

## Health & Sports Committee Request for information on Care Home Sustainability

### Falkirk Health & Social Care Partnership Response

Prior to this session taking place, the Committee is issuing a short targeted call for views and would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions:

**1. What impact does the recent announcement of the closer of 12 residential care homes have on your area?**

The impact of the recent announcement by Bield is that we will have a reduction of 32 beds out of nearly 1,000 available locally. This is 3% of available beds. In 2015/16 Care Home vacancies during this financial year were 0.7%, which was the lowest we have had in Falkirk since the process of monitoring this data began in 2008. The impact of the Bield Care Home bed closures is significant in that alternative provision requires to be arranged over a short notice period [around 5 ½ months]. We would clarify that our local data on care home placement availability reflects our operational intelligence gathering and is somewhat at odds with the published data from the National Care Home Census which reports a higher level of supply of placements.

We are arranging individual assessment/review for each resident and the alternative support provision which will follow that care planning process will reflect the specific needs of person. While options will include a move to supported housing where appropriate we do anticipate that a high proportion of residents will need to move to alternative care home provision. This will present challenges in terms of limited supply of care home placements, in a context of high competing demand in particular from people who are in hospital awaiting a move to a care home. There is clearly a risk to performance on delayed discharge. There is also likely to be a financial impact for the Partnership as it is unlikely that those people requiring to move to another care home will be able to be placed in a residential provision as opposed to care home with nursing, the latter provision being likely to incur higher costs, estimated at circa £140k.

**2. Are there concerns regarding the sustainability of residential service provision (in your area)? and if so, how could they be addressed?**

At beginning of financial year 2017/18 there were 17 independently run care homes in the Falkirk Council area. All independent sector care homes operate under the National Care Home Contract and have a capacity to accommodate 841 older persons. The local authority care homes accommodate 129 older persons. Total beds in Falkirk Council area are 970 split between 758 nursing placements and 212 residential placements. We are aware from benchmarking with comparator Partnership areas that our current weighted rate of care

occupancy for the population aged over 65 is higher than some other areas. This suggests that we have scope on a planned basis over time to enhance our capacity to support more people to be supported at home through improved care at home services, reflecting the opportunities of more integrated service delivery across the spectrum of community health and social care services. Our approach to sustainability of residential provision therefore includes delaying or preventing admissions to the residential sector in order to ensure that the existing provision is better targeted towards and available to those people who have higher levels of need which require care home admission. We are also mindful of the impact over time of demographic change, which requires to be factored into our modelling of future demand for residential service provision.

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