

## Call in of the Decision to close Merrydale and sunbeams in Spring 2018

We the undersigned wish to call in the Decision made by Cllr Adrian Mans on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

We would like the decision to be revisited in light of the responses to the consultation, the deputations made to the committee on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January, and comments of others to councillors during the process.

Merrydale is part of a group of buildings on one site: the other is still occupied and so Merrydale is likely to sit idle until the site is clear for development. This is a wasteful use of resources whilst the situation remains unresolved for respite care and the change to an 'outsourced model' is being made.

Sunbeams is a building only part occupied by the Respite care facility.

### Context of the Call In

We acknowledge that Cllr Mans added a third point in the decision: Cllr Mans wanted to receive a regular report from Children's Services Department to tell him whether or not alternative care and transport costs had been discussed and resolved with each parent.

However, this additional point did not address the issues raised by parents: the current decision to close the two respite care facilities *is not dependent* on receiving assurance that all current children attending would be happily *settled elsewhere first*, before the closure of Merrydale and Sunbeams takes place.

Parents even report that they are being told they have to re-apply for respite care which isn't guaranteed. Transport arrangements are not guaranteed either: many children are likely to have to travel significant distances to and from school. It is important that time and money costs are factored in to this decision.

### Our reason for the Call In

In light of this, we would like the decision to be called in

- to review whether the change to new arrangements for each of the current users to respite care alternatives be fully explored and completely resolved before Merrydale and Sunbeams are closed.
- to assure the Executive Member and the Select committee that *no child who currently receives respite care* in this way will receive reduced respite care, be refused respite care, or have to re-apply to seek respite care, and that there will be no gap in the respite care provided.
- To ensure that transport arrangements and costs do not put any of the current users at a disadvantage.

This does not address future need but does, at least, clarify the position for current users.

The criteria for respite care remains unclear to parents. Clarity would be appreciated by parents and is something we will continue to explore with HPCN.

### Called in by:

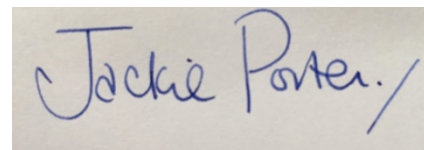
J A Porter

G James

W Irish

M Wade

M Westbrook



Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018

