

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

Date: **9 June 2016**

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

Title: **Learning Disability Directly Provided residential and day services' development plan – Residential services & Southview day service**

Purpose: **To consider the results of the consultation activity that has been undertaken regarding future plans for the three Learning Disability residential services and Southview Close day service in Crowborough.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lead Member for Adult Social Care is recommended to agree to the refurbishment of the Hookstead site, subject to formal consents, to create: alternative and enhanced accommodation for clients currently living within the three Learning Disability residential services, and a replacement site for Southview Close Day Service in Crowborough

1. Background

1.1. On 18 January 2016, a paper outlining the next stage of development of Learning Disability Services, and requisite consultation activity, was tabled at the meeting chaired by the Lead Member for Adult Social Care. At that meeting, it was agreed that the outcome of the consultation would be presented on 9 June 2016, on which decisions in relation to development proposals would be made.

1.2. The proposals include the redevelopment of Hookstead in Crowborough and the relocation of three Learning Disability group homes and a day service. Capital expenditure of an estimated £2m will be required to develop the Hookstead site, provision for which is contained in the Council's capital programme.

1.3. A consultation with clients, families, carers and key stakeholders was undertaken; a summary of the results is shown in Appendix A. The full consultation report, along with all data and materials used in the consultation, is available to Elected Members in the Members' Room.

1.4. A full Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been completed to identify what effect, or likely effect, the proposals may have on different groups – see Appendix B for summary. The full EqIA is contained within the materials in the Members' Room.

1.5. This paper sets out the outcome of the consultation and puts forward recommendations, including information about next steps, taking into account the feedback received.

2. Supporting information

2.1. The methods of consultation used are shown at Appendix A, page 5. This confirms that in all 92 written responses were received, 54 people attended group meetings, and 26 people had one to one meetings to discuss the proposals. It should be noted that most people provided comment multiple times, and most clients living in residential services attended both group and individual meetings.

2.2. The feedback received has been largely positive; where negative views have been expressed these have been mainly in relation to the process, for example concerns about people's

anxiety during change, rather than absolute opposition to the proposal. The only exception to this is three respondents: two of whom have expressed views that have been mainly positive but, on one and two occasions respectively, expressing a view that they do not wish to move, and a third respondent whom clearly does not wish to change day service base.

2.3. Questions raised as part of the process have been addressed via the circulation of Frequently Asked Question documents, please see Appendix C, which also address some concerns raised, for example noise levels in the proposed service.

2.4. During the consultation, with the opportunity to offer a tangible alternative and to draw on the experiences of the standard of the Greenwood refurbishment, it became evident that there is a willingness and, for most people, a positive desire to consider Hookstead as a base for both day services and for residential services. Outline floor plans of the proposed service are shown at Appendix D. Please note, furnishings are shown for illustrative purposes only.

2.5. Based on the feedback received, it is suggested that this development should be taken forward. If agreed, the following paragraphs set out the main work streams that will be undertaken.

2.6. A formal decision making process will be initiated with people who do not have capacity to make a decision to move, to confirm that this is in their best interests. Independent Mental Capacity Advocates will be commissioned to work with people where there is no-one “appropriate to consult” as defined in the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

2.7. A planning application will be made to request that the use of Hookstead reverts back to residential use, from its current permission of office use.

2.8. If the above two pieces of work indicate that the project may go ahead, it is anticipated that the building works will start in September 2016 for a period of seven months. The new service will become operational, using a phased approach, from April 2017.

2.9. As part of the consultation discussion, the idea of moving from a residential care model to a supported living model has been explored with clients living in the residential services and their families. More work is needed to determine if a supported living model is feasible; this will be undertaken during the building works period. If this is the preferred model of support for some, or all, of the accommodation based services, clients will be able to claim welfare benefits and Housing Benefit.

2.10. The potential use of catering facilities at Hookstead will be fully explored with clients, and their families and carers, taking into account the needs of the local community.

2.11. The East Sussex Registration Service will be temporarily relocated to facilitate the building works, with the back office function moving to Southview Close and the public facing registration service delivered from Uckfield library.

2.12. The project group will be extended to include client and family representation; this group will be responsible for ongoing communication to ensure that all interested parties are kept up to date with decisions and developments.

2.13. If the proposals are agreed, the relocation of services to Hookstead will deliver a saving from the current residential budgets of £250,000 per annum – see Appendix E.

2.14. Staff in the affected services will continue to be kept fully informed about progress and a formal staff consultation will be undertaken in October / November 2016. In the meantime, where necessary, temporary contracts will be used to reduce the risk of redundancy.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 3.1. The consultation activity that has been undertaken confirms a high level of support from: clients; their families and carers; and key stakeholders for the proposed plans to relocate services to Hookstead.
- 3.2. Arrangements have been made to accommodate the East Sussex Registration service during the period of refurbishment. After this time, the registration service will return to Hookstead in a more accessible part of the building.
- 3.3. The relocated services will deliver revenue savings to the Council of £250,000, full year effect.
- 3.4. The Lead Member for Adult Social Care is therefore recommended to agree to refurbish the Hookstead site, subject to formal consents, to create: alternative and enhanced accommodation for clients currently living within the three Learning Disability residential services; and a replacement site for Southview Close Day Service, in Crowborough.

KEITH HINKLEY

Director of Adult Social Care and Health

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Local Members:

Councillors Sheppard, Stogdon and Tidy

Background documents:

None