

Birmingham City Council wants to know what you think about some ideas for change to The Laurels and Brook House short breaks services. Use this document to help you answer the consultation questionnaire.

We have tried to make this information easier to read and understand. To do this we have taken out some of the detail. You should read this information with someone who has a copy of the full consultation document who can explain things to you in a way which you can understand.



In November 2015 the Council asked you what you thought of its 2016+ Budget proposals.



It told you about how changes to The Laurels and Brook House could save the Council a lot of money, £364,000 per year



The Council wants to help people live as independently as possible, and give people choice and control over the support they need.



The Council spends lots of money on The Laurels and Brook House.



It wants to free up this money and give it to people.



So they can choose which short breaks services they want to buy.



The Council wants to encourage people to have money in the form of a Direct Payment and decide for themselves how to pay for things they need.

Some reasons for suggesting changes include:



The Care Quality Commission, who check on our services, said The Laurels and Brook House need to improve the quality of service



Rooms at The Laurels are very small and wheelchair access should be better. It would cost the Council a lot of money to improve The Laurels.



The Laurels and Brook House are not fully used.
Some beds are empty.



Some people are living at the Laurels and Brook House for long periods of time. The Council does not think this is right.



There are other ways to give you the help you need. For example the Shared Lives service offers accommodation, and care and support within a family home.



The Council has made a list of other short breaks services. There are 3 residential homes.

Birmingham Multicare - Silverbirch Road in Erdington and

Greswolde Park Road in Acocks Green

Norman Laud Association - Emscote House in Wylde Green)



Home support agencies offer care to people in their own homes or you can also employ a personal assistant to do the same thing.



There is holiday accommodation in different parts of the country which can also provide care and support.

Upward Care is planning to open a 'Care Hotel' in East Birmingham in Spring 2017.



The council is considering 6 ideas

1 – No change

2 – Close The Laurels and move the service to alternative Council owned accommodation

3 – Close The Laurels and continue to provide a service at Brook House in the medium to long term

4 – Close The Laurels and transfer Brook House to an alternative provider

5 – Close The Laurels and Brook House on a phased basis and offer service users alternative provision

6 – Close The Laurels and Brook House together and offer service users alternative provision





We would like to ask you what you think of the ideas.

We want to know if you think each idea is a good or bad idea and how you might be affected.



We also we want to hear any different ideas you have.



You can tell us what you think of each idea by answering the questions on a paper form



You can come to a meeting to hear about the choices and have your say.



Complete the consultation questionnaire and return it to us at this address:

Freepost: RSXL-JAYT-ZRGR

SCS Consultation 2016

PO Box 16468

Birmingham

B2 2DS



You can email us:

specialistcareservicesconsultation2016@birmingham.gov.uk



You can answer the questions on the internet if you have a computer and have internet access. Go to:

www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/learning-disability-short-breaks-consultation-2016



You can speak to someone on the phone. Call this number, leave a message and an officer will call you back:

0121 464 8927