

Wednesday 17th August 2022



Dear xxxxx

Update about the review of NHS Learning Disability Short Breaks (Short Breaks Review)

Before the COVID-19 pandemic we were listening to your views about the NHS Learning Disability Short Breaks services at Amberley, Valley View, Robertson Road, Rockley, and Orchard Cottage. We explained that this is important as it helps us understand how these services are working and how they may work in the future.

We know that you, a member of your family, or a loved one has used one or more of these services before, so we wanted to update you. The last time we got in touch with you about this was in March 2020. At that time, we were waiting the results of other pieces of work before we could continue with the review of the Short Breaks Review. The Covid-19 pandemic then meant that we had to pause this work along with many of the other regular service reviews that we were working on.

Why are we reviewing NHS Learning Disability Short Breaks services?

The reason we are reviewing NHS Learning Disability Short Breaks services remain the same as they did when we last contacted you. We need to make sure that we:

- understand how services are working at the moment and look to the future too.
- ensure that there is equal access to all health and social care services for people who may need them.
- understand any changes in people's health and social care needs since the Covid-19 pandemic.
- make best use of public resources for the people of Derbyshire.

It is also important to explain that the NHS and local authority organisations in Derby and Derbyshire which deliver healthcare, social and voluntary care, community care and social enterprise services are now working more closely together. This partnership is called Joined Up Care Derbyshire (JUCD) and is part of the government's promise to integrate health and social care for the benefit of local people. JUCD will be leading the Short Breaks Review.

Changes since we last contacted you

There have been some important changes since we last contacted you about the Short Breaks Review. These are the:

- suspension of the services delivered at Valley View and Amberley. This is because we did not have the number of staff needed to provide a safe service.
- suspension of the service delivered at Robertson Road. This was because the service could not be delivered as part of the government's COVID-19 'Infection Prevention Control' guidance. The NHS has contacted you about how we plan to restart the service at Robertson Road.

What happens next?

Derbyshire County Council will contact you about an assessment or review. This assessment or review will involve partners from the NHS to help us best understand your needs.

Attached to this letter is Derbyshire County Council's 'This is Me' template. This is a tool to assist people with a learning disability (and other potential cognitive impairments) to have a voice in their assessment or review. You are encouraged to complete the template so that it can be used during your assessment or review.

The assessment/review is part of the Care Act (2014). It may identify changes to your health and social care needs, including how services are funded. The health and social care professionals will work with you to make sure that you understand these changes. Should you require support known as statutory advocacy this will be organised by Derbyshire County Council and our colleagues will advise you on this.

There will be no immediate changes to any service you are receiving from Derbyshire's NHS Learning

Disability Short Breaks. This is unless you request a change to be made (for example should you want to receive support from a different service).

If you have any questions about your assessment or review you can email shortbreaksnhs@derbyshire.gov.uk or if you would prefer a telephone conversation please ask to speak to a Staff Nurse, Deputy Nurse Manager or Nurse Manager by calling:

- 01623 747215 if you usually attend or receive telephone support from Rockley.
- 01629 733400 if you usually attend or receive telephone support from Orchard Cottage.
- 01298 25153 if you usually attend or receive telephone support from Robertson Road.

This is just the first stage of restarting the Short Breaks Review.

These assessments and reviews are just the first stage of restarting the Short Breaks Review. What we learn from the assessments and reviews will be used to understand the current and future need for health and social care short breaks and respite services. This means that JUCD may propose changes to Derbyshire's NHS Learning Disability Short Breaks services, but we will ensure that you have the opportunity to be involved in any proposals. We are contacting you now because we want to make sure you are involved from the very start.

Making sure that your voice is heard.

Once all the assessments and reviews are complete you will have the chance to talk to us about the future of short breaks and respite. We will ask you if you would like to be a part of this activity during your assessment or review.

We do know that talking about potential change can sometimes be worrying for people so if you are concerned or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. You can do this in the following ways:

- by going to the Joined Up Care Derbyshire online engagement forum which you can find at <https://www.derbyshireinvolvement.co.uk/NHSLDShortBreaks>. This website includes further information and an opportunity to ask questions.
- by writing or sending something to us – you may want to send us an email, a letter, a painting, a video or any tell us in another way that you prefer best. You can do this by:

- emailing ddicb.mhldaprogram@nhs.net.
- sending mail to:

James Lewis
Head of Joint Strategic Commissioning (Learning Disabilities & Autism)
First Floor, Cardinal Square
10 Nottingham Road, Derby
DE1 3QT

- by requesting a telephone conversation or a meeting. To do this please ask to speak to a Staff Nurse, Deputy Nurse Manager or Nurse Manager about the Short Breaks Review by calling:
 - 01623 747215 if you usually attend or receive telephone support from Rockley.
 - 01629 733400 if you usually attend or receive telephone support from Orchard Cottage.
 - 01298 25153 if you usually attend or receive telephone support from Robertson Road.

We will make sure that one of our team members is available to respond to you.

Yours sincerely,

Mick Burrows,
Director of Commissioning for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities, Autism & Children and Young People.
NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board / Joined Up Care Derbyshire
First Floor, Cardinal Square, 10 Nottingham Road, Derby DE1 3QT