

Report to: **Lead Member for Adult Social Care**

Date: **18 January 2016**

By: **Director of Adult Social Care & Health**

Title: **Learning Disability Directly Provided Services' development plan**

Purpose: **To give details about the next phase of development of Learning Disability Services and to note the consultation activity that will be undertaken with timescales for feedback.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lead Member for Adult Social Care is recommended to note:

- **the activity that will be undertaken as part of the next phase of the improvement strategy within Learning Disability Services;**
 - **the consultation activity that will be undertaken with:**
 - **clients living within the three Learning Disability Group Homes, and their families or representatives, clients and their families or representatives, who access the day service at Southview Close;**
 - **clients who access the Conquest Centre, in St. Leonards, and Beeching Park, in Bexhill, and their families or representatives;**
 - **the results of the consultation will be presented to Lead Member on 9 June 2016.**
-

1. Background

1.1. On 25th September 2014, the Lead Member for Adult Social Care agreed a three year development strategy for Learning Disability Directly Provided Services (LD DPS) to achieve the on-going revenue savings required as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan from 2014 to 2017.

1.2. The paper included proposals to:

- undertake a scoping exercise, when the respite refurbishment was completed, in relation to the day service buildings used in the East of County;
- reconsider the delivery model of residential services;
- continue to seek an alternative location for day services in Crowborough.

1.3. Accordingly, on 17th November 2015, the Adult Social Care and Health Departmental Management Team agreed to proposals for the next phase of development, namely:

- to confirm that funds are available in the Capital Programme (partial funding may be available from the ringfenced capital receipts associated with the Valuing People Now property transfer from the Department of Health) to refurbish Hookstead in Crowborough as an alternative base for Southview Close day service, in Crowborough, and the three Group Homes (Beacongate and The Gables, both in Crowborough, and Greenacres in Chailey);
- to enter into consultation with clients and their representatives about such an intention;

- to confirm that funds are available within the Capital Programme to create a locality based day service in the East of the County by making better use of the Working Wonders building on the Conquest Day Centre site in Hastings, Beeching Park Day Centre and Greenwood Respite Unit, both in Bexhill;
- to enter into consultation with staff, clients and their representatives in order to consider this proposal.

2. Supporting information

2.1. Hookstead site

2.1.1. It has long been recognised that Southview Close, as a building, is not a suitable site for a learning disability day service. Hookstead offers a viable and sustainable alternative site that also removes the burden of the disproportionately high maintenance and running costs of Southview Close.

2.1.2. Initial drawings of Hookstead indicate that, in addition to ground floor day service facilities, it could offer 15 people with a learning disability, who currently live in registered care, the opportunity to move to newly refurbished accommodation, as well as a further independent flat for future use.

2.1.3. Initial information about the vision for Hookstead has been shared with some clients and their families / carers, with early indications confirming that the ideas are supported by most, if not all, carers. Reservations about the size of the residential element of the service were tempered by the benefits of improved facilities and many families also noted that staffing will remain constant.

2.1.4. A full statutory consultation will be undertaken with clients who live within the three group homes, their families and advocates. Many people have lived within a small group setting for a significant length of time and eight people will be aged over 65 years. Therefore, careful consideration will need to be given to the impact on the 15 individuals involved.

2.1.5. Clients, who use the Southview day service, and their families and carers, will be also consulted for their views and comments about the proposed plans. However, it should be noted that Cabinet has previously agreed that Southview Close is not a viable site in the longer term. The day service proposal will be built upon the outcome of the residential services' consultation.

2.2. Day services in the East of the County

2.2.1. Profiling of the Hastings and Rother area indicates that buildings can be rationalised, offering associated revenue savings and without having an adverse impact on service quality or delivery.

2.2.2. There are two separate buildings on the Conquest site. An older, large building that offers facilities as a day service for 81 people in total and a smaller building (Working Wonders) that currently provides office space and some incidental use by the main day service.

2.2.3. Beeching Park in Bexhill currently provides a base for 55 people; the building does not operate to full capacity.

2.2.4. The average daily attendance across both sites is 94 places.

2.2.5. Greenwood in Bexhill offers respite services and has recently been fully refurbished. It is not fully utilised during the daytime period.

2.2.6. With some capital investment:

- Working Wonders could provide services for up to 25 people who are developing skills that may lead to voluntary or paid employment;
- Greenwood, in addition to providing a day time programme for respite clients, could also accommodate a further six to eight people who have high support needs;

- Beeching Park would provide a main day service building for the East of the County, accommodating up to 70 people.

2.2.7. Thus, the main Conquest building could be released from use by Learning Disability services.

2.2.8. Initial information giving events will be held on 19 and 20 January at Conquest and Beeching Park respectively. Clients and their representatives will be offered 45 days within which to provide comments on these suggestions.

3. Recommendations

3.1. The Lead Member for Adult Social Care is recommended to note:

- the activity that will be undertaken as part of the next phase of the improvement strategy within Learning Disability Services;
- The consultation activity that is being, or will be, undertaken with:
 - clients living within the three Learning Disability group homes, and their families or representatives; clients and their families or representatives, who access the day service at Southview Close;
 - clients who access the Conquest Centre, in St. Leonards, and Beeching Park, in Bexhill, and their families or representatives;

The completion of an Equalities Impact Assessment as part of the consultation process will ensure that due regard is paid to the needs of disabled people under the Equalities Act 2010;

- The results of the consultation will be presented to Lead Member on 9 June 2016.

KEITH HINKLEY

Director of Adult Social Care & Health

Contact officer: Kay Holden, Head of Service (Learning Disability DPS)
Tel. No. 01323 464470
Email: kay.holden@eastsussex.gov.uk

Local Members:

Councillors Earl, Ensor, Phillips, Scott, Sheppard, Stogdon and Tidy

Background Papers:

[Report to Lead Member 25 September 2014](#) - Strategy for the Development of Learning Disability Directly Provided Services