

Report to: **Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care**

Date: **15 November 2007**

By: **Director of Adult Social Care**

Title of report: **Provision for Learning Disability Clients**

Purpose of report: **To inform the Scrutiny Committee on progress in respect of the provision of services for Learning Disability clients at St Nicholas and through the Southdown Housing Association (SDHA), following the closure of Avis Way.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 1. Consider and comment on the progress to date of the re-provisioning of services for Learning Disability clients at St Nicholas and through the Southdown Housing Association following the closure of Avis Way**
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1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 The Adult Social Care (ASC) Reconciling Policies and Resources (RPR) exercise initially identified a savings target of £250,000 for Avis Way, from a total operating budget of £350,000. The remaining £100,000 was set aside to fund the re-provisioned services.

1.2 The closure of Avis Way will deliver estimated savings of £202,000 in 2007/08, increasing to £214,000 in 2008/09. The shortfall in the savings target is attributable to increased re-provisioning costs, in relation to employee and transport costs, and estimated loss of client contributions.

2. Background and Supporting Information

2.1 On 31st January 2006, the County Council Cabinet agreed to the review of Avis Way in the context of the Adult Social Care Reconciling Policies and Resources exercise. This was confirmed at the full County Council meeting on 21st February 2006.

2.2 The purpose of the review was to explore alternative ways of meeting the needs of people who attended Avis Way and the potential savings that could be realised if any of these options were pursued. The work began in March 2006 and involved an overall review of service user needs in addition to information sharing briefings with service users (with advocacy support where appropriate), carers and stakeholders. There were 45 service users attending Avis Way in March 2006.

2.3 The Cabinet agreed in December 2006 to close Avis Way and provide services for service users at St Nicholas Centre, Lewes and through SDHA. The decision was "called in" by the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee to enable it to consider more detailed financial information around the closure.

2.4. The service capacity at St. Nicholas, Lewes was prioritised for service users living with family carers and young people in transition. Provision at St. Nicholas was also made for people

living in supported accommodation, Field Cottage (a County Council Group Home) and Mencap residential provision.

2.5 Following contract negotiations with SDHA, they agreed to provide a person centred day service for their clients that attended Avis Way from within their existing resources.

2.6 Prior to the closure of Avis Way, individual meetings were held with service users and their parents/ carers to agree alternative service provision at St. Nicholas. This included a gradual introduction to St. Nicholas, through visits, joining in with activities etc. For those people living at SDHA, there was a gradual withdrawal from Avis Way to SDHA's own day service provision.

2.7 Avis Way closed on Friday 30th March 2007 and service users transferred to St Nicholas on Monday 2nd April 2007.

3. Current position

3.1 Of the 45 service users receiving a service at the start of the review of Avis Way, 29 now receive a service at St Nicholas and 11 receive a service from SDHA (this includes one person who receives a joint service). The remaining 5 service users have either moved from the area, or are receiving other community and residential services.

3.2 Individual reviews were held for service users attending St Nicolas six weeks after transfer. All service users reported that they were happy with the service they are now receiving at St Nicholas and many said they feel they are achieving more and undertaking a wider range of activities.

3.3 Since the transfer of services to St Nicholas, there have been some issues in relation to transport and the length of journeys. This is mainly attributable to the large catchment area, and the ongoing road works at the Beddingham roundabout, which in turn impacts on all other routes into Lewes.

3.4 The transport arrangements are regularly reviewed and alternative transport arrangements have been put in place for one individual as a result. In addition, from 1 January 2008, St Nicholas will no longer transport service users to Day Services in Brighton and Hove and this will have positive impact on the remaining journey times.

4. Conclusion

4.1 To note the progress to date on the re-provisioning of services following the closure of Avis Way.

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Local Member(s): Councillors Freeman, Howson, Livings, Martin, Murphy, O'Keefe, Ost, Rogers, Shing and St. Pierre.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:
Report to Cabinet 12th December 2006.
"Call-In" report to Scrutiny Committee 16th January 2007