



## Overview & Scrutiny Committee March 2010

### Report from the Director of Housing and Community Care

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

#### **UPDATE REPORT ON DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE ATTENDING IN-HOUSE LEARNING DISABILITIES DAY CENTRES IN BRENT**

#### **1 Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress in respect of an aspect of the Adult Social Care Transformation programme-the modernising of day opportunities for people with learning disabilities
- 1.2 It summarises the findings of assessed needs of learning disabilities day care service users.
- 1.3 The policy for implementing personalisation through the self directed support model is discussed within the context of providing choice and control for users. This includes the provision of personal budgets and/or direct payments and giving users a choice on how their budget allocation is spent.
- 1.4 The report provides an update on the proposal to re-provide services at Albert Road Day Centre on the John Bilham site in Preston.

#### **2 Assessments**

- 2.1 300 users and 96 carers have participated in a self directed assessment. The programme of assessment has taken a lot longer than originally anticipated mainly due to the holistic and detailed approach to the self directed support assessments and loading the information on to framework i. However the benefits of the process has been the service's ability to fully capture a complete needs assessment which will formulate the types of services which should be provided in the future to meet those assessed needs.
- 2.2 The assessment process is now fully completed and copies of the support plans have been agreed and signed off by carers. The next stage is to implement support plans in conjunction with the service user, key worker and their carer. In many cases this has already happened either through the day centres or by care managers at the point of the assessments. For example, if a person has requested to either reduce their days attending the day centre or move from Strathcona day centre to Projects to develop their skills for employment. Risk assessments have also been completed to

ensure that any change to service provision does not negatively impact on the user or their carer.

### **3 Assessments Analysis**

#### **3.1 Findings**

3.2 The key areas that individuals identified a need for support to gain greater independence were:

Employment	Budgeting & Finance	Benefits
Keeping Safe	Support in accommodation	Travel Training
Shopping, Cooking & Housework	Health, Well being and Medication	Behaviour
Communication and decision making	Friendships	Developing Community contacts and social activities
Emotional support Relationships and sex. (There is an issue for Brent that the Personal Relationships Policy has yet to be approved.)	Personal Care	Diet
Dressing Appropriately	Physical mobility	Leisure pursuits
Learning new things	Developing routines	Not being left alone

3.3 There remained a strong identified need for social contact which many people identified as coming from attendance at the day centre

### **4 Personalisation**

4.1 The strategic theme for improving day opportunities for people with learning disabilities comes from the central government agenda "Putting People first" (2007) and "Valuing People Now" (2009) which gives a clear direction that people who need social care should have more choice and control over how it is delivered, this is called Personalisation.

4.2 Personalisation is about giving people much more choice and control over their lives. It reinforces the idea that the individual is best placed to know what they need and how those needs can be best met. It creates a more responsive system of personal social care with the introduction of personal budgets and direct payment for service users.

4.3 Service users have been advocating for greater choice and control over the planning and delivery of their support. This and the increased demand which will be placed upon social care as people live longer strengthens the case for learning disabilities

services to change and become more flexible. Services need to be more efficient and effective in the way they deliver real outcomes for users and carers and to take the current plan for modernising services to a level where improved structures and work streams will deliver the required change to improve service provision and the lives of people with disabilities.

## **5 The next steps**

- 5.1 The self directed support process implemented within Adult Community Care is Brent's introduction to the personalisation agenda commencing with the implementation of the self assessment questionnaire.
- 5.2 The process of servicing user's support plans will be formalised and fully commence in March 2010. This will be done by working closely with the user, their key worker and carer to establish the right pathway for improving the lives and well being and achieves their outcomes. Providing a personal budget and support through brokerage and advocacy to users and carers are the next steps to this process.
- 5.3 By April 2010 all users and their carers will know the amount of money allocated to them as part of their personal budget. This is an inclusive amount covering the full cost to support their needs; they will have the choice on how their budget is spent. The key component for the future will be that people who are eligible for services will have a budget that they can utilise to purchase services that are important to them rather than being given services that are seen as important for them.
- 5.4 A New Ways of Working training programme will be implemented within all of the day centres. Managers are currently working with small groups of staff teams to establish how service users, together with their key worker can bring about tangible benefits to improving the lives of day centre users.

## **6 Progress on the re-provision of Albert Road and Aspects Day Centres**

- 6.1 Work to develop the site and floor plans for the John Bilham resource centre has now been completed. The Gujarati Arya Association London (GAAL), a community organisation, hold the lease for Kenton Hall which is their community building adjacent to the proposed John Bilham Resource Centre site. The GAAL are a key player within the proposed John Bilham Resource Centre scheme as access to their car park for current and future sport users is essential, especially as Park Services have plans to develop and expand sporting activities within the area. Negotiations have taken place with the GAAL to vary their current lease and to develop a joint Planning Application
- 6.2 A joint Planning application with the GAA based on the above agreement was presented to the Planning Department in February and the case will be heard at the Planning Committee meeting in April.

## **7 Consultation on the re-provision of Albert Road**

- 7.1 Parents and carers have been involved throughout the consultation process in the criteria for relocation, accommodation and service requirements for the new resource centre. In addition, discussions have been held with the residents of Silverholmes sheltered housing, the local residents association and the chair of the Allotment Association within the John Bilham locality. Discussions have also been held with Parks Services to ensure the scheme can be effectively integrated within their plans to expand their services and improve of land drainage and facility access.

- 7.2 Staff within Albert Road and ASPPECTS day centres have also been involved within the consultation specifically with the building's internal layout and facilities
- 7.3 All stakeholders have given their full support for the scheme. A second round of consultation is planned for March 2010

## **8. Next Steps**

- 8.1 Once planning application has been agreed the next steps are to survey the site and then commission the construction of the building. This will be done through the council's procurement procedures. It is envisaged that the construction process will take approximately 18 months.

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