

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

Date: **9 June 2016**

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

Title: **Learning Disability Directly Provided Day Services' development plan – Learning disability day services in Hastings and Rother**

Purpose: **To consider the results of the consultation activity that has been undertaken regarding future plans for Day Services in the Bexhill and Hastings areas and to make decisions based on this feedback.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lead Member for Adult Social Care is recommended to agree to develop day services on a locality basis in the East of the County, thus:

- **Beeching Park, in Bexhill, will provide the main location for day service provision, offering 75+ places;**
- **Greenwood, in Bexhill, will offer a small day activity programme for up to seven people who would benefit from additional support in a small environment;**
- **Working Wonders, in St Leonards on Sea, will focus on Skills Development activities for 25+ people;**

The Conquest building, on the same site as Working Wonders, will be released from use by Learning Disability services.

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 Lead Member for Adult Social Care 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 lead to the creation of a locality day service in the East of the County which ensures that the activities offered on three different sites complement, rather than replicate, each other.

1.3. A consultation with clients, families, carers and key stakeholders has been duly 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, are available to Elected Members in the Members' Room.

1.4. A staff consultation has also been undertaken to gain staff views on a proposed structure and individual changes to contracts have been provisionally identified pending decisions about the service proposal. Vacancies have been held within the service to limit redundancy risk, with relief or temporary staff covering where essential.

1.5. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been completed to identify what effect, or likely effect, the proposals may have on different groups accessing the services – Appendix B provides a summary. The full EqIA is contained within the materials in the Members' room.

2. Supporting information

2.1. In all, 198 individual episodes of involvement are noted in the consultation results: 48 survey responses were received, seven written or verbal responses were submitted, and 143 meetings were held – client meetings (77 attendees) and meetings with families and carers (66 attendees) were held separately. It should be noted that most people provided comment multiple times.

2.2. Key themes, shown on page 5 of Appendix A, confirm that there is no clear view on the proposal, with a fairly even split between people who agree (19 people), disagree (13 people), or are not sure (15 people).

2.3. Drilling down further, it is evident that people who use, or support someone who uses, the Conquest Centre are more likely to disagree with the proposal; however, some clients, and their families, who use Beeching Park are also concerned about more people at the centre.

2.4. The main concerns expressed include: transport and travel issues; capacity and facilities at Beeching Park; loss of facilities at the Conquest Centre; general disruption that would be caused by the proposals; and the difficulties clients may experience in managing change.

2.5. In relation to questions about the impact of the proposals, it should be noted that many of the concerns raised are of a personal or individual nature, for example, transport concerns. If the proposals go ahead individual transition plans will be developed where needed, and a full social care review will be arranged if requested.

2.6. If the proposal to release Conquest is agreed, support will be provided to The Gateway Club to try to identify an alternative venue for their club which meets for two hours per week.

2.7. Throughout the discussions, the need for more information in order to comment on the proposals was a recurring theme, for example, a visit to Beeching Park for people who are not familiar with the building. This work has been ongoing during the consultation period along with exploration of individual issues. Additionally, a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document – see Appendix C – has been circulated.

2.8. Rationale for proposed change:

- Day service staff continue to forge and develop community links and offer, wherever possible, experiences outside the traditional day service buildings. As a result, the way in which day service buildings are used can be reformed to progress the service model, as well as release costs.
- The Conquest building has served day services well but is now out of step with current provision. A feasibility study has been undertaken to consider changes to the building layout but it is evident that refurbishment would be cost prohibitive.
- Beeching Park is not operating to full capacity in terms of building space. A number of rooms are not used and could be opened up to provide more choice on the day service programme to a greater number of clients.
- Moreover, Working Wonders provides a bright and modern space that, with minor adaptation, could be used more effectively. Similarly, Greenwood, that was refurbished last year, could offer a base for a small day service programme as it is not fully utilised during weekdays.
- By rationalising the use of buildings, £200,000 revenue savings per annum could be released, as outlined in Appendix D. A capital investment of £410,000 is required to adapt the buildings; provision for which is contained with the Council's Capital budget. A capital receipt of circa £200,000 to £260,000 is anticipated if the Conquest building is sold.
- In terms of the direction of the service, the proposals would allow for a more concentrated approach to building community connections to increase the level of off-site activity. In addition, a sharper focus on skills development would lead to greater support to help people to move on from a day service environment, thus creating future capacity within services.
- The revised service model would be fit for the future in that it could offer support to younger people in attractive buildings as well as off site in the local area.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1. As stated previously, the consultation activity has shown that there is no clear view on the proposals.

3.2. If the proposals are agreed, the services offered on the three different sites will be complementary, whereas currently the services provided at Conquest and at Beeching Park simply replicate each other despite being less than seven miles apart.

3.3. The proposals will deliver significant revenue savings to the Council, as well as releasing from use a large building that may be used for an alternative purpose or sold to achieve a capital receipt.

3.4. The Lead Member for Adult Social Care is therefore recommended to develop day services on a locality basis in the East of the County, thus:

- Beeching Park will provide the main location for day service provision, offering 75+ places;
- Greenwood will offer a small day activities programme for up to seven people who would benefit from additional support in a small environment;
- Working Wonders will focus on Skills Development activities for 25+ people;
- The Conquest building will be released from use by Learning Disability services.

KEITH HINKLEY

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Local Members:

Councillors Earl, Ensor, Phillips, Scott

Background documents:

None