

## **Q & As**

### **When are you closing Kynnersley Home or Dunsford Ward?**

It is expected formal consultation about a proposal to close Kynnersley Home will begin in July and while we can't provide a set time-frame for these changes, we'll be engaging closely with staff, union partners, contractors, as well as residents and their families as we progress.

It is a priority for us to ensure that there are sufficient beds and appropriate services to meet the needs of all current residents of DHB-owned facilities and those requiring care and support into the future.

So we'll be working closely with O'Connor Home and other local government agencies and accelerating the development of services we deliver in people's homes and community.

We then expect to release a further proposal for change in relation to the proposed closure of Dunsford Ward.

### **Why are you closing Kynnersley Home or Dunsford Ward?**

Over the last nine months we've been talking with you, the local community, and stakeholders about Buller Older Persons' Health, to understand all views on how best to care for and support Buller's older population because the status quo cannot be maintained.

Our total DHB rest home occupancy is dropping and older people tell us they want to remain in their own homes for as long as they possibly can. The other challenge is our DHB aged care facilities are also in a poor state of repair, for example Dunsford Ward is just 10 percent of the Building Standards but there's no further government funding available. We also know O'Connor Home plans to expand its capacity in the next 18 months. So in this context it's not viable to maintain Kynnersley Home or Dunsford ward.

### **What are you doing about keeping people well in their own homes?**

Our aim is to increase the range of community-delivered services and after-hours service, as well as working with other organisations to tackle other key issues that have been identified as affecting older people's health. These include housing, transport and social isolation. Our first priority is ensuring there are sufficient beds and appropriate services to meet the needs of all current residents of DHB-owned facilities and those requiring care and support into the future.

So we'll be working closely with O'Connor Home and other local government agencies.

### **How do you know older people want to stay in their own homes?**

We've asked them and that is what they tell us. It is also a national trend that is reflected in reduced occupancy in both Kynnersley and O'Connor rest home level beds. For older people and their families, going into care is a big decision and they need to have the best chance to stay at home for as long as appropriate to their needs.

### **So where will older people go when they need residential care?**

We'll be working closely with older people and their families to discuss with them the options available and what is the most appropriate care for them. Longer term, O'Connor Home are expanding their aged care capacity and services, and they will become a key partner in providing rest home and hospital level care in the West Coast health system.

### **Kynnersley provides rest home level care and Dunsford cares for people needing hospital level care so how can you care for both types of needs in the same place once you merge?**

The DHB will ensure that the Ministry of Health has certified Dunsford for both levels of care. For the residents we will continue to assess their needs to match the right care. We will also maintain our activities programmes in ways that will cater for the range of interests and needs.

### **What will happen to your staff?**

We realise this is an unsettling transition time for our people. The DHB will be strengthening community health services and after-hours care to improve our support for older people living at home. The older population will still need a range of services and there will be opportunities to continue to work in the health system. We need to consult with our staff about these plans and any employment changes.

### **When the new Integrated Family Health Centre is built, will there be any beds for aged residential care?**

The new IFHC was never intended to have any residential care beds. It will feature a range of primary care services and in-patient beds. IFHCs are facilities where teams of health and social services providers - including general practice, work together to provide health services to an enrolled population. They can offer a wide range of services closer to home.