

REPORT TO:		Council	
DATE:		07 July 2016	
REPORT OF:		Cllr Eamonn Higgins, Chair of the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Overview and Scrutiny Officer	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Scrutiny Report – Calderstones NHS Trust and The Evergreen School	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Council of two Scrutiny reviews carried out at the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28th June 2016.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council writes to the Chief Executive of NHS England regarding the closure of in-patient facilities at Calderstones NHS Trust outlining the following concerns:
- A lack of meaningful public consultation taking place to inform the decision to close the in-patient facilities at Calderstones
 - The decision taken not to retain any in-patient facilities at Calderstones, and to re-site a Medium Secure Unit at Maghull and a Low Secure Unit at a yet unidentified site.

The letter should also urge NHS England to reconsider using purpose built facilities at Calderstones for future medium and low secure in-patient facilities.

- 2.2 That Council gives its formal support to the application for a free school in Great Harwood, The Evergreen School.

3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

3.1 Calderstones NHS Trust

3.2 The Chief Executive of Calderstones NHS Trust presented to the Committee on the future of services provided by Calderstones NHS Trust. Calderstones NHS Trust will cease to exist on Friday 1st July as it merges with Mersey Care. The Facilities at Calderstones will close in 2018 as patients are transferred to alternative care, including other in-patient facilities and community provision.

3.3 These decisions have been informed by several policies/papers including:

- Transforming Care
- Building the Right Support - A national plan to develop community services and close inpatient facilities for people with a learning disability and/or autism who display behaviour that challenges, including those with a mental health condition.
- Homes Not Hospitals

3.4 All of the above are available to view online <https://www.england.nhs.uk/>

3.5 There were several items which were of concern to the Committee, including lack of services for care in the community, ability of private and third sector providers to care for patients with complex needs, displacement of patients away from the area, potential job losses, perceived lack of consultation and the decision not to retain any in-patient services at the Calderstones site, despite the fact the Low Secure Unit there is state of the art and was built only 2 years ago. Together with the Medium Secure Facility at the site (built only 7 years ago) this cost £40 million of public money. Committee Members were particularly concerned by plans to build a new facility elsewhere in Lancashire, at significant expense, despite there being a purpose built facility already in place at Calderstones.

3.5 The Committee felt that their concerns should be put in writing to NHS England and supported by the Council.

3.6 The Evergreen School

3.7 Trustees of the Evergreen School presented to the Committee on their proposal to create a new free school in Great Harwood to provide secondary education.

3.8 An 11-18 Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 free school taking four forms of entry is proposed for Hyndburn. The school will be located in the town of Great Harwood. The creation of this school fits within the strategic vision of Hyndburn Borough Council to improve educational standards in the borough and address local industry employment issues.

3.9 The Committee found that the Trustees are at the early stages of this proposal but are looking for support from the Council to add weight to their application.

3.10 Contained in the Council's Core Strategy for Hyndburn there is a policy specifically relating to education. This policy states:

“The Council will support proposals for accessible, high quality educational facilities that improve basic and higher level skills and qualifications.”

- 3.11 While no particular site has been identified the school plans to open in 2018 and eventually accommodate up to 150 pupils in each year group from 11-16.
- 3.12 The presentation and report showed how the Trustees had identified a need for a secondary school in Great Harwood based on population, new housing developments in Great Harwood and the Ribble Valley, and the fact that 125 children from each year group have to leave town every day in order to be educated. The school will have an open intake and its catchment area will include Great Harwood and Clayton-Le-Moors.
- 3.13 Four out of Five Great Harwood Councillors were in attendance at the meeting and each one agreed that they would support the proposal.
- 3.14 Details of the proposal can be found here <http://democracy.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MId=1132&Ver=4>
- 3.15 The Committee supported the proposals and asks that the Council give its formal support to the application for a Free School in Great Harwood.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 **Not applicable**

5. Consultations

- 5.1 A lack of consultation from NHS England is one of the Committee’s primary concerns regarding the Calderstones Item.
- 5.2 The Trustees at the Evergreen School have carried out several consultations and will continue to do so to support their application.

6. Implications

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	None
Legal and human rights implications	NA

Assessment of risk	NA
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	NA

**7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:
List of Background Papers**

- 7.1 *Agenda and reports of the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28th June 2016*
<http://democracy.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MId=1132&Ver=4>

8. Freedom of Information

- 8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.