

Report to: Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

Date: 13 March 2006

By: Director of Adult Social Care

Title of Report: Reprovisioning of 47a Western Road, Lewes: A Mental Health Day Service

Purpose of Report: To provide an update on the reprovision of service at 47a Western Road

Recommendations:

The Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the content of the report

1. Financial Appraisal

- 1.1 Recommendations for the reprovision of services at 47a Western Road and identification of savings of £40,000 were made to Cabinet on 15 December 2004.
- 1.2 The final decision to proceed with reprovision was made, following a period of Consultation, by Lead Member on 18 July 2005.
- 1.3 The department will contract with a new provider with effect from 1 April 2006. The contract sum will be for £45,000 and £40,000 savings will be released.

2. Background and Supporting Information

- 2.1 Day services play a key role in helping people with mental health problems regain confidence and develop the skills to live as independently as possible. The reprovision of services at 47a Western Road is aimed at maximising these opportunities.
- 2.2 All users of the day service have been offered a review of their needs. Individual needs will be monitored closely during this unsettling period.
- 2.3 Staffing the centre has been challenging over the last six months as permanent staff have left to find alternative employment. Local managers and staff have successfully ensured that the centre has remained open and provided a service during this period.
- 2.4 The work to identify and agree a new provider for services at 47a Western Road has been progressed via a Reprovision Steering Group. This group consists of service users and officers. Mechanisms were put in place to assist service users in their contribution to this work.
- 2.5 Expressions of interest in providing future services at 47a Western Road were sought from local organisations in December 2005. Submissions and presentations were

reviewed by a selection panel consisting of service users and officers. Information gathered was recorded on a selection grid, against agreed criteria.

2.6 The views of the selection panel on the most suitable future provider were not unanimous. Two different recommendations were made to the Director of Adult Social Care and Head of Mental Health Services in January 2006.

2.7 The contract for this service has been offered to Lewes & District MIND on the basis that MIND indicated an ability to provide the following:

- Value for Money
Offer of extended opening hours through flexible staffing arrangements.
- Activities
A broad range of activities which promote social inclusion.
- Operational Plans
Demonstration of how staffing arrangements would be provided in line with the available budget.
- Partnership Working
A clear indication of a commitment to working with all key partner organisations.

2.8 Work is currently under way finalising the service specification and contract and preparing for the handover of the service. A draft service specification is attached in **Appendix 1**. This work will continue to be overseen by the Reprovision Steering Group and a work plan is in place.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The reprovision of any service is difficult and unsettling for both service users and staff.

3.2 Lewes & District MIND have outlined a service proposal that promotes social inclusion and maximises independence whilst supports those people who are vulnerable and in need of a 'safe' environment.

3.3 The Department will continue to support service users during this transitional period.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None