

		<b>AGENDA ITEM 5</b>
		<b>PAF/14/19</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>27 June 2019</b>	
<b>Enquiries to:</b>	<b>Name: Graham Hughes</b>  <b>Designation: Senior Democratic Services Officer</b>  <b>Contact details:</b> 033301 34574 <a href="mailto:Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk">Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk</a>	

## **RESPIRE CARE IN ESSEX**

### Purpose:

This item is to discuss the provision of respite care in Essex including issues raised in a recent petition received on the services provided at Lavender and Maples facilities. Members may wish to seek further information and assurances on the rationale for change at Lavender and Maples and the adequacy and range of, and demand for, alternative respite care provision in the county.

### Raising a petition

On its website Essex County Council states that it values the opinion of its citizens and that responding to petitions is a key way of promoting engagement and democracy. Under the Essex County Council petitions policy, a petition may be raised by any person who lives or works within Essex to request that:

- the Council takes action or ceases taking action;
- a matter be looked at by the Chairman of the Scrutiny Board; or
- there be a debate at Full Council or other public meeting.

Petitions may be raised and accepted in paper form or in electronic form - [website advice on e-petitions](#)

### Background

A petition on proposals for future respite care at Lavender and Maples residential facilities was submitted to the County Council on 18 March 2019.

The County Council has a specific petitions policy it follows when receiving petitions  
- [ECC Petitions Policy](#)

As this particular petition reached a threshold of 2000 signatures, the relevant Cabinet Member responded by email to the issues raised.

The receipt of the petition was also highlighted to the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee (in this case the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee). Under the petitions Policy the Committee Chairman can then decide if they would like the Committee to look into any aspect of it (although the petitions policy does not specifically require the scrutiny committee to do so). In this particular case, the Chairman confirmed that to bring some further clarity and transparency to the issues, the concerns raised in the petition would be included as part of a wider discussion on the provision of respite care more generally in Essex (and not just the service provided at Lavender and Maples).

#### Attendees:

The Cabinet Member and Lead Officers have been invited to update the Committee on the provision of respite care in Essex, including the issues raised in the petition. In accordance with the Petitions Policy, the Lead Petitioner has also been invited to address the Committee to outline the concerns raised in the petition. It is planned that the Lead Petitioner will be invited to address the Committee at the start of the item and thereafter the Cabinet Member and Lead Officers will provide their update.

It is anticipated that the following will be in attendance on the day:

Russel Breyer, Director of Local Delivery (South), Essex County Council.

Gary Knowles, Lead Petitioner, Save Our Respite Essex (and further accompanying attendee).

County Councillor Louise McKinlay, Cabinet Member for Children and Families.

Christina Pace, Head of Strategic Commissioning and Policy, Essex County Council.

#### Attachments:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Appendix A (overleaf) - | Cover page of the petition together with additional commentary received from the lead petitioner   |
| Appendix B              | Briefing note prepared by Essex County Council service officers commenting on respite care at Lavender and Maples facilities and wider provision in Essex. |