
Report To: Inverclyde Integration Joint Board **Date:** 25 September 2023

Report By: Kate Rocks
Chief Officer
Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership **Report No:** IJB/37/2023/AB

Contact Officer: Alan Best
Interim Head Of Health & Community Care
Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership **Contact No:**

Subject: Hillend Respite Unit

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the Integration Joint Board with an updated position regarding the future of the currently closed Hillend Respite Unit and the intention to take forward an independent consultation with key stakeholders on the potential to decommission the unit.
- 1.3 In line with Scottish Government guidance the Hillend Respite unit closed at the start of the pandemic in March 2020. Since this time the increase in pressure for carers has been recognised as is the need to ensure the provision of appropriate and safe support. Working in partnership with the Carers Centre, the Assessment and Care Management teams are in regular contact with carers to provide support and ensure appropriate service provision.
- 1.4 Inverclyde HSCP arranges a large number of residential respite each year for all service user groups allowing informal carers a much needed break. We utilise both local and Scotland wide services offering choice over which residential facility or care home provide the respite. However, the impact of Hillend remaining closed for service users is not underestimated. All service users who previously attended Hillend have been reviewed with discussion around appropriate alternative service. People can also choose to have respite at home which is becoming a more common option.
- 1.5 Hillend Respite Unit is registered to support adults within a residential setting, as there is no nursing element to the service it generally accommodates less complex cases. Throughout the year from April 2019 to March 2020 there were 75 service users who used the service, 36 remain active to the HSCP, users of the service included people with learning disability, frail and physical disabilities and mental ill-health. The unit has never been used to capacity with an average occupancy over 2018 to 2020 of 68%. The location of Hillend is not attractive to a lot of people alongside the lack of community resource close by.

- 1.6 In Inverclyde there are 13 care homes registered to provide respite care with a number of homes having the facility to book ahead. To give an idea of capacity, at end of January 23 there were 45 available places within Inverclyde care homes therefore there is considerable choice available. We are able to offer planned respite care in a safe and homelike environment across Inverclyde. Older people who previously used Hillend have become established with an alternative resource.
- 1.7 For service users within the Learning Disability Service, all the individuals who previously accessed Hillend have been reviewed and offered alternatives, 16 people previously used Hillend for regular breaks, 11 people of this group have no unmet need, there is on-going discussion with five to establish an acceptable alternative overnight support, while additional support has been provided within the community to provide breaks for carers.
- 1.8 There is also an impact for the staff group, over the last 3 years there has been significant change within the staff group of 9.39 FTE, with some members leaving and some matched to alternative posts, three staff who are currently deployed within the home care and day care service have decided to remain there permanently.
- 1.9 Respite opportunities continue to be monitored and evidence is clear that there is no unmet need for older people. Work is currently underway within the learning disability service to scope and plan the most appropriate range of service provision to meet individual need.

The option of reinstating the service would require recruitment of 11 respite officers, in addition there is a budget shortfall of £58k due to fire evacuation regulations during the night which requires an increase to 2 staff on duty.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is proposed the Hillend respite Unit remains closed as any potential impact has been minimised over the last 3 years for both service users and employees.
- 2.2 To undertake a further detailed consultation post covid closure with all remaining users and carers who utilised the service pre covid to discuss any impact of the closure of Hillend on a permanent basis and to consult on the availability of alternative respite option provision.
- 2.3 To review all service users of respite and ensure alternative respite option provision is in place in the event of the decommissioning of the service after consultation with users of the service and carers.

Kate Rocks
Chief Officer
Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 Hillend respite Unit is a four bedded unit with single rooms including en suite facilities. There is a small communal area which significantly restricts the capacity for infection control and physical distancing. The Unit is registered to support adults including older people, physical and learning disabilities and people with mental health issues within a residential setting. There is no nursing element to the service therefore it accommodates less complex cases. At March 2020 there were 45 service users regularly staying at the service, approx. 40% were people with a learning disability. The unit has never been used to capacity with an average occupancy over 2018 to 2020 of 68%. The location of Hillend is not attractive to a lot of people alongside the lack of community resource close by.

Since March 2020 the respite staff have been supporting care at home to deliver essential services. As part of the recovery period care at home services have been fully reinstated to ensure the physical and mental wellbeing of people who are living within the community. As the number of absent staff has reduced and additional investment into the service confirmed the requirement for this additional support to home care is reducing.

It is important to recognise the contribution, willingness and flexibility of the respite team to provide support where ever required within the community over the past 3 years.

3.2 Staff Team

There is also an impact for the staff group, out of the staff group of 9.39 FTE, most staff have either left or been matched to other posts with three staff who are currently deployed within home care and day service making a decision to remain in these posts.

To re instate the respite service there would be a requirement to recruit to an additional 11 part time respite officer posts at grade 4. Given the difficulties in recruitment across the sector this would present a challenge and would have the potential to impact locally on home care which remains the priority service.

In addition there is a budget shortfall of £58k for 1.51 FTE due to a concern raised regarding fire evacuation during the night which requires an increase to 2 staff on duty.

3.3 Respite Provision

In Inverclyde there are 13 care homes registered to support Older People and all provide respite care with a number of homes having the facility to book ahead. At January 2023 there were 45 available places within Inverclyde care homes therefore there is considerable choice available. We are able to offer planned respite care in a safe and homelike environment across Inverclyde. Older people who previously used Hillend have become established with an alternative resource.

For service users within the Learning Disability Service 16 people used Hillend regularly, there is on-going discussion with five of this group to establish an acceptable alternative overnight support while additional support has been provided within the community.

The budget for the Hillend service is £329,590 The staff to service user ratio is 2 to 4 which gives a unit cost of £1,890 per week per person at full occupancy compared to a nursing bed which is £832.10. The maximum episodes available at Hillend is 400 per year, episodes are an average of 3 or 4 nights however some people attend for longer periods. The average occupancy at Hillend over 2018 to 2020 was 68% which gives a unit cost of £2,320. The location of Hillend is not attractive to a lot of people alongside the lack of community resource close by. The Unit has never been used to the maximum capacity.

There is sufficient capacity in the Care Home system to cover residential respite for all older people who require this including those who previously accessed Hillend. In 2019 -20 Inverclyde provided respite for 478 services users with 7251 episodes of respite.

There may be a potential gap for people under 65 as care home provision is mainly for over 65 although some younger people are very comfortable using a care home. Further investigation is required for people who have a learning disability which is currently being undertaken.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 It is proposed the Hillend respite Unit remains closed as the impact has been minimised over the last 3 years for both service users and employees and that further consultation takes place on the potential decommissioning of the service and review of alternative respite options.

There is an appropriate choice of respite both residential and community based for service users. It is acknowledged the respite unit is no longer best value reflecting the average 68% usage.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial	x	
Legal/Risk	x	
Human Resources	x	
Strategic Plan Priorities	x	
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children and Young People		x
Clinical or Care Governance	x	
National Wellbeing Outcomes	x	
Environmental & Sustainability		x
Data Protection		x

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
Respite		1/4/24	329		

5.3 Legal/Risk

Consultation on decommissioning the unit will be carried out by a commissioned third sector organisation with all previous users and carers of the Hillend Respite Unit and the wider service

user and carer community. Services will link with Legal Services on the outcome of the consultation and factoring that into future reporting on this proposal.

5.4 Human Resources

No concerns raised, for the 3 staff remaining in home care and day care services they have been given the protected period in their new posts. Consultation with staff with Unison representation has taken place appropriately.

5.5 Strategic Plan Priorities

There is a wide range of appropriate respite choices which is discussed as part of the assessment and review processes for all service users.

For learning disabilities consultation with all the families who previously used Hillend was undertaken in August 2022. The postal survey was followed up by TAG (The Advisory Group is an LD advocacy organisation) who contacted individuals and carers offering the opportunity to meet with the TAG worker for individual advocacy and support to express views about future respite provision. The response to consultation was not large numbers, and those who did respond mainly said they wished to have something similar to their previous respite provision, although other options were of interest in particular holiday options.

5.6 Equalities

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

x	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(b) Equality Outcomes

How does this report address our Equality Outcomes?

Equalities Outcome	Implications
People, including individuals from the above protected characteristic groups, can access HSCP services.	Equal access to services
Discrimination faced by people covered by the protected characteristics across HSCP services is reduced if not eliminated.	Reduces Discrimination
People with protected characteristics feel safe within their communities.	Keeps our community safe
People with protected characteristics feel included in the planning and developing of services.	Inclusive Service
HSCP staff understand the needs of people with different protected characteristic and promote diversity in the work that they do.	Consults with our community
Opportunities to support Learning Disability service users experiencing gender based violence are maximised.	Inclusive to the LD Community

Positive attitudes towards the resettled refugee community in Inverclyde are promoted.	Inclusive to all our community
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(c) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
x	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

(d) **Children and Young People**

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
x	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

5.7 **Clinical or Care Governance**

None.

5.8 **National Wellbeing Outcomes**

How does this report support delivery of the National Wellbeing Outcomes?

National Wellbeing Outcome	Implications
People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer.	Promotes independence
People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions or who are frail are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community	Promotes independence
People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected.	Positive meaningful community respite options
Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services.	Supports carers
Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities.	Reduces health inequalities
People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including reducing any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and wellbeing.	Supports and recognises carers

People using health and social care services are safe from harm.	Keeps people safe
People who work in health and social care services feel engaged with the work they do and are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide.	Engagement with our community
Resources are used effectively in the provision of health and social care services.	Effective use of resources.

5.9 Environmental/Sustainability

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts which relate to this report.

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
x	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.10 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
x	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 DIRECTIONS

6.1 Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	x
	2. Inverclyde Council	
	3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (GG&C)	
	4. Inverclyde Council and NHS GG&C	

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 There has been on-going consultation with both employees and service users including HR and Union representation.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.