



Overview and Scrutiny Committee
24 March 2009

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

Wards Affected:
ALL

Update on day opportunities for people with learning disability

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the assessment programme for users and carers within Brent Learning Disabilities Service and the move toward implementing the Self Directed Support model to promote independence and choice and meet the needs of people attending Brent Learning Disabilities Day Centres.

The report also provides information about the progress to date in finding a suitable site for the re-provision of Albert Road and ASPPECTS day centres supporting people with complex needs.

2. ASSESSMENT PROGRESS TO DATE

- 2.1 Following the recruitment of staff, training of staff and setting up and arranging the assessments the first assessments began towards the end of January 2008 at Stonebridge Day Centre and then moved to Strathcona in October. To date 160 service users and 96 carers' assessments have been completed at both centres. Projects, Albert Road and ASPPECTS day centres assessment are Outstanding.

3. PROCESS OF ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 It was first decided to do the assessments in the following order:
- Stonebridge

- Projects
- Strathcona
- ASPPECT
- Albert Road

The programme was timed to take between 44 weeks and 1 year at a rate of 2 to 2.5 assessments per worker per week to include the arrangements, the assessment and the FWi work and spreadsheet work. It has however taken more time due to the input of data on framework i, the availability of carers and/or keyworker and care management staff.

The Self Assessment process is new to Brent and the Community Team have been piloting the model now for almost a year. Many changes had to be made to the initial self assessment form. Current processes and procedures also had to be change and staff had to be trained in the new ways of working. The day centre care managers were part of the original pilot and therefore were actively involved at key stages.

3.2 Staffing

One permanent member was seconded and three additional staff were recruited through an agency to support this process. All staff have been trained in the use of the SDS tools and the assessments are being done within a Review Episode on FWi

3.3 Timescales

- The proposed date for completing the assessments at Project is by the end of May 2009
- The proposed date for completing the assessments at Albert Road and ASPPECTS is by the end of July 2009

Once assessments are complete it is intended to continue to consult service users and carers upon the future shape of day services based upon the needs being expressed.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 A Consultation Strategy has been develop in conjunction with the Brent Learning Disabilities Partnership Board (BLDPB) which is made up of key stakeholders of learning disabilities service to include, carers, parents, service users, the PCT and Brent Carers Centre. The agreed document establishes the principles and key pathways for consulting and communicating with people who use learning disabilities day services in Brent and their carers. It sets out a framework which promotes openness and trust with both people who use services their carers and the wider public and provides an opportunity for all

stakeholders to be involved using a variety of mechanisms and methods.

- 4.2 On completion of all the assessments an analysis will be performed on the details and outcomes. A report will be presented to BLDPB for consideration and recommendations will form part of a consultation proposals for future day care service provision. The future shape of day care will be subject to Executive agreement.

Progress on Albert Road Development and the ASSPECTS Service

- 4.3 Albert Road houses a day centre for people with complex needs. ASSPECTS is a service currently based at Strathcona day centre site but occupies poor quality accommodation (portacabin). The Albert Road day centre site is very crucial in the South Kilburn redevelopment. Re-provision of the centre is one of those schemes that can be brought forward quickly resulting in HCA providing funding to the South Kilburn Development. The site will form the first phase into which decants will be made for other sites to kick start a rolling programme of development and decants. It is crucial to give impetus to the project because it will be two years before the site could be handed over for development. Any more delay in its relocation will delay the south Kilburn redevelopment project.

In total 15 sites have been looked at. Two sites have been shortlisted as being potential sites for re-location by Property and Environmental Services and both sites meets the department's selection criteria as well as those which have been identified by parents and carers through consultation.

As members were informed at their October meeting the consultation for change to our learning disability day centres has been the subject of a complaint. This has been at both stage 1 and stage 2 of our complaints process. The complaint challenged the process and the service are making improvements to the consultation process in line with this complaint. A very thorough independent investigation has been carried out. As part of the action plan arising from the investigation carried out at stage 1, management have made a commitment that key stakeholders in the day-care service particularly parents and carers of those attending Albert Road and ASSPECTS day Centres would be involved in deciding on the appropriate sites which best meets criteria. This would also include their involvement in agreeing the criteria and a shortlist of possible sites

- 4.4 On 27th January 2009, the first consultation meeting with parents and carers of ASPPECTS and Albert Road Day Centre took place at Albert Road Day Centre and to give everyone the opportunity to attend there were two meetings one in the morning at 10.30 am-12.30pm and one in the evening at between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm.

The areas discussed were:

- The criteria for the location of the new resource centre
- The criteria for ASPPECTS to be accommodated as part of the new resource centre (for example separate access, space, meeting National Autistic Society requirements)
- Sharing ideas of what the council means by 'resource centre
- Transport

Whilst the consultation has not yet concluded as carers are returning their priorities for the criteria, this consultation, like previous ones strongly raised accessibility and outside space as critical to a new site. In addition, carers also wanted a central site in Brent so non-one had too far to travel. Parents and Carers of ASPPECTS day centre confirmed that whilst they agreed with all the above and favoured sharing the same site, they would want a separate building with access to outside space. They confirmed this in writing and asserted that unless they got a separate building, they would wish to remain in the portakabin.

- 4.5 The next stage is for parents and carers of Albert Road and ASPPECTS day centres to visit and assess the sites in relation to the agreed criteria. This visit will be supported by Property Services with architectural input. A feasibility report will be prepared in April 2009. The issue of separate unit for ASSPECTS will be addressed through architects design with full involvement of carers.
- 4.6 The consultation event with carers in January provided the basis for full participation and collaborative works with users, parents and carers for future consultations concerning the re-provision of Albert Road and ASPPECTS day centres. A small elected carers and parents representative group is being developed who will work along side BLDPB to agree the way forward for developing the resource centre model to replace the existing day centres. The work of this group will feed into the Project and Consultation Plan for the Re-provision of Albert Road & ASPPECTS Day Centre and the new model for Day Opportunities in Brent.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Additional staff are being recruited to speed the assessment process on. A second stage investigation report is due soon and a further action plan will be drawn up to implement its recommendations. The aim is to ensure that choice and independence is promoted and that users and carers are clear about their options for day care provision. Management and staff will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to ensure outcomes are achieved and where ever possible that Brent's model for day care services is one which reflects what users want.

A feasibility study will be carried out on both sites identified as potential settings for the relocation for Albert Road and ASPPECTS day centres. Once a site has been agreed and subject to Executive approval. Planning Services will be approached for outline planning approval. Property Services will provide support with the design and construction of the new resource centre.

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