

Changes are being proposed about the way some residential care is provided by Kent County Council. This leaflet gives you more information about these proposed changes.

What is happening?

Kent County Council is looking at whether residential care could be done in a better way that costs less.

What is the thinking behind this?

More people are living longer and some are living with dementia. People rightly expect more choice in care and more people want care at home.

High quality residential care is a continuing priority for Kent County Council and we believe dignity in care is crucial. Residential care should be in high quality buildings. Some of Kent County Council's buildings have reached the end of their useful life and do not meet expectations. All residents should have the opportunity for en suite bathrooms.

Good quality care can be commissioned for less money and the private and voluntary sector is well placed to care for more people.

Where will these proposed changes happen?

There are 16 places where KCC provides residential care and we are proposing to change 11 of them.

Wayfarers in Sandwich is proposed to be sold as it is for another organisation to run.

We are proposing that some of the services at Blackburn Lodge at Sheerness, Doubleday Lodge at Sittingbourne and Kiln Court at Faversham could be run by another organisation, with terms set by Kent County Council.

Bowles Lodge at Hawkhurst, Cornfields at Dover and Manorbrooke at Dartford are proposed to be replaced by extra care housing. Extra care apartments offer older people the chance of a home of their own in a shared building with 24-hour care and facilities.

Ladesfield at Whitstable, Sampson Court at Deal and The Limes at Dartford are proposed to close completely within the next two years.

Dorothy Lucy Centre at Maidstone will be kept as it is. A decision about its future will be taken at a later date.

Who could be affected?

- Residents of these homes and their families
- People who go to the homes for care during the day and their families, and those who use the homes for respite
- Members of staff working at the homes
- Private and voluntary care organisations and the NHS in Kent.

What happens next?

The next thing to happen will be the start of conversations between Kent County Council and everyone who wants to talk to us about the proposals. From 21 June, officers from Kent County Council Adult Social Services will be meeting with members of staff from the homes, residents and their families and other individuals and organisations concerned.

Over the following four and a half months, these conversations will continue. Anyone who is affected will have a chance to say what they think about the proposals. This process will end on 1 November 2010.

How will the changes be made?

After 1 November, Kent County Council will look at the proposals again, along with everyone's feedback. After this, a decision will be made about what the next steps will be. This decision is likely to be made in January 2011.

How do I find out more?

Go to www.kent.gov.uk/opfutures for more information
You can call us on 01732 525 477 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)
or email opfutures@kent.gov.uk

You can also write to Older Persons Futures, Room 3.12, Brenchley House, 123-135 Week Street, Maidstone, ME14 1RF.