

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 9 MAY 2018 AT 10.00AM**

**UPDATE PAPER FROM HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CHILDREN'S
SERVICE FOR THE COMMITTEE'S RECONVENED SCRUTINY OF HERTS
VALLEYS CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP'S PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW
£600,000 FUNDING FROM NASCOT LAWN NHS RESPITE CENTRE (THE
"PROPOSAL")**

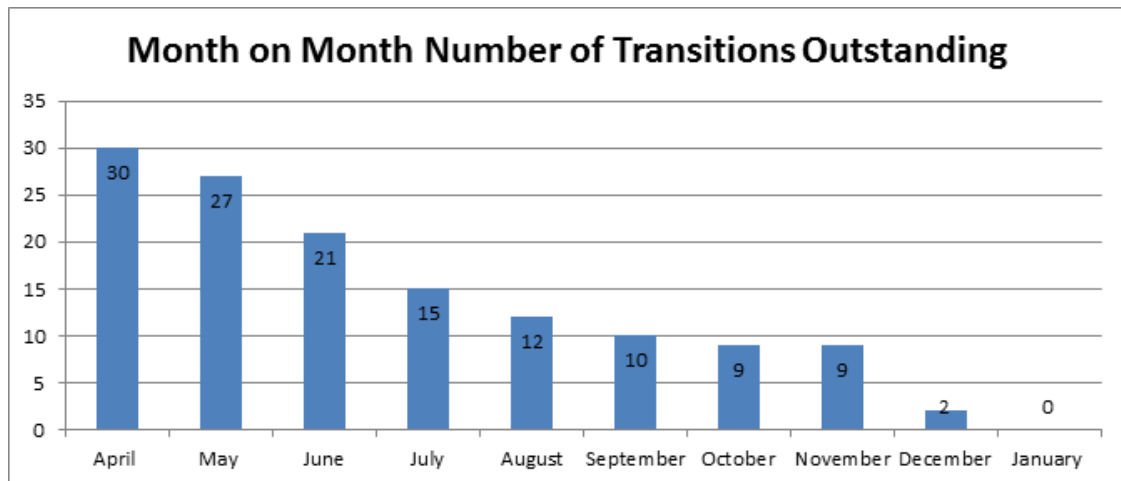
Author: Marion Ingram, Operations Director Specialist Services
Author's telephone number: 01992 588620

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

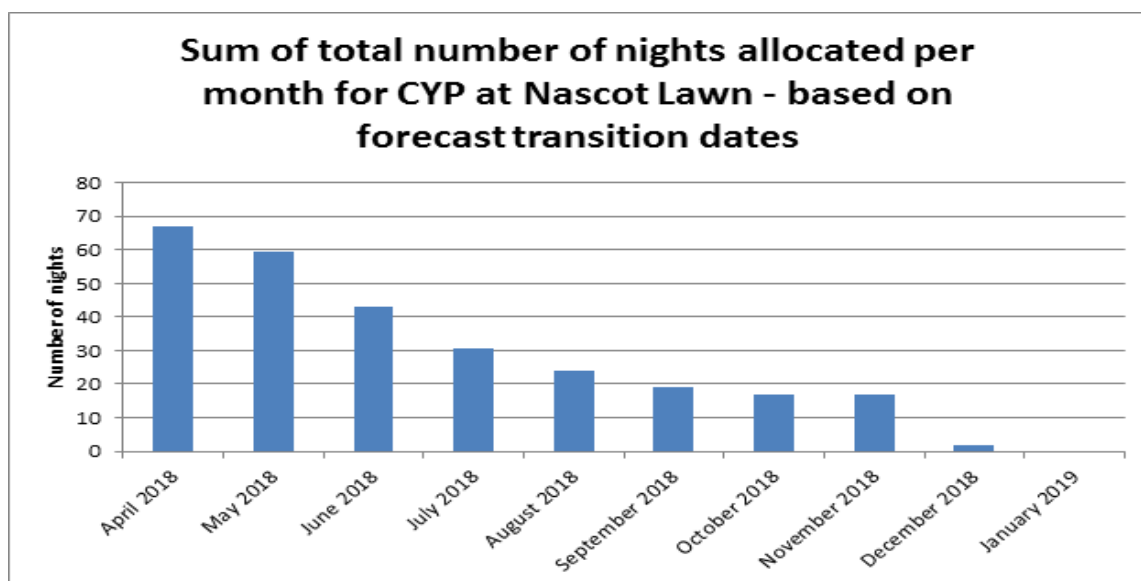
- 1.1 To provide members with an update to the scrutiny report prepared for the Special Health Scrutiny Committee which took place 21 March 2018. This report is to be read in conjunction with previous reports.

2. Transitional arrangements

- 2.1 Council Officers have continued to work with Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, East and North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group and Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group to plan and implement transitions from Nascot Lawn to alternative services, including alternative overnight short breaks settings. Plans were initially made as contingencies should the Proposal be implemented however, due to the reduced service at Nascot Lawn and the stated intent regarding the Proposal those plans are now being actively progressed.
- 2.2 There are currently 30 children who are still having overnight short breaks at Nascot Lawn (of the original 46). The table below shows the projected trajectory of children taking up alternative arrangements. This table assumes that West Hyde will be able to recruit a small number of additional staff, that training of staff and 'sign off' regarding competence will progress as planned and that equipment will be available as required. It also assumes that an appropriate alternative arrangement can be made for the child with the most complex health needs during November.



- 2.3 Children who access overnight short breaks are allocated a number of nights per year depending on need. Assuming that these allocated nights are spread across the year in an even way (for example if the child has an allocation of 24 nights per year the assumption is that this equates to two nights per month), the table below illustrates the number of nights per month that Nascot Lawn will be required to deliver during a transitional period. A number of children are offered an overnight on the same day (there are four bedrooms). The table reflects the full allocation rather than the level of overnights currently available to families (less than 50%). Again, this table reflect the assumptions as set out in 2.2 above.



3. Building Works to West Hyde Overnight Short Breaks Service

- 3.1 Plans for an extension to West Hyde are currently being designed and will be submitted for planning permission. Due to the location of the setting (Green Belt), it is possible that this application will take some time to progress. If planning permission is granted then building works will be tendered, commissioned and delivered.
- 3.2 Whilst Officers recognise that this work must be completed as soon as possible, the proposed schedule indicates that the works will not be completed by November as had been hoped. Due to the various surveys that need to be carried out and the uncertainty surrounding the application for planning permission it is unlikely that building works will commence before October. The two extra bedrooms are therefore unlikely to be available until the end of the financial year. This will impact on the transition of one child who cannot be accommodated at the current West Hyde setting.

4. Proposed Financial Arrangements for the Delivery of an Integrated Overnight Short Breaks (OSB) Service.

- 4.1 The County Council has three contracts for OSB. Last year, 2017/18, the value of these contracts was £1,725,000. This year, 2018/19, due to the contracts having been extended, the value is £2,031,964. The cost of the extensions is £306,964. In addition costs are being incurred through extending Direct Payments, increased home care provision and a shared care arrangement.

- 4.2 Herts Valley Clinical Commissioning Group and East & North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have agreed to contribute £200,000 (£100,000 each CCG) towards the costs of delivering OSB in recognition of the health care that is provided. As the integrated service is developed this contribution will be incorporated into the overall contract cost rather than being seen as an 'add on'. The first meeting to begin to develop the integrated service is taking place on 27 April 2018. It is anticipated that parents and both CCGs will be at the meeting and actively involved in service development.

5. Staffing at Nascot Lawn

- 5.1 Children currently have overnight stays at Nascot Lawn allocated until 17 May. Future stays have yet to be allocated. Staff availability remains an issue and there has recently been an occasion where overnight stays have been cancelled due to staff sickness. HTC are planning to send allocations for June next week.