

Adult Social Care Centre Consultation

Frequently Asked Questions (04/12/2024)

This Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) is designed to provide additional information in addition to that which is already published on the council website at: [ASC - Care Centres Consultation | Birmingham City Council](#).

It has been developed in response to questions that the consultation team have received during the initial weeks of the consultation process. This FAQ document will be kept updated. However, should you have any further queries that are not included please email us at: CareCentreConsultation@birmingham.gov.uk

Resident care and location

Q1. How many Care Centres are there? And are they all in scope of the changes?

A: Birmingham City Council currently provides residential care for adults at three Care Centres in Birmingham – the Ann Marie Howes Centre; the Perry Tree Centre; and the Kenrick Centre, all are in scope of the review.

Q2. What support will residents get if they need to be rehoused?

A: All proposals are currently subject to consultation and no decisions have been made. The feedback received from the consultation will inform a final proposal and report to the Council's Cabinet for decision in March 2025. If the preferred option were to be agreed which would mean residents may need to move, then the City Council would fully support the residents and their wider family to make an informed decision.

To confirm, no decisions have yet been made. This will happen at the Cabinet meeting in March 2025.

If the decision selected means a move to a different Care Home, the support to residents will include a social worker working with each resident affected to identify suitable care homes with vacancies that would meet the residents care needs.

If the decision selected means a move to a different Care Centre, then the support would be planned in a way to cause least distress to the residents impacted.

Q3. Is there capacity in Birmingham to rehouse all residents who are affected by the change?

A: If residents, subject to Cabinet decision, must move to a private Care Home, we anticipate that there will be sufficient capacity to accommodate all 59 residents. There are approximately two hundred care homes in Birmingham, all care homes are

regulated by the Care Quality Commission. Citizens, families, and advocates would be given relevant information about care homes within their chosen geographical location and that would be suitable to meet their assessed care needs.

If the option of moving to another Care Centre was selected, then we would have sufficient capacity to accommodate all the current residents.

Q4. If the decision was made to close care centres, do carers/family get a choice of what home residents will be relocated to?

A: Residents and their families remain at the centre of this assessment; therefore, the choice of a new care home and its location will be decided by themselves following a comprehensive reassessment of their needs carried out by a dedicated social work team who will also be aware of the capacity in the private care homes in the city.

Q5. What will happen to the residents who do not have family support?

A: All citizens who do not have family support will be supported throughout by a dedicated team of experienced and professional social workers who will ensure all residents assessed care needs are met. In addition, the City Council has appointed an independent advocacy service (Pohwer) who will support all citizens, and particularly those citizens who do not have families.

Q6. What is the definition of complex care?

A: This includes the rapid progression of a citizen's journey through dementia that may require additional care and support. This more complex care borders nursing care or medical interventions that the current home may not be registered to provide. This could also include one to one staff support and the use of specialist technical equipment such as syringe drivers, oxygen, etc.

Q7. Does Birmingham City council understand how much impact it would have on residents, their families, and carers if they had to move care centre?

A: All proposals are currently subject to consultation and no decisions have been made. The feedback received from the consultation will inform a final proposal and report to the Council's Cabinet for decision in March 2025. If the preferred option were to be agreed, then the City Council would fully support the residents, families, and carers to help them make an informed decision.

As a part of the consultation, we recognised the benefits of conducting a Health Impact Assessment which helps evaluate any potential health effects of a proposed change. (See question 8 for more information on health impact assessments).

However, we do appreciate that it is a difficult time for residents and their families. If you have any immediate concerns about a resident at any of the care centres please

contact in the first instance Delroy Bonnitto, the multi-disciplinary Team Manager for advice and support: Delroy.G.Bonnitto@birmingham.gov.uk

Q8. What health impact analysis has been undertaken regards the existing residents of the three care centres?

A: An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed as part of the care centre review process and is publicly available on our website [Equality Impact Assessment - Review of care centres | Birmingham City Council](#) This EIA will be reviewed throughout the consultation and ahead of any formal decision by the council. The initial and final EIA will be provided to Cabinet along with the report to support them to make an informed decision.

However, because of feedback we have received during the initial stage of consultation, we have agreed to conduct a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) which will be available on our website before the consultation closes. A HIA is a practical way to consider the potential, and sometimes unintended, effects of a policy or strategy change on the health of a population. This is particularly useful for considering effects on vulnerable or disadvantaged groups.

The goal of the HIA is to provide timely recommendations during the decision-making process to promote healthy environments, minimize poor health outcomes, and reduce health inequities.

Q9. Do Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to provide care homes to elderly people?

A: The Care Act 2014 places a duty on the Council to meet the assessed eligible care and support needs of individuals and their carers (assessed against the National Eligibility Framework). The Council is enabled to meet needs in a range of ways, including providing services itself through to providing funding to allow citizens to self-direct their care and support. It must however ensure sufficiency of provision, of both capacity and capability, to meet anticipated needs for all eligible people in their area.

Q10. How many sitting tenants are there upstairs and downstairs of the three care centres?

A: Ann Marie Howes BCHC NHS Unit: There is a total of 32 citizens in situ at any given time on the intermediate rehabilitation unit, however this number is subject to fluctuation given the rapid turnover as per patient recovery and discharge plan.

Ann Marie Howes Residential Unit BCC Ground floor: There is a total of 32 beds on the residential unit, however this is made up of 22 beds dedicated to long stay citizens and 10 beds are allocated to Enhanced Assessment Beds (EAB)

Perry Tree Centre BCHC NHS Unit: There is a total of 32 citizens in situ at any given time on the intermediate rehabilitation unit, however this number is subject to fluctuation given the rapid turnover as per patient recovery and discharge plan.

Perry Tree Centre Residential Unit BCC Ground floor: There is a total of 32 beds on the residential unit, however, this is made up of 25 beds dedicated to long stay citizens and 7 beds are allocated to Respite and Temporary Stay.

Kenrick Centre Enhanced Assessment Bedded Unit. There is a total of 32 citizens in situ at any given time on the EAB Unit, however, this number is subject to fluctuation given the rapid turnover as per citizens recovery and discharge plan.

Kenrick Centre Residential Unit BCC Ground floor: There is a total of 31 beds on this unit, however, this is made up of 25 long stay beds, and 6 beds dedicated to Respite Care and Temporary Stay.

Q11. Can residents, their families and advocates have follow-up meetings with Birmingham City council decision makers?

A: We recognise the importance of feedback coupled by the need to ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to contribute to the consultation. Face to face meetings with senior managers have been arranged from the 13th to the 17th of December to further support the consultation.

Q12. What would happen in respect of a sale or lease of the Kenrick care centre as Birmingham City council do not own the land which is sits upon?

A: As part of the covenant agreement the land at the Kenrick Centre cannot be sold, however the site can continue to be used for care and support services offered to the elderly citizens of Birmingham.

Staff Implications

Q13. Have the staff been told to look for new jobs?

A: The staff have not been told to look for new jobs. Staff have received a briefing on the public consultation, as have their Trade Union representatives. Depending on the option approved, subject to consultation, at the Cabinet meeting in March 2025, there may be staffing implications, which would be subject to staff consultation at this point.

Q14. What would the proposed changes mean for staff at the three care centres?

A: Until a decision has been made by the Councils Cabinet in March 2025, following the public consultation, at present there are no planned changes for staff. When the decision has been made, if there are staffing implications a formal staff consultation will be launched

Q15. The Care Centres currently provide services for residents and an agile space for staff to use. How will residents and staff access these services if the building were to be sold or rented out?

A: Subject to the consultation and the decision made by Cabinet, if residents do move to a different care home, they would be advised how and where they can access the potentially affected services in the future.

If staff use the Care Centres as a work location, subject to consultation and the decision by Cabinet, staff who use the centres as an agile workspace will be communicated with if there is an impact on them continuing to use the space.

Q16. What impact will the changes have upon social worker workloads?

A: The work, post cabinet decision, will, if required, be supported by a dedicated team of professional and experienced social workers. All work regarding the review process will be person centred and proportionate and will vary as everyone's needs will be different. The aim of the social workers intervention will be to ensure dignity, sensitivity and respect is upheld throughout the reviews.

Q17. What are the current staff vacancies across each of the three care centres?

A: On 4th December 2024, Ann Marie Howes: currently there are x2 Care Staff Vacancies x3 Housekeeping and x1 Head Chef, however this is subject to change as a recruitment drive is underway.

Perry Tree Centre: currently there are x 2 Care Assistant Vacancies x1 Senior Care Vacancies and x1 Head Chef Vacancy however this is subject to change as a recruitment drive is underway.

Kenrick Centre EAB Unit: currently there are x10 Care Assistant Vacancies x2 Senior Care Assistants and x1 Assistant Manager this is subject to change as a recruitment drive is underway.

Kenrick Centre Residential Unit: currently there are x10 Care Assistant Vacancies x2 Senior Care Assistants this is subject to change as a recruitment drive is underway.

Q18. The staff at the care centres are passionate and caring, why would the council want to lose such an asset?

A: The proposals are currently subject to consultation and no decisions have been made.

Q19. What analysis has been carried out to measure the impact on the NHS? Would the closure of care centres result in a delay in patients being released from hospital beds?

A: All proposals are currently subject to the consultation and no decisions have been made. The feedback received from the consultation will inform a report to the Council's Cabinet for decision in March 2025. If the preferred option were to be agreed, then the City Council would work with our Health Partners to mitigate any identified risks associated to the Cabinet decision.

The NHS have been invited to provide a response to the consultation as one of our partner organisations.

Decision making process.

Q20. If the decision is made to close the Care Centre, what will be the timescales for rehousing the residents and where would they go?

A: All proposals are currently subject to consultation and no decisions have been made. The feedback received from the consultation will inform a report to the Council's Cabinet in March 2025. If the final proposals were to be agreed the planning for implementation of the proposals would begin.

Q21. How will we be informed of the decision?

A: The final decision will be published on BCCs official website, the team manager with the support of the service managers based at each care centre, will arrange to meet with residents and their families to provide feedback in person and in writing and to talk you through the next steps depending on the decision made.

Costs and financial implications

Q22. What is the rationale behind the six million financial savings targets? How has this figure been determined, and is it realistic?

A: Birmingham City Council is facing significant financial challenges but is also committed to ensuring the best outcomes for citizens wherever possible within their available resources. The £6.4 million which has been identified as the saving for the Care Centres, has been identified by the responsible Directorate with agreement by all Council Members.

Q23. How do you quantify £2,640 per resident as a cost per week. And if the decision is to close Care Centres, will we still be charged the same amount?

A: This is only one of the twelve options that you are invited to comment on as part of the process, however this is the cost to the council of each individual resident in each Care Centre per week. All citizens residing in a local authority home are financially assessed on what they can afford to pay as opposed to the full cost of the care placement being £2,640. So, the charge to residents if you need to move will include a reassessment of each individual case.

Q24. What does reassessment look like?

A: A new assessment would be carried out in the same way for citizens as their original assessment, by a social worker who is appropriately qualified. The assessment focusses on disability, how this affects the things you want to do in your everyday life (known as 'outcomes') and how this affects your wellbeing.

Q25 What are the implications of each of these options. We need to see the detail.

A: Full details of the advantages and limitations of each of the options, including the financial implications can be found on our website, birmingham.gov.uk [ASC - Care Centres Consultation | Birmingham City Council](#). pages 20-39.

Q26. How would Birmingham City council merge three care centres into one? Would the care centres have the capacity to enable this?

A: Given the number of citizens residential vacancies that exist within all three care centres, there would be sufficient places to merge all three centres into one location. Should this be the recommended option to the Council's Cabinet, following consultation, then this would be done in a timely and sensitive manner to reduce distress and disruption to citizens wellbeing and service continuity.

Q27. The February decision date is too short and does not give residents and their families sufficient time to fully consider their options.

A: Thank you for all your views at the consultation events and through the Online consultation platform. The views and comments you share will be considered and analysed for a report which will be presented to the Council's Cabinet.

As a result of the participation and feedback we have received, a decision has been made for the report to be presented at the Council's Cabinet meeting on 18th March 2025. This will allow a thorough review and analysis of all the responses received during the consultation period.

Q28. Is there a combination of options which could be employed to keep the care centres open for residents?

A: The care centre review will consider future options for how the services can be delivered as efficiently as possible to support citizens to live a quality life. Savings are expected to be delivered from this review; however, this could be from one of the twelve options suggested or from a combination of the options or from an alternative option which may have been put forward during the consultation process.

Q29. How will you keep residents, and their families informed?

A: Citizens, relatives, and advocates will be kept fully informed throughout the entire consultation process and following the Cabinet decision in March 2025.