

Officer update on any embargo in place on Southern Cross homes

1 Background

An 'Embargo' means no further placements will be made. The committee were informed at the last meeting that because of concerns over the quality of care at former Southern Cross homes an embargo may be used by Southwark Council. Following the last meeting the committee asked to be kept informed

2 Context

HC-1 is Heath Care One . This is the organisation that took over the management and delivery of care in two of the Southern Cross Homes; Tower Bridge Care home and Camberwell Green Care home.

The other ex Southern Cross, Burgess Park, home transferred to Four Seasons on 30th September 2001.

3 Present situation

There is an embargo on Camberwell Green and Burgess Park while the council assess progress on improvements needed around quality of care by both HC-1 and Four Seasons

The embargo on the former Southern Cross homes, now operated by HC-1 with effect from 1st November, remains in place and are subject to ongoing review.

The Council held an initial meeting with the Directors of HC-1 on 14th November to begin the process of engaging with HC-1 in relation to addressing the concerns identified through the findings of the independent review while the homes were operated by Southern Cross. The embargo will remain in place until the Council can be confident that HC-1 has addressed all the concerns raised and that it can be confident that HC-1 can sustain improvements in quality and practice in the longer term.

A summary report on the Independent Investigation into Tower Bridge Care Centre is enclosed