

## **Auchinlee Care Home**

### **Background**

Auchinlee Care Home has been providing residential care to older people for over 60 years. In June of 2012 it became a designated dementia unit.

During 2015 and in early 2016 there were several concerns regarding care which led to a large scale investigation which commenced in May 2016 and the final report was issued in August. Consequently there was a moratorium placed on new admissions. Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) representatives have worked closely with the Care Inspectorate in to support Cross Reach as they worked to improve standards of care. An inspection report in October 2016 confirmed that standards had improved across all of the criteria assessed.

The Cross Reach Board reviewed the position in June 2016 and decided that it was no longer viable to continue to operate Auchinlee as a care home.

HSCP representatives met with Senior Managers from CrossReach in August and September 2016. During these meetings it was clear that unless an alternative provider could be identified there would be a formal notification of closure issued by CrossReach. This position was reaffirmed at the meeting with the HSCP Chief Officer on 13 September, although it was agreed to consider a partnership between CrossReach and the HSCP, where by responsibility and costs would be shared by both organisations. Details of this were finalised in January 2017.

At meetings held on Monday 31 October 2016, staff and relatives of the residents were informed of the risk to this service and advised of the steps being taken by CrossReach and the HSCP to stabilise and maintain the service in the short/medium term while redesign work is undertaken to develop a long term plan for dementia services in Kintyre.

### **Update (August 2017)**

Following further discussion / negotiations between Argyll & Bute HSCP and Cross Reach in the early part of 2017, and a care summit hosted by Argyll & Bute HSCP in February 2017, an agreement was reached whereby Cross Reach would continue to operate Auchinlee until the end of March 2018 at the latest, with financial and other support from Argyll & Bute HSCP. This agreement was designed to enable the A&B HSCP time to put alternative local care arrangements in place for all of the remaining Auchinlee residents, and to begin to plan for the future of care at home and residential/nursing home provision in West Argyll & Bute.

A key development to be progressed during 2017 is a partnership with Cairn Housing Association (CHA), who own and operate Lorne Campbell Court (LCC) in Campbeltown. LCC was previously a sheltered housing complex with a warden. This changed a few years ago to more standard housing provision and the role of the warden changed to that of building care taker. Subsequently a number of the smaller units (studio flats) have become vacant and remained unoccupied. These units had been taken "out of management" by CHA. This was leading to concerns about the sustainability of the complex.

Initial contact was made by the A&B HSCP with CHA in December 2016 and formal discussions commenced early in 2017. At the outset there were 6 unoccupied studio flats. This has subsequently increased to 9. At the time of writing, there are 9 residents in Auchinlee.

An agreement is now in place, and work to identify the building work/alterations required to accommodate the needs of the Auchinlee residents, ensuring that they will be suitable for future residents is underway. The alterations have been specified by the local Occupational Therapy team with further input from the Dementia Specialist Team. It is anticipated that the required alterations will be completed by the end of December 2017, allowing for the transfer of some or all of the Auchinlee residents by the end of January 2018.

Part of the agreement with CHA includes a commitment by both parties to review all vacancies as they arise in LCC for other studio and possibly 1 bedroom flats as they become available. This will enable us to accommodate others who require a level of care that cannot be provided at home but do not require the level of nursing care that would be available in a nursing home such as KCC. While this will not fully replace Auchinlee it will provide supported living accommodation in Kintyre, which has not previously been available and prevent the need for people to leave the area to access care.

The care input to LCC residents will be based on individual needs required following assessment by HSCP staff.

In addition to this local work, there will be a wider review of care at home services and care home services in West Argyll & Bute. The terms of reference for this work are currently being developed. This work will be supported by a Service Improvement Officer and the locality management team once appointed.

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**August 2017**