

INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITY – SPA COURT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report brings Members up to date with the latest position regarding the Intermediate Care Facility at Spa Court.

2 HISTORY

- 2.1 As a partnership initiative between the Council, the Primary Care Trust and Essex County Council Social Services an Intermediate Care Facility was provide at 25 Spa Court. The Council contributed £9,400 to the project as follows:

	£
Widening doors to wheelchair width	1,700
Removal of wall in bathroom	500
Worktop and sink adjustment	1,200
Non-slip kitchen and bathroom flooring	400
Carpeting	2,000
Low heat radiators	2,100
Decoration throughout	1,500
	£9,400
	£9,400

- 2.2 Intermediate Care bridges the divide between hospitalisation or institutional care allowing patients to regain life skills before returning to their own homes.
- 2.3 Essex County Council (ECC) took a lease on the flat from 1 March 2004 and discharged the rent and Council Tax in full. Since this time Members have received four reports all of which raised issues regarding the lack of use. In fact, for the whole of the duration of the lease it was only used for two half-day training sessions.

3 TERMINATION OF LEASE

- 3.1 Following a meeting between the Head of Service, and PCT and ECC representatives a letter was received from ECC on 24 February 2005 terminating the lease at the end of February 2005. The letter explained only that “our view is that this facility is no longer required” and that “this view was endorsed by the PCT”.

- 3.2 The letter went on to explain that ECC were prepared to make an offer of £4,100 to the Council in recognition of the costs incurred in preparing the accommodation for lease and that this was made as a gesture of goodwill and without admission of liability.
- 3.3 The Head of Service has replied to this letter explaining that the offer is unacceptable and has invoiced the ECC for the full amount. An explanation has also been sought as to what alternative provision is available, where it is located and when it became available. No further response has been received to date, but the Head of Service will attempt to secure a response before the Committee date and give a verbal report.

4 INTERMEDIATE CARE FOR THE FUTURE

- 4.1 There appears to be a low level demand for this type of care, with patients favouring a return to their own homes.
- 4.2 The Head of Service has contacted Basildon District Council who provide two units which are described as being “infrequently used” although still retained by ECC.
- 4.3 These two units appear to be satisfying the need for Intermediate Care in South East Essex area. However, as indicated above, the Head of Service will secure confirmation of this assumption.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To endorse the actions taken to secure re-imburement of the £9,400 outlay.

Steve Clarkson

Head of Revenue and Housing Management

Background Papers:

Various letters from ECC.

For further information please contact Steve Clarkson on:-

Tel:- 01702 318005

E-Mail:- steve.Clarkson@rochford.gov.uk