

Consultation on the future of Wayfarers Care Home, Sandwich

Consultation Document

Kent County Council

Consultation runs 15 May to 24 July 2019
Kent.gov.uk/wayfarersconsultation



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Alternative Formats

If you need any documents for this consultation in an alternative format, please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 421553 (voice). For Text Relay, please use 18001 03000 421553. This number goes to an answer machine which is monitored during office hours.

Introduction

Kent County Council (KCC) is running a consultation on the future of Wayfarers Care Home in Sandwich, Kent. Please read this document to find out about the proposals. Information on how to give your views and what to do if you have any queries is on page 7.

Background

Following a public consultation in 2015 on the future of Wayfarers Care Home, a decision was taken in 2016 to sell the home 'as a going concern'.

Selling as a going concern means selling the home to an external provider with the successful bidder required to retain the building and the existing staff and being responsible for any future maintenance or upgrading of the building.

Work then began to find a buyer and negotiate a sale. Despite a buyer being found, in 2018, a difficult decision had to be taken not to progress with the sale as it was unviable for both parties. A further look at options began in August 2018 and now we are in a position to run a consultation on the future for Wayfarers.

Information about Wayfarers

Wayfarers is a detached, 33-bed unit built in 1983. The home is separated into two distinct wings; Hollyside and Cherry Way. Each has its own dining area and communal spaces; however only one of these wings is currently in use.

The service is provided on a single floor with easy access throughout for all service users. All bedrooms are single occupancy however, they lack en-suite facilities. The home offers a dedicated respite service alongside the residential unit for older people.

Ideas considered for Wayfarers as part of the options appraisal undertaken in 2018

Do nothing and continue Wayfarers as it is.

- The rooms have no en-suite facilities and would require significant financial investment to modernise the facilities in line with the Care Quality Commission standards.
- Due to the age of the building, significant investment would be required to make the facility fit for the future.

Redesign Wayfarers as a specialist dementia unit.

- Making Wayfarers fit to be a specialist dementia unit would involve significant investment and reduce the number of places available due to different facility requirements (such as en-suites).
- Reduced capacity would mean it would be very expensive to run. Good provision is already available which would not result in these additional on-going costs.

Sell the home as a going concern.

- This is now **not** perceived as a viable option due to two previous attempts at selling the facility.

Close Wayfarers and find alternative provision for residents. Sell the building and land.

- This means residents would move to alternative accommodation.

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What is Housing with Care?

Housing with Care is where you can live independently and receive high levels of care. It is intended to promote independence and reduce social isolation, providing an alternative to more formal models of care like residential and nursing care homes, and offer a home for life.

Housing with Care can offer:

- High quality purpose-built assessable accommodation where you can live independently and receive high levels of care.
- Own apartment with own front door.
- Communal facilities like restaurants and lounges.
- Care staff able to respond in an emergency 24/7.
- Supports couples and provides carer support.

There are many definitions used to define Housing with Care, including 'Assisted Living', 'Extra Care', 'Retirement Housing', 'Sheltered Housing and 'Continuing Care Retirement Communities'. Public, not-for-profit and private sector provider organisations can all deliver these services.

Our vision for future accommodation

Our vision is that older people should be supported to live independently in their own home receiving the best care and support to meet their needs and aspirations.

The council's strategy is to commission fewer residential services and invest in preventative services designed to help people remain independent for longer. This includes Housing with Care, dementia and nursing specific services.

The council has a responsibility to assess people who have an appearance of need and options for meeting needs will be discussed. KCC is required to work with the care market to ensure there is a range of options available to meet needs. Over the last few years the care market has continued to respond to the growing and changing need for older persons' care, increasing its capacity and working closely with KCC as a commissioner of services.

Our ambition is for accommodation that supports people to remain independent. Our aspiration is that in the future, housing developments for older people will:

- Have an ethos of promoting community participation, reducing social isolation and keeping people well.
- Provide a range of options that can meet people's individual needs.
- Are accessible and fully adaptable to meet the changing needs of older people.

- Help older people retain or regain their independence helping them to move out of or avoid an admission to residential care.
- Be designed to reduce the risk of falls, increase a person's ability to live independently, and improve wellbeing.

Our proposal is to:

- **Close Wayfarers and find alternative provision for residents. Sell the building and land. Explore options for developing older people's accommodation preferably in the Sandwich area, in the form of Housing with Care.**

With this proposal residents of Wayfarers would move to alternative care homes that meet their needs. No residents would be left without an alternative arrangement in place.

After this, KCC would close Wayfarers care home and try to find a buyer for the building and its land.

Should a Housing with Care scheme be built in Sandwich, former Wayfarers residents would have the opportunity to see if moving in would be an option for them. Apartments would be available and offered to them if their needs could be met in the new scheme.

The proposal is in no way a reflection of the quality of the services or staff. It is recognised that the services and staff are of good quality and KCC is proud of the services offered. We are also very aware of the anxieties this would bring to the residents, their relatives and carers and Wayfarers staff.

Staff will help ensure that the residents, relatives and carers receive support and assurance that alternative services would be provided if a decision was made to close Wayfarers.

If a decision was made to close the home, Wayfarers staff would have the opportunity of being redeployed within KCC. Both residents and staff would be supported with their future options.

Reasons for this proposal:

- Good alternative provision is available from the independent care sector.
- KCC already secures the majority of placements from other organisations that provide care (providers) that have experience and expertise in doing this. Quality of care available in the provider sector is good and is monitored effectively through our contract arrangements with providers.
- The Wayfarers building is in need of significant investment to bring it up to a standard for it to be fit for the future.
- Kent has a good record of developing Housing with Care. Residents living in in Housing with Care are reporting positive experiences about their quality of life.

Equality Impact Assessment

We have completed an initial Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) on the proposal.

An EqIA is a tool to assess the impact any service change, policy or strategy would have on age, sex, gender identity, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, marriage and civil partnership and Carer's responsibilities.

The EqIA is available online at www.kent.gov.uk/wayfarersconsultation or on request.

If you need any help to understand the document, or if you have any queries, please get in touch using the contact details below.

How to give your views

Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/wayfarersconsultation to complete the online questionnaire.

Alternatively, collect a paper form and Freepost envelope, available from Wayfarers or libraries in Sandwich, Deal or Dover, or send it by post to:

Consultation Team
Adult Social Care & Health
Kent County Council
Invicta House
Sandling Road
Maidstone
ME14 1XX

We will also be having meetings with Wayfarers staff, residents and their families to go through the information, gather their views and answer any queries.

Queries

If you have any queries, please contact 03000 422557 or email olderpeopleprovision@kent.gov.uk.

Consultation timeline

Consultation period	15 May 2019 to 24 July 2019
Report to Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee	27 September 2019
Cabinet Member decision	October 2019

Wayfarers staff, residents and their families will be informed of the outcome of the decision. The consultation webpage will also be updated with the report and the outcome.