

OUTCOMES FROM PARENTS/CARERS MEETING **HELD AT PARKSIDE ON 11 JANUARY 2011**

Parents and carers attended the meeting last night. The general view was one of frustration and concern. Ted Parker (Chairman) opened the meeting and made the attached presentation.

Following this presentation a discussion session took place and the following bullet points/statements were made by parents and carers:-

ALDERSHOT DAY SERVICES

- Do not want to close
- Want a fixed Centre
- A good location, well established and accepted within the community with good facilities
- The current model provides good opportunities to meet with peers and socialise
- Concern that people on Direct Payments or Shared Lives could become isolated, introverted, lose skills, causing depression and loss of well-being.
- Rather than giving more choice, this proposal was taking away a choice.

RESPIRE CARE - MEADOWCROFT

- Concerns about location of the proposed new respite facility and the impact on Day services or their overall support provision
- Need for respite facilities in immediate local area
- Huge concerns were expressed about the Shared Lives proposals with regard to training, suitability of housing, experience of carers, particularly for people with more demanding needs
- Very little provision available (Shared Lives)
- The loss of opportunity to meet with peers and socialise
- A number of parents/carers stated how much their dependant looked forward to attending Meadowcroft and meeting their friends
- Parents expressed concern at the misleading percentage of usage being quoted by Hampshire. They stated that a number of respite sessions had been cancelled last year due to emergency admissions. The concern was that this year's allocation was then based on actual sessions attended last year, as a result parents found they were offered a reduced service. All parents present stated they would use a greater number of respite sessions if offered/available.
- If Meadowcroft does have to close it is imperative that the new facility is in place to allow a smooth transition.
- It was identified that the Meadowcroft facilities were very good. Plenty of accessible ground floor space, 3 sitting rooms, 2 bedrooms with hoist facilities, kitchen which was designed for teaching life skills (this has never been used for this purpose), 9 other bedrooms. Also a bungalow in the grounds, once again ideal for teaching life skills.

- Parents were very supportive of the Meadowcroft staff who provide a welcoming and friendly environment.

The news clip from South Today was then played.

- Parents were upset and confused with the comment made by Cllr F Hinson. The view she expressed on behalf of parents was completely distorted. Parents of young adults stated they had not been made aware or offered the facilities at Meadowcroft. Parents of older adults reiterated the fact their respite provision had been reduced and stated that Meadowcroft was a vital 'life line' and the closure of Meadowcroft in advance of replacement facilities would result in choice being reduced.
- One parent stated that she had received a consultation questionnaire which referred to a 'Carers Support Plan'. She suggested that all parents should demand an assessment so that Hampshire fully recognised the need.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm and all present were requested to write to their Hampshire Councillor to express their concerns.

Email addresses for the Hampshire Councillors are attached.