



**Overview & Scrutiny Committee**  
13<sup>th</sup> October 2009

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

For Action/Information

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Report Title: Transforming Adult Social Care**

**MODERNISING DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING  
DISABILITIES – UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

**1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report provides an update on 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. This includes an update on the assessment and review of needs programme for users and carers within Brent Learning Disabilities Service and the move towards implementing the Self Directed Support model to promote independence and choice in meeting the needs of people attending Brent Learning Disabilities Day Centres.
- 1.3. The report outlines the next steps in order to deliver self directed support and outcome focused support plans for service users in the Personalisation agenda in full collaboration with service users and carers of day care services.
- 1.4. The report also provides information about the progress to date in finding a suitable site for the re-provision of Albert Road day centre supporting people with complex needs.

**2. ASSESSMENT PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 2.1 The first assessments began in 2008 after the recruitment and training of staff. The assessments commenced at Stonebridge day centre, then moved on to Strathcona in October and then on to Projects in April 2009. To date 270 service

users and 99 carers' assessments have been completed. Albert Road and ASPPECTS day centres assessments are yet to be completed. It is envisaged that the assessment process will be completed by the end of Nov 2009. It is intended to continue to consult and work with service users and carers in the programme on how their choices can be met within the resources available in implementing individual reviews over the next few months.

### **3 CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 A Consultation Strategy has been developed in conjunction with the Brent Learning Disabilities Partnership Board (BLDPB) which is made up of key stakeholders of learning disabilities service. 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.
- 3.2 The Learning Disability Partnership Board (BDPB) has developed an ad-hoc sub group to develop a better understanding of the various issues. Two meetings of this group have taken place and once the assessment and analysis of ASSPECTS and Albert Road day centres have been completed the Learning Disability Partnership Board will support communication between community care, care management, users and carers on the best ways forwards.

### **4. SERVICE DEVELOPMENT**

- 4.1 The strategic theme for improving day opportunities for people with learning disabilities comes from central government agenda for Putting People First ( personalisation) and the Valuing People Now guidance The government publication 'Putting People First: a shared vision to transforming of adult social care (HM, Government, 2007) forms the basis of how personalisation will work. Giving users and carers appropriate choice and control over the services they receive underpins the Personalisation agenda. Brent's Learning Disabilities service has already started implementing the strategic aims for personalisation. This is evidenced through Self Directed Support assessments and reviews currently being undertaken. The analysis of the assessments will result in a menu of activities on how users that are meaningful, productive, meeting their needs and within available resources. The next stage in this process is to facilitate service users support plans to make their assessment outcomes happen.
- 4.2 Longer term development of services will be done through:

- The development of a robust Joint Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy which takes on board how the outcomes of service user's assessments will be met.
- The development of a Joint Commissioning Strategy to:
  - Stimulate market development to ensure the provision of high quality services that treats people with dignity and maximise choice and control.
  - Specifically support and build capacity in the third sector who have the potential to offer a wider choice of specific or specialist services required by the diverse communities of Brent.
- A review and re-alignment of current day care operations to better support service user's needs and aspirations. Choice, cost efficiency and value being the core to this.
- The current service will need to be able to compete in a market place in the longer term. This means providing high quality efficient services for all users to include those who can achieve independence or steps towards it, and those who continue to want and need their existing arrangements.
- Empowering service user choice by promoting personal budgets that include where appropriate direct payments, in-house services and self funded services.
- To develop a range of different modes of travel options for service users including supporting people to use ordinary transport.
- The implementation of an Organisational Development Strategy for staff to work differently to better support service users, develop their skills and enhance job satisfaction
- Better support for service users, carers and staff, advocacy and brokerage underpins the above work streams

## **5      PROGRESS ON THE RE-PROVISION OF ALBERT ROAD**

- 5.1    The Albert Road day centre site is critical in the South Kilburn redevelopment. Re-provision and re-location of the centre had been approved since 2004. It is crucial to give impetus to this 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 and one site, John Billham sports ground, has been shortlisted as being the preferred site agreed by Housing and Community Care and carers. A feasibility study is currently happening to make the site work to relocate and re-provide Albert Road Day Centre as a Resource Centre for people with learning disabilities.

- 5.2 Parents and carers have been involved through the consultation process in the specification of the new resource centre. In establishing a resource centre base work will centre on the provision of a range of daily and evening activities that can be organised, on and off site so that users can then decide how they want to spend their day. The council's Executive will be considering recommendations in November 2009
- 5.3 Once the feasibility study on the John Bilham 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.

## **6 Next Steps**

- 6.1 To complete the need assessment of Albert Road and ASPPECTS day centre service users by the end of November 2009.
- 6.2 To begin to meet and consult with individual users and carers on how best to meet their needs impractical ways that maximise choice, within existing resources.
- 6.3. To complete analysis on all service users' assessments of needs which will then begin to help formulate ideas on the future shape and types of services to be provided.
- 6.4. To share the findings of the analysis with users and carers first and then to members at a later stage. The finding will form part of the consultation process and we will be empowering users and carers to make choices about the services they would like to develop based on current resources available.
- 6.5 The process will be users and carer led to ensure that choice and independence is promoted. Users and carers will co-design new services with us and all staff, and will be clear about the options and resources available 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.
- 6.6 These services will need to be both in house day care and external alternatives provided by our partners in the private and voluntary sector. Our own day centres will need to be able to specify their

services, be transparent as to cost, and work towards competition – they need to be efficient and of high quality.

- 6.7 Housing and Community Care is implementing a development programme in order to raise the standards of our day care and make sure our services are as efficient and effective as possible.
- 6.8 A further report will be provided to Overview & Scrutiny in January on the progress to date on the modernisation of day care services

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