with BHA and providers;
- (b) the detail of resource commitments when vacancies occur (ie when people die);
- (c) the possible impact on Primary Health Care and other specialist health services;
- (d) possible NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) reactions; and
- (e) that 2% of the resource transferred may not adequately reflect real costs, some of which, such as contract negotiation, are effectively fixed regardless of the number of people/cost of care.

- 5.3 A more detailed report will be made to the Neighbourhood Services Committee on 1 February 2000.

6. **Implications**

- 6.1 Environmental

None.

6.2 Equalities

The people subject to this re-provision process represent some of the most vulnerable in our society

6.3 Financial

Will require more detailed appraisal.

6.4 Legal

A detailed Section 28a agreement will be required between BHA and Milton Keynes Council.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

Will require more detailed appraisal.

7. **Conclusion**

7.1 The Manor House re-provision process presents considerable opportunities for the development of services in Milton Keynes, although the associated risks require careful management.

Background Papers: None