

Report to: Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

Date: 16 December 2015

By: Director of Adult Social Care and Health

Title: Update on the provision of services provided by Sussex Community Development Agency

Purpose: To provide committee with a report from Sussex Community Development Agency on progress to date and plans for delivering services from: Isabel Blackman Centre – Hastings, Charter Centre – Bexhill and Phoenix Centre – Lewes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to consider:

- 1. Progress made to date on delivering services including older people day services;**
 - 2. Proposals for plans for future developments; and**
 - 3. A presentation by Sussex Community Development Agency**
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1. Background and Supporting Information

Financial Appraisal

1.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report. The full year effect (FYE) savings achieved to date from Phase 1, from the closure of three units and net of client re-provisioning costs, total £417,984 (2015/16 budget).

1.2 With further savings of £344,000 planned from Phase 2, new building management and delivery of three existing day services, a total of £761,984 savings (FYE) will have resulted from Phases 1 and 2.

Cabinet Decisions

1.3 On 10th December 2013 Cabinet agreed to close the Orion Centre - Hailsham, Pinehill – Hastings and Hookstead Centre – Crowborough. These services were closed and clients re-provided with alternative services. Cabinet also agreed to seek alternative providers to manage the building and deliver a day service at the Isabel Blackman Centre – Hastings, the Charter Centre – Bexhill and the Phoenix Centre – Lewes.

Tender Process

1.4 A full tender commenced in August 2014 with bids returned in November. Bids were evaluated and the successful organisation, Sussex Community Development Agency (SCDA) was informed in January 2015. The tender was constructed so that bidders could offer to provide service at 'any or all' of the locations. SCDA bid for and were successful in all three locations.

1.5 As a consequence of the similarity between the current services and the tendered services, Transfer of Undertakings - Protection of Employment (TUPE) regulations apply. Almost all staff employed by East Sussex County Council were transferred to SCDA.

1.6 The contract moves to a 'Spot Purchase' mechanism where the County Council pay for individual service user attendance. This avoids high unit costs as the rate per day is fixed by the contract.

Strategic Context

1.7 The approach described above has been taken within the Council Operating Principles to deliver appropriate services to secure the best outcomes and value for money for residents, thereby keeping vulnerable people safe and making the best use of our resources. Working with voluntary and community sector providers also supports strong partnerships in developing the market resulting in greater choice for clients and improved value for money. Costs have been reduced as have risks.

1.8 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee in March 2015 it was resolved to request a presentation at the 12th November meeting from the Sussex Community Development Agency on how they are planning to provide the older people's day services going forward. As that meeting was cancelled the item is being considered on 16th December.

Current position

1.9 SCDA commenced the contract in July 2015. Throughout the transition all day services continued to be provided without disruption. As staff TUPE into the new services, continuity has been provided for clients. All three units have some usage by external agencies. SCDA have agreed that these arrangements will continue unchanged during the transition period and any future changes will involve discussions with these agencies. Transport arrangements continue as they have previously been provided.

2. Conclusion

2.1 SCDA has continued to provide the core day service for older people alongside developing a broader community based service within each of the day centres. The level of referrals from the County Council continues to be monitored.

2.2 Regular contract monitoring continues to take place and work is underway to secure external evaluation of this model.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None