

## **Overview: Proposal to move the location of the adult social care short breaks service.**

The Council is seeking your views on its proposal to move and improve the Breakaway Service by moving it from Prince of Wales Road (Kentish Town) to a building at the Alexandra Centre in Swiss Cottage. This would provide two additional bed spaces, and the service would be located in a more modern and fit for purpose building.

### **What is the short breaks service (Breakaway)**

Breakaway is a residential short breaks service for adults with Learning Disabilities, run by Camden Council. It is regulated by the Care Quality Commission, and currently rated as "Good". People with Learning Disabilities are allocated a number of nights of respite, to use throughout the year. Planned stays usually range from a couple of days to up to three weeks, at any one time. Sometimes in exceptional circumstances, this is extended.

The current service has six bedrooms, one of which is reserved for emergency or short-notice placements and is currently over-subscribed. People in the emergency placements often stay longer and this can mean that other people cannot use the service.

All are single rooms, and people have to use shared bathrooms. Everyone has access to a shared kitchen, communal lounge and garden.

Meals are prepared by staff on shift, and people using the service are encouraged to participate in the preparation of meals.

Staff work on a 24-hour rota basis. At night there is one member of staff awake and another on call asleep in the staff bedroom.

Due to their learning disabilities and complex needs people use specialist transport to access the service.

In the past couple of years, there has been an increase in demand for the service and a number of people who have needed a placement at very short notice, which has had a knock-on effect of having to cancel some short breaks for long-standing service users.

There are also challenges presented by the current building:

- The building's fire exit restrictions mean that only two wheelchair users can access the service at any one time.
- There is a lack of communal space, which makes it very difficult for people who need to have access to quiet space away from others.
- There are a number of repeated maintenance problems, which could only be fixed if major works are carried out.

Carrying out major work would mean closing the service for a period. It would also not address the other challenges described above. Neither would taking no action. Therefore, the Council is recommending moving the service.

### **What change is proposed?**

It is proposed that Breakaway moves from its current location, in Prince of Wales Road, (Kentish Town), to a building at the Alexandra Centre in Swiss Cottage. This new location is about one and a half miles away from the current location of the service.

On the same new site there is a further education college for people with learning disabilities and complex needs, which is run by Westminster Kingsway College. The Alexandra Centre was built in 2014 and the college building was refurbished for its current purpose. The short breaks service would be on the same site as the college but housed completely separately. People using the service would use

specialist transport to travel to the location (as they do now) and the proposed new location offers good road access. Some people may attend the Alexandra Centre during the day as well as stay at Breakaway and they would no longer need transport to travel to Breakaway as both services are on the same site.

The proposed new building is more suitable for the service:

- There would be eight bedrooms (an increase in 2 bedrooms), across two linked buildings, to be staffed according to the needs of whoever is staying at the time.
- Each building has kitchen and lounge facilities to enable people with differing needs and interests to share the service.
- Five of the eight bedrooms have en-suite shower rooms and toilets, and there are an additional two communal bathrooms.
- The building is on one level, affording accessibility to the whole building. It has extensive communal space both indoors and outdoors.

Overnight staffing arrangements would be increased to include two staff awake at nighttime. (There would be no sleep-in cover).

The proposed move would mean that there would be less chance of short breaks being cancelled due to emergency placements (that at short notice have occupy available places) and service users would have more choice of when they could book stays as they would not be restricted due to compatibility issues with others, particularly people in wheelchairs.

### **Why we are consulting**

If approved the proposal would be implemented in late January 2019. We have already talked to and met with some people who use Breakaway and their parents and carers.

The Council will be pleased to hear your views on the proposal as well as any alternative suggestions or objections you may have to any aspect of what we are proposing. This consultation will be open from **Monday 17 December to midnight on Sunday 13 January 2019.**

Please respond to this consultation online by clicking on the online survey available on the website [https://consultations.wearecamden.org/consultation\\_finder/](https://consultations.wearecamden.org/consultation_finder/) by **midnight on Sunday 13 January 2019, or send your response by email to [ASCChanges@camden.gov.uk](mailto:ASCChanges@camden.gov.uk).**

Alternatively, you can send your response by post to,

*Adult Social Care Short Breaks Consultation  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor 5PS, Prevention and Wellbeing Team  
FREEPOST RSLT-RJBR-TXAA  
London Borough of Camden  
Town Hall  
London  
WC1H 9JE*

Please note, no stamp is required.

If you would like a hard copy of the survey, please email [ASCChanges@camden.gov.uk](mailto:ASCChanges@camden.gov.uk) or write to the address above.

### **What happens next?**

While it will not be possible to reply to you individually, all comments will be taken into account. At the end of this consultation exercise, a report will be prepared analysing the comments received and officers' recommendations. This report will be presented to the Executive Director of Supporting People who will make a decision whether to implement the proposal.