

Options Considered for the Future of Day Care at Greenacre

This document provides detailed information about the options currently being considered in relation to the future of Day Care at Greenacre Older Persons' Home. It aims to support people who wish to participate in the consultation process about the future of the service and should help people make an informed response to the consultation questionnaire.

For more information about what consultation is, how it works and how you can contribute please read the factsheet 'Have your say on the Future of Day Care at Greenacre'.

Reasons for Review

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.

Options Considered

When considering the future of Day Care at Greenacre the Council has considered and evaluated a number of options.

The outcome of our consideration to date is set out below.

1. Doing nothing – continue with day care at Greenacre in its present form

What would this mean in practice?	No changes would be made to the building or the arrangement for the delivery of Day Care.
Cost	There are no cost-expenditure or cost-saving implications for this option – costs would remain the same.
Approximate timescales	Immediate, as it would be a continuation of the existing arrangement.
Assumptions	This option assumes that there would be no change to Day Care, as either the Council would continue to own and operate Greenacre or a new owner would be commissioned to provide the service 'as is'.

Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There would be no disruption to attendees as they would remain where they are. • The service would continue to be delivered by staff with whom they are familiar.
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option is not likely to be feasible under many of the options for the future of the care home aspect of Greenacre.

Initial assessment:

If a decision was made in relation to the home that would mean that the Day Centre could continue to operate unchanged then this would be an appropriate option as it would continue to provide the service it does and there would be no disruption for the current attendees. This would also be an option if the home were sold as a 'going concern' although the Council would need to consider whether or not to commission this service alongside the care home aspect. However a new owner may wish to utilise the space in a different way. Under the other options for the care home that would involve closure of the building or a refurbishment then the option for the Day Centre to continue are unlikely to be possible.

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.

What would this mean in practice?	The existing service would be relocated and operated as it is now, with the same staff and attendees
Cost	There are no negative cost implications for this option and it could produce savings in transport costs.
Approximate timescales	If this option was decided upon then it is likely transfer could happen within a month or so.
Assumptions	That there is sufficient, appropriate space at Houghton Regis Day Centre.
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There would be minimal disruption to attendees as the service would remain unchanged. • The service would continue to be delivered by staff with whom they are familiar. • There may be a greater range of activities on offer in a larger centre. • Transport may be able to be provided more flexibly
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The venue may be further away from some attendees' home. • The facilities at Houghton Regis Day Centre may be different from those at Greenacre.

- The attendees would have to adjust to the new venue.

Initial assessment:

This option could be pursued no matter what the decision was in relation to the future of the care home itself, although there may be little benefit in it if the home were to remain open. It is an acceptable option to the Council as it allows the service to continue virtually unchanged and there may be some economies that can be delivered through shared transport arrangements.

3. Relocating existing attendees to Houghton Regis Day Centre with existing staff and merge the operation of both Centres.

What would this mean in practice?	The existing service would be relocated and operated as it is now, with the same staff and attendees but there could be more mixing in with existing attendees and joining in with wider activities on offer. This could be achieved over time to minimise disruption and allow attendees to adjust.
Cost	There are no negative cost implications for this option and it could produce savings in staffing and transport costs.
Approximate timescales	If this option was decided upon then it is likely transfer could happen within a month or so. The merging of operations would then take approximately three months.
Assumptions	That there is sufficient, appropriate space at Houghton Regis Day Centre.
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There would be minimal disruption to attendees as the service would remain unchanged initially. • The service would continue to be delivered by staff with whom they are familiar. • There may be more capacity in terms of staff and so attendees could attend for more days if needed. • There may be a greater range of activities on offer in a larger centre. • Transport may be able to be provided more flexibly.
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The venue may be further away from some attendees' home. • The facilities at Houghton Regis Day Centre may be different from those at Greenacre. • The attendees would have to adjust to the new venue. • The attendees would have to adjust to a larger group.

Initial assessment:

This option could be pursued no matter what the decision was in relation to the future of the care home, although there may be little benefit in it if the home were to remain open. It is an acceptable option as it allows the service to continue virtually unchanged other than location and there may be economies that could be delivered through shared transport and staffing arrangements. It has the advantage of being able to enhance the existing service using the wider facilities and resources within a larger setting. Provided this is achieved sensitively and gradually, it could provide existing attendees the continuity with a more flexible service moving forward.

4. Provide a similar service using another venue.

What would this mean in practice?	The council would look to commission, build, buy or rent a suitable venue to provide the service
Cost	There are cost implications for this option as the council would need to find capital if it was to purchase the land and build. The revenue costs would increase considerably if a new venue has to be rented or service commissioned.
Approximate timescales	If an existing facility was to be used then it would take approximately six months to make arrangements. If a new facility was required then this would take a minimum of a year.
Assumptions	That a suitable site or venue could be identified and secured.
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new venue could be designed specifically for the needs of the attendees.• It could provide more modern facilities.
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This option is not immediately available so interim arrangements may need to be made for attendees.• This will cause disruption for existing attendees.

Initial assessment:

This option could be pursued no matter what the decision was in relation to the future of the care home, although there may be little benefit in it if the home were to remain open. It would incur additional costs but could provide what is needed in the longer term. In the short term it would be disruptive to the existing attendees and the staff. This option may necessitate an interim solution while a new service was developed. For these reasons this option is not one of the preferred ones.

5. Replace existing provision with more individual services away from a building-based day care model.

What would this mean in practice?	The council would provide attendees with a Personal Budget or Direct Payment which they could use to purchase individual services. Support Planners would assist attendees and their relatives/carers to identify appropriate services.
Cost	There are cost implications which are not fully known but there may be additional costs to this option.
Approximate timescales	If this option was decided upon then it would take approximately three months to implement.
Assumptions	This option assumes that there are appropriate alternative services and resources available for attendees to purchase.
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The services could be personalised and tailored to individuals needs. The services purchased can be far more flexible and not just available between Monday and Friday.
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The attendees would not necessarily get a group experience using individual services. This will cause disruption for existing attendees. Some attendees may lack capacity to manage a Direct Payment or to be able to choose how they use it.

Initial assessment:

This option could be pursued no matter what the decision was in relation to the future of the care home, although there may be little benefit in it if the home were to remain open. Direct Payments can provide a more bespoke and flexible solution to providing care and support but they do require suitable services to be in place for individuals to purchase. Given the care and support needs of the group of day centre attendees it is may be that appropriate services may not be readily available. If adopted it is likely the Council would still need to provide a similar day care experience for some attendees. Therefore this option is not considered to be a solution for all current attendees but could be pursued on for some individuals.

Options Summary

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	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗

Having considered the options for the future of Day Care at Greenacre, the Council's preferred options 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 (options 2 and 3 above).

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.