



# ...on the future of Day Care at Greenacre

Find out more about the consultation process and how  
you can have your say on the future of Day Care at  
Greenacre

Find Central Bedfordshire Council online at



[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations)

**Central  
Bedfordshire**

## Why do we consult?

Councillors are responsible for making decisions for the Council. Holding a consultation gives those directly affected by a proposed decision the opportunity to have their say and influence the decision that is made. Those directly affected, community organisations and the general public are encouraged to review the proposals and feedback their opinions and ideas to the Council.

During the consultation process you can request further information, ask questions and request that the Council looks into alternative options that have not been identified.

All comments made during the consultation process are recorded. The Council will publish its response to these comments and this information will be taken into account by Councillors so they can make an informed decision.

## What we are consulting on

Central Bedfordshire Council is consulting on the future of Greenacre Older Persons' Home. Having reviewed a number of options for the future of the home, the Council's current preferred option is to offer and arrange accommodation for the existing residents in good alternative care homes and then to close Greenacre. The outcome of this consultation could therefore have an impact on Greenacre Day Centre.

We therefore wish to consult with Greenacre Day Centre attendees and their family and/or carers about the options for the day care service.

The Council would also welcome your views about the future of Greenacre Older Persons Home. The details about this separate consultation and how you can tell us your views are listed on the last page of this document.

## Consultation Timetable

Key Date	Activity
14 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	Consultation opens
13 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	Consultation ends
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	Report to Executive Committee for decision
18 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	Implementation of Executive decision

## How we will consult

Everyone can respond to the consultation by reading this factsheet, which explains the proposals, and completing the consultation questionnaire. There is more information in the document 'Options Considered for the Future of Greenacre Day Centre' which we would encourage people to read before responding.

If you have any questions about the options, need more information or would like the Council to consider other ideas these would be welcome. The ways you can contact the consultation team are explained at the end of this factsheet.

For those people who are most directly affected by the proposal – the people who attend the Day Centre at Greenacre, their relatives and carers – we will organise meetings and events to enable everyone who wants to, to participate in the consultation.

We will take special care to ensure that the people who attend are consulted without causing distress to those who may have difficulty understanding what is happening. We will discuss this with the people who know them best – their relatives and the Day Centre staff.

For those people who may need help with their communication, we will offer support through POhWER, an independent organisation, who will assist them to ensure that they can express their views.

The consultation activities with attendees and relatives will be tailored to individual requirements and the options that will be offered include:

- Meetings held at Greenacre for Day Care attendees, relatives and carers - either in small groups or one-to-one.
- Meetings held in areas local to relatives for those who find it difficult to get to the home.
- Communications via post or email to residents, relatives and carers to inform them of activities and the progress of the consultation.

In addition members of the consultation team are available to meet with other individuals and organisations who would like to hear more about the proposals. Our contact details are at the end of this factsheet.

## What the proposals are trying to achieve

A number of options in relation to the future of the Day Centre at Greenacre have been considered and evaluated against three important questions. These are:

- Quality of service provided – will the option mean that the attendees will continue to receive the same or better quality of service as currently?
- Minimal disruption – what degree of disruption to the lives of current attendees would result from the option in question and what will the impact of this be on their health and wellbeing?
- Value for money – does the option represent good value for money– both in the short term and the longer term?

## The options we have considered

The Council has considered the following options:

1. Doing nothing – continue with day care at Greenacre in its present form.
2. Relocating existing attendees to Houghton Regis Day Centre with the existing staff team and running it as a separate group within the Houghton Regis Day Centre.
3. Relocating existing attendees to Houghton Regis Day Centre with existing staff and merge the operation of both Centres.
4. Provide a similar service using another venue.
5. Replace existing provision with more individual services.

These options are set out in more detail below and are linked to the decision about the home as a whole.

**Option 1. Do Nothing.** If a decision is made to close the home then the continuation of the operation of the Day Centre in its current form would not be sustainable. Therefore in these circumstances the 'do nothing' option would either be impractical to achieve or would represent very poor value for money, as it would entail the Day Centre remaining open whilst the rest of the building was closed but common services (such as catering and domestic services) would need to be retained.

**Option 2. Move current service 'as is' to Houghton Regis Day Centre.** The centre at Houghton Regis has space available to accommodate the Greenacre Day Centre as a separate entity, so the only significant change to attendees would be a change in venue. This may result in a slightly longer journey for some attendees (but perhaps less for others) but the overall disruption would be minimal. This may also provide the opportunity for existing transport arrangements to be streamlined to minimise journey times and give value for money. The move may also open up other activities for attendees to enjoy.

**Option 3. Move current service to Houghton Regis Day Centre as above but mix in the groups over time.** This option would be similar to Option 2 but it would be planned that over time both the attendee and staff groups would mix together. This could be a little more disruptive but could result in more availability of places and a more personalised service in terms of what abilities and interests attendees may have. It also means that attendees benefit fully from a wider range of activities within the centre.

**Option 4. Provide the same day care service using another venue.** This could be by building somewhere or by commissioning the service in a new or existing building. This option could not be achieved in the short term. It would be more expensive than other options.

**Option 5. Replace existing provision with individual services.** In this option current and future attendees could be provided with help to access community-based services and activities to meet their needs. The cost would be met through a Personal Budget or Direct Payment. Whilst this may be an option for some attendees we do not currently think that there are suitable alternative services in place at present to make this a viable option for all of the people who use the Day Centre.

## How we have evaluated the options

We have formed an initial view about these options based on some key criteria:

- **Maintaining quality of service:** would the option result in the service to existing and future attendees being of at least as high a quality as the current service?
- **Minimal disruption:** would the option result in a low level of disruption for the people who currently use the service?
- **Value for money:** would the option represent good value for money, compared with the existing service?

Our views are summarised in the table below.

Criteria	Options				
	1. Do nothing	2. Move current service 'as is' to Houghton Regis Day Centre	3. Move current service to Houghton Regis Day Centre as above but mix in the groups over time	4. Provide the same day care service using another venue	5. Replace existing provision with individual services
Maintain quality of service	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Minimal disruption	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Value for money	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗

## Preferred Options

Having considered the options for the future of Day Care at Greenacre, the Council's preferred options, should the home close, would be to move the existing service to Houghton Regis Day Centre, either in a stand alone room or by integrating the service into the wider service on offer at Houghton Regis Day Centre.

Although moving to Houghton Regis Day Centre is our preferred option we want to hear your views before coming to a decision. This is why the consultation process is so important.

We would also be keen to hear from existing attendees and their relatives/carers about their views on the two preferred options (2 and 3 above) and which of those they would favour.

## Have your say

We want to know the views of current attendees, their relatives and others who have an interest in the future of Day Care at Greenacre. We also want to understand what the impact will be on individuals and how we might reduce this.

A copy of this factsheet is available on the web site for the public and hard copies will be available on request.

You can ask us any questions or tell us your view through the methods below. We are particularly keen to get your answers to the following questions:

- What are your views on the Council's preferred options for Day Care at Greenacre?
- Are there any options that you think are not correctly evaluated?
- Are there any options listed that you think the Council should investigate in more detail?
- Are there any other options that you think the Council should consider that are not in the document?
- What could the Council do to minimise the impact of any changes on existing attendees and their relatives.
- Do you have any other comments about the provision of Day Care at Greenacre?

## For more information

**From 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015 you can:**

- Visit our website for more information and complete our online questionnaire:  
[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations)
- Email us at: [Consultations@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Consultations@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)
- Write to us at:

FREEPOST RSJS GBBZ SRZT (you do not need a stamp)  
Greenacre Day Care Consultation  
Central Bedfordshire Council  
Priory House, Monks Walk  
Chicksands, Shefford  
SG17 5TQ

The consultation period is open until 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016

## Please let us know if you need information in alternative formats or languages

Email	<a href="mailto:consultations@centralbedfordshirecouncil.gov.uk">consultations@centralbedfordshirecouncil.gov.uk</a>
Telephone	0300 300 4371
Website	<a href="http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations">www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations</a>

## Notes