

Cllr Helen Swiers Report to Filey Town Council- September 2021

Covid-19:

You have Richard Flinton's (Chief Executive) regular updates therefore, as usual, I will not repeat.

Silver Birches:

The report went to the Executive on Tuesday 31st August.

Conversion of existing, in house Elderly People's Home (APH) facilities at Silver Birches in Filey and Ashfield in Skipton, into locality Care and Support Hubs - multi-purpose facilities with a range of short and long term care option designed to prevent hospital admissions or support people in returning home rather than entering long term care.

The proposal is based on evidence from Station View in Harrogate which is in a similar remit to that proposed for Silver Birches and Ashfield. The experience of Station View shows that the model of care and support proposed is highly effective in preventing admissions and supporting people to return home

Silver Birches and Ashfield EPH's will be transformed from traditional residential care homes into locality care and support hubs - settings with a range of short and long term beds driven by need in the locality.

Staff teams and management at Silver Birches and Ashfield have been engaged in the development of the proposal to ensure it is deliverable and reflects local need. Existing residents have been offered the option of moving to the new Extra Care Schemes in Filey and Skipton with the benefits of Extra Care explained to residents and their families. Further engagement with staff and residents and their families will be undertaken as the model is further developed and implemented.

Evidence from Station View indicates that developing a local hub with a preventative focus will reduce or delay the need for long term care which is a better outcome for the individual.

The hub will provide a range of short stay options including short breaks and respite, providing additional capacity for carers to take a break.

Silver Birches and Ashfield will be retained by the council for conversion into Care and support Hubs based on the successful model at Station View.

These hubs will offer a flexible range of bed based support, which is responsive to local needs. Initial configuration for both settings will include long and short term capacity for people living with dementia, as well as a range of short break, interim and rehabilitation capacity.

Each Hub will be flexible to local need with the type of capacity available changing over time.

The proposed initial configuration for Silver Birches:- Long Term Dementia
Dementia Respite
Rehab Beds
Interim Beds
Short Breaks

Impact on residents;

- All residents will be offered the opportunity to move to the Filey Fields Extra Care

- Where people choose to move, they are able to do so at no financial deterrent, the council will meet the costs of moving from a furnished to an unfurnished setting.
- Where people choose to remain at Silver Birches, they will be able to do so. New long term admissions will be ceased and the long term population of the home will be reduced over time whilst operationally viable to do so.
- Based on initial assessments it is likely that the majority of EPH residents will be unsuitable for Extra Care with higher levels of nursing support more likely.
- As part of these changes, all care and support staff currently employed at any of the three existing EPHs will be offered a guaranteed permanent post with the council. This maybe in roles within the Hubs or in Reablement or other community based services.
- The nature of the Hubs will mean that new or additional roles will be required to deliver the service effectively.

New Council - Ward Arrangements for 2022 election:

- The County Council's "Case for Change" proposed that the unitary council should have circa 90 councillors and six area committees based on parliamentary constituencies
- We have been asked to give MHCLG a view by mid September 2021.
- The electoral wards for the new council must be made of existing whole district council wards or existing whole county council divisions; and
- The pattern of wards should mean that each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as elected members elsewhere in the authority (known as electoral equality)
- At this time; Filey remains as it is with one councillor.
- This is not an electoral review
- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England will do a full electoral review in time for the elections in May 2027
- MHCLG will decide the warding arrangements and include these in the Structural Changes Order

A joint letter from all the Chief Executives from the eight councils involved has been sent to staff. They have been discussing a joint approach including how to keep everyone aware of progress and the opportunities to get involved.

Afghanistan Refugees:

North Yorkshire is offering safe homes to Afghan workers (qualifying under government's Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP), who have supported the UK in Afghanistan. So far North Yorkshire have resettled 42 people (8 families). The people we are welcoming to North Yorkshire have shown great courage in supporting British troops and other personnel in the face of high personal risk.

Many of the individuals concerned have very good English and are highly qualified and all the signs are that they will make an important and strong contribution to the county. Historically North Yorkshire has tried to ensure it takes a 'fair share' of the national total in previous resettlement schemes such as the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement

Scheme. Because North Yorkshire is approximately 1% of the UK population we have ensured that we take at least 1% of the national total (200 Persons for the Syrian refugee scheme of 20,000 nationally). Because the numbers being relocated to the UK under Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) is now thought to be significantly higher than earlier estimates - now expected to be in the region of 9,000 to 11,000 people - we are currently in discussions with our district councils to resettle an additional 65 -70 people (13 - 14 additional properties).

In addition to those who are looking to North Yorkshire for their long-term home, we are providing a safe, temporary refuge for 93 other people from Afghanistan in a hotel in Scarborough. This group contains 65 children, all of whom are waiting to be placed in more permanent accommodation around the country. We are expecting another 155 in about a week.

A early help team has been set up. The County Council is providing a range of services including early help and support for children who have been through some considerable turmoil in recent weeks, as well as other support such as helping to source appropriate books through our library service and providing coordination with local charities and other help to meet the daily living needs of our guests.