

SCRUTINY REPORT



DATE: 16th November 2021

SUBJECT: Spurr House closure update

REPORT FROM: Adrian Crook, Director Adult Social Service and Community Commissioning

CONTACT OFFICER: Matthew Logan, Strategic Lead Integrated Commissioning

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following a period of public and staff consultation, on 21st July 2021, Council Cabinet supported the recommendation to close Spurr House as part of a wider saving and transformation programme with the Council's Local Authority Trading Company; Persona Care and Support Ltd. Savings achieved by this action will support delivery of the savings required by the Council.
- 1.2 Spurr House will close on 31st October 2021 and this report provides an update to Health and Scrutiny Committee on that closure and the process that has been followed.

2.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION

- 2.1 Report is an update on decisions already taken and approved by Council Cabinet.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Persona provide several services supporting people with learning disabilities, dementia and physical disabilities. Services provided include day care, supported living, extra care, respite and shared lives. Due to the challenging financial situation, Bury Council worked with Persona to reduce the value of their contract by £2.5 million over the next 2 years. To achieve the savings required it was proposed to change some services, develop new ways of working to realise efficiencies, and in some cases, reduce or close services, especially those that are no longer used or needed.
- 3.2 Whilst the focus was on minimising any impact on customers and staff as far possible, given the size of the savings it was recognised that they may have some impact on existing customers, potential customers, and staff. Therefore, the proposals went out to public consultation to understand the views of those people who may be impacted both now and in the future.

- 3.3 The public consultation focussed on five elements, however, for the purposes of this report we will focus on those pertinent to Spurr House. This proposed:
- Reducing the number of unused places in the short stay residential care service, close Spurr House leaving Elmhurst open for short stay residential care.
- 3.4 A six-week public consultation was undertaken starting Monday 24th May 2021 concluding on Friday 2nd July 2021.
- Surveys were made available both online and via hard copy,
 - A council press release was issued on 24th May 2021
 - The consultation was published on all the Council's social media platforms
 - Healthwatch Bury supported the process by signposting people to the consultation, publicising the consultation on their website, with their members and through their mailing list.
- 3.5 Information on the consultation launch was shared with all local councillors, all social care workforce, all care providers who themselves employ over 5,000 staff, all Persona staff, all voluntary sector and faith alliance partners and a wide range of stakeholders and via several engagement networks.
- 3.6 Five council led public consultation session were also open for anyone to attend and advertised.
- 3.7 Following completion of the consultation, report to Council Cabinet on 21st July 2021 proposed the reduction in number of unused places in the short stay service and the closure of Spurr House. This was agreed.

4.0 CLOSURE UPDATE

- 4.1 At the time of receiving Council Cabinet approval to close Spurr House there were 14 customers in the service receiving short stay.
- 4.2 Staff contracts to work at Spurr House came to an end on 31st October 2021 so aim was established to move all customers onto permanent residences before this time.
- 4.3 Task group was established with representatives from Spurr House, Persona management, Adult Social Care Operational Teams and Community Commissioning Team to manage the appropriate move on of all customers.
- 4.4 All customers had reviews of their care needs, were supported to move onto permanent residences and had all moved out by 8th October 2021.
- 4.5 At all times Persona management kept staff up to date on the move on of customers and the likelihood of achieving the closure for 31st October 2021.
- 4.6 After move on of customers, separate meetings were arranged with Persona and Bury Council Property Services to arrange formal closure of Spurr House and management of the building during the closure and post 31st October 2021.

- 4.7 With all customers gone, Persona staff emptied the building of all necessary equipment and documents. Secure temporary alarms were fitted and security staff from Bradley Fold were instructed to mind the building up to 31st October 2021. At this point the building would return back to the Council and management would be taken over by Property Services.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Acknowledging the difficult and sensitive nature of managing the closure of Spurr House, all stakeholders, and especially Persona, have ensured that it has been as smooth a process as possible. This includes for the staff and the customers.
- 5.2 All customers have moved to permanent residences.
- 5.3 All staff who wanted to remain in work at Persona were found an alternative role through redeployment.
- 5.4 Spurr House will now return to the Council on 31st October 2021.

List of Background Papers:-

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