

Learning disability short breaks service relocation proposal

Information for families of people
who use the learning disability
short breaks service

October 2025

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Introduction to the proposal

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust provides many services to support, treat and care for people with a learning disability across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR).

This includes:

- the learning disability short breaks service, which enables eligible family members and carers to have a break from looking after their loved one.
- outpatient support through appointments in community venues and in people's homes.
- the Agnes Unit, which is a bespoke facility that currently provides inpatient care for adults with learning disabilities and mental health conditions.

We are proposing to move more of these services into the same building, at the Agnes Unit, while keeping the same level of service provision.

The Agnes Unit is a fantastic, modern building with lots of specialist and bespoke facilities. We want to make sure it is used to its full potential to provide short and long term care and help people in the local community.

Inpatient care and outpatient appointments are already provided at the Agnes Unit – and this will continue.



As part of the proposals, we want to move the learning disability short breaks service, which is currently based at the Grange and the Gillivers bungalows on Farm Drive at the Glenfield Hospital site, to the Agnes Unit. This is just a short, five-minute drive away from the current short breaks service location.

What will this mean for the learning disability short breaks service?

The learning disability short breaks service will have its own wing on the Agnes Unit, with two ward areas – which we call ‘pods’. The pods will have four beds each, with eight beds in total. This means there will be the same number of beds that are currently provided at the Grange and Gillivers bungalows.

Each pod has its own communal living and dining rooms and will be kept separate from inpatient and outpatient areas. Existing staff members of the short breaks service will be moved to the pods, providing continuity for people who use the service.

We believe the proposal will provide a better experience for people staying with the short breaks service, as they will be able to access some of the specialist facilities at the unit.

Moving the service would enable us to offer:

- each person staying an ensuite shower room.
- access to bespoke outdoor facilities, including a large, open, enclosed garden, basketball court and sensory garden.
- access to the gym, sensory room and therapy suite.
- support from the Agnes Unit’s on-site medical team, if needed. This would be especially beneficial for those with complex medical health needs.

- carers greater flexibility with booking. As ensuite washing facilities will be available, we will be able to offer mixed-gender stays, subject to risk assessments. This change may enable siblings or friends, who are mixed genders, to stay with the short breaks service at the same time. This is something we are currently not able to offer.
- more flexibility to accommodate emergency or urgent requests (subject to room availability).
- opportunities for service users to grow independence and life skills, through the use of our specialist laundry and cooking facilities.
- access to the Agnes Unit's occupational therapy professionals.
- use of other specialist equipment available on the site, such as our state-of-the-art sensory bath.
- service users more time with our clinical and healthcare staff, as our estates and facilities team can carry out cleaning and building maintenance.

The Trust will invest in the pods to ensure all visitors have an enjoyable, comfortable and safe stay. This will include:

- adding in new safety measures around the building, where needed
- fitting specialist equipment, such as hoists
- and decorating the pods to provide a welcoming environment.



Why are we putting forward these proposals?

In recent years, there have been fewer people who have needed inpatient assessment, treatment and support. This is largely due to our work to significantly enhance and improve the care, support and treatment we deliver in the community for people with a learning disability and a mental health condition or behaviours that challenge. This work to enhance community support is ongoing.

The Agnes Unit facilities have been underutilised in recent years, due to our successful community offer. This has given us an opportunity to review how the building is used.

It is important that we consider how we make the most of our buildings and facilities to make sure we are providing high quality services that are within our financial means. While the Grange and Gillivers buildings are fit for purpose, they need a lot of money spending on them to bring them up to the same standard as the facilities at the Agnes Unit.

We also believe that having staff with a variety of expertise and skills in one building will provide a better experience for the people who use our services.

What do we want your views on?

We are not looking to reduce services; we want to enhance them and invest in their future. Our aim is to maximise the use of the Agnes Unit building, by maintaining an inpatient and outpatient offer for those who need it and by relocating the short breaks service nearby.

Under our proposals, people staying on a short break will have access to more support and better environments, when compared to the Grange and Gillivers bungalows.

We want to understand what impact the proposed move may have on people who use the learning disability short breaks service – or who may be eligible to use it in the future.

We would also like to know if people with lived experience would like to work with us to co-design changes to the short breaks service, to help us make the proposal a success.

It is very important to us that people have their say on the proposals. We will carefully consider all feedback submitted through the engagement period to understand the impact on service users and their families or carers.

Once responses have been analysed, we will publish our findings on the LPT website: **www.leicspart.nhs.uk**, along with the next steps we decide to take.

How to give your views

Feedback can be submitted through our online feedback form, Easy Read paper feedback forms (which can be picked up from the short breaks service, the Agnes Unit or sent to you in the post) or by emailing **lpt.Ida@nhs.net** .

If you have questions, would like more information about the proposals - or would like to book to visit the Agnes Unit, please email **lpt.Ida@nhs.net** or call **07350 424 924**.

Please submit your feedback on the proposals by 6pm on Tuesday 18 November 2025.

Find out more and fill out our online survey by scanning the QR code or by visiting:



lptnhs.com/LDShortBreaksRelocationProposal

If you need help to understand this leaflet or would like it in a different language or format such as large print, Easy Read, Braille or audio, please ask a member of staff.