

COMMITTEE:	Cabinet
DATE:	1 July 2002
SUBJECT:	Review of East Sussex County Council Residential Care Homes for Older People
REPORT OF:	Director of Housing, Health & Community Finance
Ward(s):	All
Purpose:	<p>a) To update Cabinet in relation to the current ESCC Review of Residential Care Homes for Older People.</p> <p>b) To facilitate Cabinet involvement in the current review of St Anthony's Court.</p>
Contact:	Neil Fuller, Director of Housing, Health & Community Finance, Telephone 01323 415301 or internally on extension 5301.
Recommendations:	<p>a) That Cabinet concern is expressed in relation to any proposed closure of Homes for Older People in Eastbourne.</p> <p>b) That any proposed relocation of existing residents be carried out sensitively and in full consultation with residents and their carers, in order to ensure an improved quality of care.</p>
1.0	<u>Background / Introduction</u>

1.1	In October 2001, formal notification was received from the Director of Social Services of a review of County Council Homes for Older People. Three Homes within Eastbourne were to form part of this review. They are Parker House, St Anthony's and Milton Court.
1.2	The County Council's Cabinet agreed a two-year timetable for the reviews on the 16 October. A copy of the timetable is attached as <u>Appendix 3</u> to this report.
1.3	The review of Parker House commenced in July last year and was completed in January 2002. A report was considered by the County Council Cabinet on the 31 January 2002. As a result it was agreed that Parker House should cease operating as a residential care home, be declared surplus to the County Council's requirements and that the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to dispose of the site.
1.4	This followed the attendance of John Windebank, Project Director for the County Council Homes Review, at Cabinet on the 9 January 2002, and letter sent by the Director of Housing, Health & Community Finance confirming Cabinet's decision. (<u>Appendix 1</u>)

1.5	Cabinet Members will note that one of the key factors for consideration is the impact of the new National Minimum Standards for Care Homes, due to be regulated by the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC) from April 2002. Concerns have already been expressed by Members in relation to the impact of such standards upon the independent sector, both at Area Committee and Full Council. The proposed retrospective application of such minimum standards is seen as already having prompted the closure of a number of residential homes for the elderly in the town.
1.6	Whilst not a specific feature of the review, recent developments in Government Policy also provide important context for any consideration of future residential care provision in East Sussex.
1.7	The 1999 Health Act and 2000 NHS National Plan have placed increasing emphasis upon the need for partnership between Health & Social Services to develop Intermediate Care services that promote independence – addressing hospital `bed blocking` issues and reducing dependence upon long-term / institutional care.
2.0	<u>Nature of the Review</u>
2.1	<p>The Director of Social Services has described the overall purpose of the review as ensuring that there is good quality and cost effective residential care provision in East Sussex. As well as taking into account the needs and views of residents, their relatives and close friends, staff and other interested parties, it has been confirmed that the review will specifically take into account the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The cost of implementing the Government's new standards which will be applied from 1 April 2002 alongside the ongoing costs of maintaining the homes. · The County Council's duty to achieve Best Value when comparing the costs of running its own homes to similar establishments in the independent sector

2.2	A brief description of all of the County Council Homes for Older People reported to ESCC Cabinet on the 16 October is attached as <u>Appendix 4</u> . Cabinet will note that the proposed cost of upgrading St Anthony's Court to meet the new standards is estimated at £1.4 million.
2.3	It should also be noted that in response to an initial review agreed by Social Services Committee in November 1999, consultants were engaged and, subject to their advice, expressions of interest were invited from the independent sector in taking on all or some of the homes subject to review.
2.4	In relation to the review of St Anthony's Court a proposed timetable and criteria have been confirmed in a letter from John Windebank. (Appendix 2)
3.0	<u>Consultations</u>
3.1	The review is understood to have taken account of the views of residents, their relatives and close friends, staff and other interested parties. Specifically, it is understood that all residents and relatives have been contacted and encouraged to use a telephone `helpline` set up for this purpose.
4.0	<u>Financial Implications</u>
4.1	A key element of the review relates to the financial implications of minimum standards introduced.
5.0	<u>Human Rights Implications</u>

5.1	In reviewing the future of each of the homes, the County Council has confirmed that they will fully consider the rights of individuals in accordance with the Human Rights Act.
6.0	<u>Recommendations</u>
6.1	<p>a) That Cabinet concern is expressed in relation to any proposed closure of Homes for Older People in Eastbourne.</p> <p>b) That any proposed relocation of existing residents be carried out sensitively and in full consultation with residents and their carers, in order to ensure an improved quality of care.</p>
Neil Fuller	
Director of Housing, Health & Community Finance	
Background Papers:	
(document/jc.NAF/Cabinet/010702 – Review of ESCC Residential Care Homes for Older People)	