

Meaningful Day Opportunities Consultation 2021

Summary of findings V1.1

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Walsall Council

PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

Background and methodology

Day opportunities and activities have always, and will always be, an important part of the support available for people with eligible support needs in Walsall. The council wishes to continue to deliver meaningful day activities and day opportunities in a way that is right for everyone, encouraging greater independence, whilst also making the best use of resources available in local communities.

To help shape and inform how we might improve and change the overall delivery model for day activities / opportunities in Walsall, a detailed programme of consultation was undertaken.

The consultation sought the views of:

- current users (adults) of day services their families and carers
- adults who may need this support in the future and their parents and carers
- young people aged 16+ (SEND) who may need this support in the future
- the parents and carers of young people 16+ (SEND)
- providers of this type of support and other key stakeholders.



Background and methodology

Consultation began on 25 October 2021. An initial closing date of 31 October was extended to 22 November 2021.

Consultation with current service users

Customers (adults) who currently receive care and support services were sent information about the consultation, along with a paper questionnaire to complete and return. The questionnaire contained questions for the service user and their parent / carers. Easy read versions were also distributed via providers.

Consultation with general public, providers and key stakeholders

Anyone not currently in receipt of care and support as well as key stakeholders could have their say via an online questionnaire (alternative formats available). A wide range of key stakeholders (internal and external) were contacted directly.

Consultation with SEND aged 16+

As potential future users of the service young people 16+ (SEND) as well as their parents / carers were also invited to have their say via direct letter / email and via existing networks and groups.

Background and methodology

The consultation sought to gather feedback on;

- what type of things people currently do during the day
- what things they would like to do in the future
- how and where they want to access or take part in activities and
- thoughts on meaningful day opportunities overall.

Alternative formats were made available on request as well as support given to those who needed help to respond. Easy read versions of the information and questionnaires were also made available as well as information in BSL.

Goscote Greenacres and other providers assisted people to have their say.

The consultation was publicised via a news release, via social media and other community networks. Information was available a dedicated webpage:

www.walsall.gov.uk/meaningful_day_opportunities

Responses

By the closing date (22.11.21) the following number of responses to questionnaires and easy read versions had been received;

- **Consultation with current service users and parents / carers**
 - 130 questionnaires, easy read 103
- **Consultation with general public, providers and key stakeholders**
 - 20 questionnaires (11 stakeholders, 9 potential future users)
- **Consultation with SEND aged 16+**
 - 1 questionnaire, no easy read responses (not included in this summary)

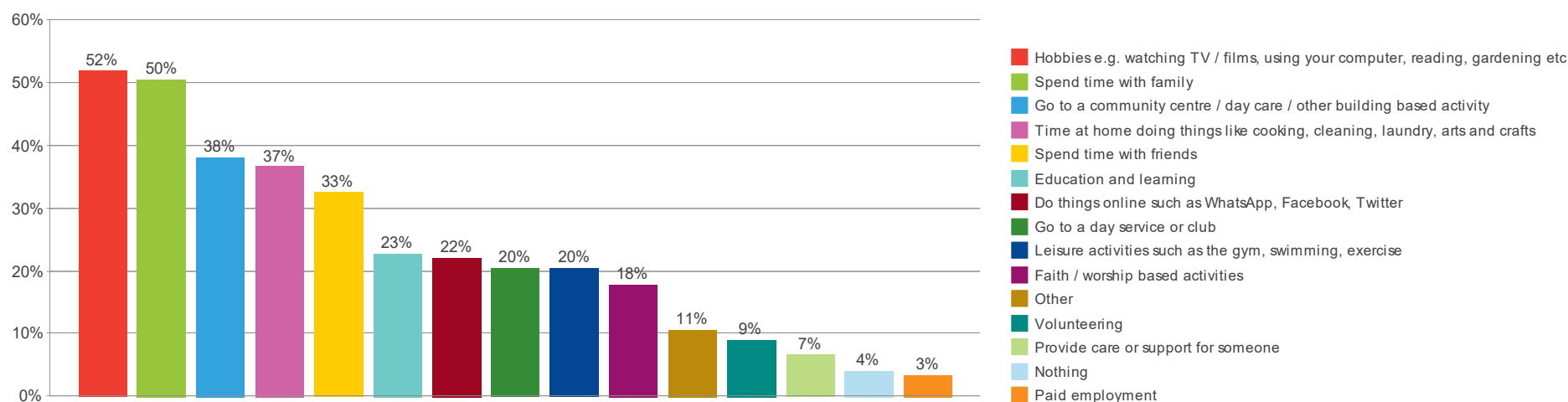


Findings: Current service users (adults)

Current activities: Most respondents said they do hobbies, spend time with their family, attend a community centre / day care and spend time at home.

For most respondents (55%) members of their family help them take part in the activities they like to do. Support workers assist 39% of respondents and PAs 20%. 15% reported that no one helps them.

What activities do you currently do during the day?



Multi response. Base: All respondents. 130



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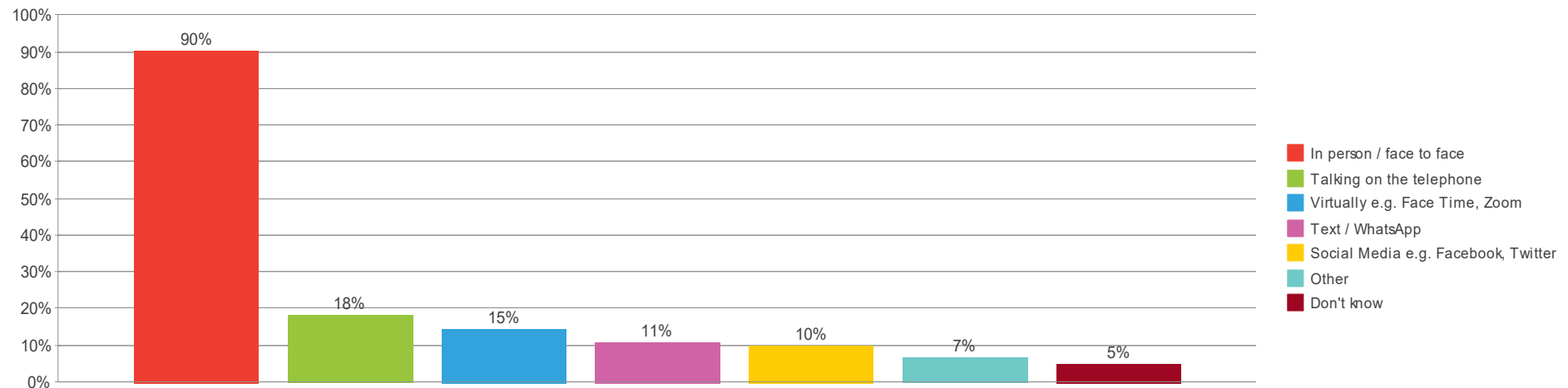
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Current service users (adults)

When take part in activities: Weekdays tended to be the preferred time to take part in activities. Mornings were the most popular time (77%) followed by afternoons (70%). Weekday evenings were preferred by 40%. Weekends were slightly less popular with 36% saying weekend mornings and 43% weekend afternoons. A quarter (25%) prefer weekend evenings.

How: In person / face to face was by far the most popular way to take part in activities (90%).

How do you or would you prefer to take part in activities?



Multi response. Base: All respondents. 130



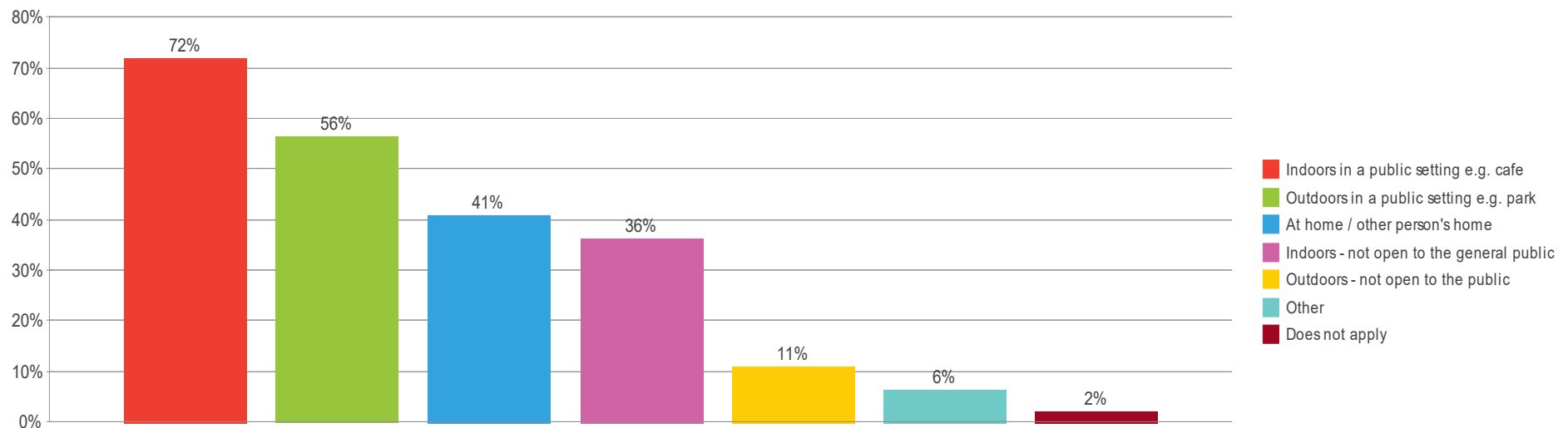
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Current service users (adults)

Preferred locations for meeting in person / face to face: Public settings were most popular. Almost three quarters of respondents (72%) said they would prefer to meet indoors in a public setting followed by 56% who said outdoors in a public setting. At home or going to someone's house was preferred by 41%. Locations not open to the public were slightly less popular ways to meet (36% indoors and 11% outdoors).

Preferred locations for meeting face to face.



Multi response. Base: Prefer in person / face to face. 111



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How filled time during COVID-19 pandemic

Playing on my computer and zoom meetings, started to grow my own vegetables.

At home cooking, films on Ipad.

At home and struggled.

Watch DVDs, take walks, on-line courses, zoom meetings, do jobs around the home.

Had 30 min singing lesson zoom + singing practice with each parent, did house jobs with parent, walked each day locally with parent, went food shopping with parent

Lots of walking with my carers. Zoom meetings for Monday club (evening).

Play games on phone, watch TV.

I live in a supported care home we were on lockdown in our flats.

Just looked for things to do on social media.

I was with family. On my phone on social media and play games. Sometimes go to the park.



What liked about doing things differently

For most respondents they didn't like anything about having to do things differently. Most respondents mentioned spending time with family / friends (9) and carers (4). Some said they learnt new skills (7). 4 respondents enjoyed the quieter environment and fewer crowds.

Comments included;

Monday club newsletter & activities to do at home. Seeing others on Zoom.

Zoom meetings.

I can learn new skills.

I like is do things differently when you have limited resources, you become creative.

Spending more time with family. Don't have to rush & thinking creatively of things to do.

Doing jobs around the home, kept me occupied and active.



Activities not currently available

Social groups (28%) and sports (24%) were the most frequently mentioned type of activity. Learning skills was mentioned by 9 people, music and drama 7 people and 6 people mentioned deaf club.

Comments included;

Walsall deaf club that was on Lichfield closed down now there is nothing in Walsall for deaf.

Cooking, singing, drama, music appreciation.

Playing more wheelchair sports.

Sewing, knitting, adult colouring socialising.

Bingo, fun day, tea and coffee.

Day trips to national trust, cinema, parks, zoo's etc.

More face to face, interactive activities which cost less or free. Sports swimming etc.

More specialised activities such as in small groups - Tac Pac, attention autism, music choir, music therapy, laughter, yoga etc.



Ideas for how and where activities could take place

A wide range of suggestions were made, however 27% of suggestions (20 people) suggested locally run activities in local buildings. Day centres were mentioned by 6 people and comments reiterate their importance for some.

Comments included;

Parks or anywhere that is able to let people enjoy activities.

Local Church Halls etc.

Local - easy to get to.

In Aldridge there's church halls, youth theatre school halls - could activities take place in them?

Day service that is a safe environment with staff that understand me.

At a day service where its a secure place with people I know!

Having time at centre and being able to go out to other activities.

For those with complex needs, building based activities, are very important so that specialised activities can be provided The mainstream community does not provide that.

I think most activities can be done in smaller groups in larger areas such as big functions rooms.

There isn't enough community facilities in the area. Usually spaces are small or inadequate.



Taking part in community activities

Respondents were asked what stops them, prevents them or puts them off taking part in activities in their community. The need for support (14), physical health (13), transport (13), and anxiety / Autism (10) and the were most commonly mentioned. Communication / interpretation needs was also frequently mentioned (7 people). Cost (8), accessibility (6), learning difficulties (5) were also mentioned. Comments included;

Having confidence to do it on own.

I am deaf no interpreter.

*I need support to do activities to just go out.
I need support to live my life.*

*Difficuly with transport.
My mother cannot always drive me.*

*Family members working
- need support to do daily duties.*

Wheelchair access. I cant walk.

Not enough support in local area for some activities but cost issues too.

Not being made aware about community activities. having someone assist me.

Not enough going on that I'm interested in.



Important aspects in relation to activities (All ages)

Activities that encourage and support independence was deemed important by 85% of respondents. Large proportions also felt that activities that teach new skills / improve existing skills (77%), help make and keep friendships (72%) and providing respite for carers were important (69%).

Over half felt activities that allow them to be more involved in the local community were important (53%). Activities that help them be involved in volunteering was less important, with 30% saying it was important to them.

Counts Analysis % Respondents	Total				
		Important	Neither important or not important	Not important	Not applicable
Base	646	419 65%	103 16%	34 5%	90 14%
Encourage and support your independence..	110	94 85%	8 7%	3 3%	5 5%
Teach you new skills / improve existing skills	110	85 77%	14 13%	3 3%	8 7%
Be more involved in your local community	110	58 53%	34 31%	10 9%	8 7%
Help you be involved in volunteering	100	30 30%	19 19%	10 10%	41 41%
Make and keep friendships	110	79 72%	15 14%	7 6%	9 8%
Enable your carer or parent to have some time to do things that they want to do	106	73 69%	13 12%	1 1%	19 18%



Preparing for adulthood / get into work

Although numbers are low, figures indicate that as age increases the smaller the proportion saying preparing for adulthood is important and similarly getting into work.

Counts Respondents	Total	Age group				
		Under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Base	37	19	5	6	6	1
Help you prepare for adulthood						
Important	16	10	2	2	2	-
Neither important or not important	12	5	2	2	2	1
Not important	9	4	1	2	2	-
Not applicable	-	-	-	-	-	-

Counts Respondents	Total	Age group				
		Under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Base	38	19	7	7	5	-
Prepare you for and help you to get work						
Important	19	10	4	3	2	-
Neither important or not important	11	5	1	3	2	-
Not important	8	4	2	1	1	-
Not applicable	-	-	-	-	-	-

Day services

51% of respondents currently access day services in a building (62 people). The average number of hours being 15.10 a week, with a maximum of 48 hours a week. Amongst those who currently access day services in a building, 83% said attending was very important to them and 13% fairly important. Only 1 person said it was not important.

By far the most frequent reason given for why attending day services is important was socialising, 36 people said this (64% of comments). Getting out of the house, day services providing good activities, being good for their health and the staff were also frequently mentioned. Little was provided in terms of things they didn't like about attending day services.

Being in a safe environment doing things I've always done with friends I have known for years with staff who understand my needs!

*Social aspect. Company.
Meeting people.*

I enjoy meeting people, having my dinner and activities gives me something to look forward too. I Don't feel alone.

Gives parent a break for 6 hours, meet my friends, do different activities.

I need my independence from my family to be mentally stimulated. I enjoy the social side of being with my friends.



Thoughts on doing more community based activities

Views on doing more community based activities rather than attending day services is divided exactly equally; 36% said they like this idea, 36% said no they do not. 29% don't know. Comments relating to why like the idea of more community based activities;

So I am accepted more in a mixed social setting

I like being out and about with my carer.

More independent + I get to go out in community.

Because Walsall deaf club closed down have lost touch with deaf friends + enjoyed a beer with them need new deaf club open please for us

The centre has become stale. Doing nothing new.

I like to go out into the community, meeting new people and do my hobby (photography)

Experiencing a variety of things and people.



Thoughts on doing more community based activities

Comments relating to why don't like the idea of more community based activities;

It's a routine I have had for years and struggle with change I enjoy my time there.

Safety concerns.

I like being in the same social group with my friends.

It's difficult for me to mix in the community with my learning disabilities. I like routine and struggle with new places.

I would prefer a mix of activities. Some at a day centre and some in the community.

I like attending day centres.



Thoughts on doing more community based activities

Comments relating to why don't know about the idea of more community based activities;

*I don't do well with change
& making friends.*

*Don't know what would be
available.*

*Because of my dementia I might
struggle with new environment +
struggle to communicate due to
lacking BSL user/interpreter.*

*I think both would be
good.*



Benefits of community based activities

When asked how being more involved in community based activities might benefit them, most comments related to aspects of friendship (18 comments) and better mental health (13 comments). Others mentioned it would boost their confidence, allow them to meet people and provide stimulation.

Comments included;

Better for my mental and general wellbeing.

Self esteem make new friendships.

Talking to other people helps self esteem & mood lifting.

Being more a part of and being able to help the community.

I would prefer a mix of activities. Some at a day centre and some in the community.

Meeting new people and possible more opportunities opening up for work and future.

To maintain my help and get involved with people and learn the English language.

Make me more a positive person.



Barriers to community based activities

Mental health issues, transport and the need for support were the most commonly mentioned barriers to being more involved in community based activities. Communication issues, health and mobility also featured.

Comments included;

Being a wheelchair user most things I would find difficult to do.

I would need a free interpreter if event had hearing people.

Transport, care with W/C facilities when there.

Getting more direct payments. Have assistance to get out.

Communication, being with people who are not fully trained to understand needs of disabled people.

Getting there.

Meeting new people and possible more opportunities opening up for work and future.

Constantly need help with understand new people and walking around can be challenging.

Expensive activity fees.



Findings – parents / carers of service users

98 parents / carers completed the final section of the survey which sought their views on meaningful day opportunities. Of those who responded 40% (36 people) had not had a carers assessment.

Views on activities: A majority of parents / carers answered ‘important’ across all the statements about activities that were listed (see table below).

88% of parents/carers felt that providing a range of meaningful activities is important. 83% felt that it was important activities encourage and support independence. 81% said giving new skills / improve existing skills was important.

Counts Analysis % Respondents	Total					
		Important	Neither important or not important	Not important	Don't know	Not applicable
Base	451	356 79%	39 9%	37 8%	7 2%	12 3%
A range of meaningful activities are available.	94	83 88%	3 3%	4 4%	2 2%	2 2%
Activities are available in the community	89	64 72%	13 15%	6 7%	2 2%	4 4%
Activities are available in a day service building	89	62 70%	11 12%	11 12%	3 3%	2 2%
That activities encourage and support independence	89	74 83%	6 7%	8 9%	- -	1 1%
That activities give new skills / improve existing skills	90	73 81%	6 7%	8 9%	- -	3 3%



Enabling parents / carers to continue caring

When asked what things are important to enable them to continue in their caring role, **most comments mentioned the need for respite and free time** which the provision of day care activities enabled them to have (37 comments).

Providing **good quality services** people need and knowing the person they care for is in a **safe place** were also frequently mentioned.

To get break's so I can do things for me, helps me look after my daughter and keeps me well mentally.

Having time to myself for a few hours to relax.

That my son stays at his day centre where he has 1-2-1 staff that knows my sons needs so I don't have to worry leaving him and I can get time to myself.

*Needing respite,
Feeling that the
person I am caring
for is safe, not
lonely and occupied.*

*Day care, so we
get time to do
personal things
we need to do,
and a break.*

*Knowing my loved one is in a safe
secure environment, with staff who
understand they're needs. A day
centre is all they have ever know, I will
struggle with emotions of change if
this is take away, I need my
day breaks desperately.*



Views on a more community based approach (1)

Of the 90 people who answered the question, **39% supported the move towards a more community based approach**. 23% did not support it and 38% did not know.

Comments why **support** a community based approach (35 people);

I want more things to do with my service user to build her confidence and be part of community life.

Interaction into a community is very important.

With my client its important to get out and meet others as it can be very lonely.

Keeps things local around area to build a friendship base.

This is a goal that would enable the young person to feel part of the community.

They would be more independent to develop skills they were not taught from the carer over the past 10 years.

Important that he is included in his community socially & becomes known by others + makes friends.

I want more things to do with my service user to build her confidence and be part of community life.



Views on a more community based approach (2)

Comments show a lack of confidence that such a model could work and that community based activities do not suit everyone. Comments why **do not support** a community based approach (21 people);

There should be more available in the community that is inclusive but for those with complex needs there should always be some building based specialised activities.

Learning disabilities are not uniform and to a simple template cannot be uniformly applied.

My son is settled at his day centre and I don't think moving him out to somewhere else would be in his best interests.

Today's community isn't a safe place. I would not rest knowing what society is today!!

The needs of the service users is being met, why change it this is what she wants?

I believe day centres allow vulnerable people somewhere safe to access during the day to allow them to take part in life skills.

It's not a safe community environment, it doesn't suit, have always had a day centre and my loved one is very happy + content there.



Views on a more community based approach (2)

Comments why don't know if support a community based approach (34 people);

You need to define what you mean by "community based approach". What does this entail?

I don't tend to rely on the council/community. I care for my daughter without any support.

Because all these ideas start off well meaning, but just look back at other ideas and they don't last long.

The support he gets now is exactly to his needs.

It could be good for some clients if well designed with well hired support. But it won't be suitable for everyone. I feel that it should be additional to day care facility not instead of. I understand this to be a cost cutting venture.

Looking after a deaf, frail 95 year old person, I do not know how I could leave her to do things on her own. She needs help.



Benefits of a community based approach

Whilst some say there are no benefits, many comments highlight a range of benefits with a focus on respite and family / friendships;

The young person would have a more happier approach to their life if they felt part of the community and give them better independence and confidence to do things on their own.

xxxx would become more involved with more people and expand his circle of friends.

Reach full potential, be part of community life.

Wonderful, but she need transport & help when she is there. Stan Ball - nearly all dementia patients no stimulation for my mum.

My client would really enjoy this, but would need to be amongst similar people with same disabilities.

Something for them to do and feel part of community and to give me a break so I can do the things I like to do for my respite.

They would be more independent to use the things they are taught to live as normal as possible and become more independent.

The important thing is that my son enjoys his activities, whether they are building based or in the Community.



Difficulties or challenges

Parents / carers were asked what difficulties or challenges community based activities might pose to the person they care for. The reliance on support workers, mental health issues and physical disabilities were most commonly mentioned.

Full support would be needed. Don't like the idea of mixing with public who wouldn't understand their needs and would be vulnerable.

Even today wheelchair places are not accessible.

Need a lot of encouragement to do this.

Just need support all the time to do activities to keep her safe and well. Could not do activities or go out alone.

Upsetting the routine they have had for years, the older they are the more of a upset this will be.

Finding appropriate activities geared to his level of understanding. He also doesn't like busy and noisy places. Lack of personal care facilities for changing pads etc.

xxxx would not cope mentally and physically with a change to the routine.

My husband suffers from dementia so at the moment I really don't know how motivated he is in community based activities.



Summary of Easy Read responses - adults

103 easy read responses were received. Responses show a large number of different activities are enjoyed by these respondents; from social events, sports and cinema to sensory, arts and crafts and community and day centre based activities.

From the comments made about what they like about the activities they do, it is clear that socialising is an aspect people enjoy and value a great deal...

I like to go to Monday club to see friends.

Seeing friends, exercise, colouring, singing, dancing, movies, music, cups of tea.

Like to see what goes on and who's there, like to meet up with friends.

Makes me happy, keeps me engaged.

I like to be around people.

Interesting, get me out of the house, meeting new people, new activities.

Fun, gives me the chance to go out, spend time with friends.

Makes me happy, meeting other people and service users.

What don't like about activities - adults

Most people did not identify anything they disliked about the activities they do. Dislikes were varied, with no common theme.

I don't like it when it gets too loud.

Activities at social group tend to be limited to quizzes and bingos due to friends mobile ability and lack of finance.

Having to travel by bus, out late at night alone, waiting for buses.

Some are too far away, I don't like loud music/discos, few activities on weekends.

Gets boring watching the TV.

I get bored easily, I don't like too much noise.



New activities - adults

A vast range of new indoor and outdoor activities were suggested including arts and crafts, singing / dancing, swimming, cooking, bowling, music, computers , Zumba, racket sports and social events.

The lack of support / need for assistance when travelling and participating were most commonly mentioned. Transport, in particular no Ring and Ride service in the evening, was frequently identified as making it difficult for people to take part activities they want to do. Some were limited by physical disabilities and medical conditions.

Ring and Ride isn't running on an evening.

I would need my staff to assist me trying new things.

Every activity I do I need help, restricted mobility makes it hard to do much.

Carers support needed, medical conditions makes it hard to complete tasks alone.

Doing things differently - adults

What disliked: Respondents were asked what they disliked about lockdown. Almost every comment mentioned missing family and friends, feeling bored, being stuck inside, feeling isolated and lonely. Many missed being able to attend their usual day centres and clubs.

New activities and skills during lockdown: lots of comments mentioned using technology; learning to use Zoom, WhatsApp and computers to keep in touch with family and friends.

Activities in different places: 48% said they would prefer to go to a day centre whilst 38% said they are happy to do activities in different places. 8% said a mixture of both.

Findings – stakeholders and potential future users

20 responses were received to this survey aimed at potential future users, the general public and other stakeholders. Stakeholders and potential future users are reported grouped as below. Note very low bases.

- A potential future user of day opportunities / activities (2)
- A parent / carer of a potential future user of day opportunities / activities (4)
- Member of the public (3)
- *Community or voluntary organisation (2)*
- *Provider of community services (2)*
- *Education / learning provider (0)*
- *Advocate (0)*
- *Health professional (1)*
- *Employee of Walsall Adult Social Care (4)*
- *Employee of Walsall Children's services (0)*
- *Other employee of Walsall Council (0)*

Stakeholders

Some council teams provided a collective response which has been recorded as one response.

Findings – stakeholders

Views on activities: Encouraging and supporting independence, teaching new / improving skills, helping prepare for adulthood, making and keeping friendships and enabling respite for carers were all seen as important by the vast majority of respondents. Being involved in volunteering was less important as was preparing people for work.

Counts Analysis % Respondents	Total					
		Important	Neither important or not important	Not important	N/A	Don't know
Base	88	74 84.1%	11 12.5%	1 1.1%	2 2.3%	-
Encourage and support independence	11	11 100.0%	-	-	-	-
Teach people new skills / improve existing skills	11	10 90.9%	1 9.1%	-	-	-
Help people be more involved in the local community	11	9 81.8%	2 18.2%	-	-	-
Help people prepare for adulthood	11	10 90.9%	-	-	1 9.1%	-
Prepare people for and help get work	11	8 72.7%	2 18.2%	-	1 9.1%	-
Help people be involved in volunteering	11	6 54.5%	4 36.4%	1 9.1%	-	-
Help people make and keep friendships	11	10 90.9%	1 9.1%	-	-	-
Enable carers or parents to have some time to do things that they want to do	11	10 90.9%	1 9.1%	-	-	-



Views on a more community based approach (1)

Of the 11 people who answered the question, **6 supported the move towards a more community based approach**. 3 did not support it and 2 did not know.

Comments why stakeholders **support** a community based approach (6 people);

Community based approach would provide more localised services, giving easier access to activities and groups.

Increases opportunity and variety.

Need to empower people and encourage integration in local community.

I feel more people need more support in their homes in the community.



Views on a more community based approach (2)

Comments why stakeholders **do not support** a community based approach (3 people);

I think there is a need for both - everyone is an individual and what suits one does not suit another - there needs to be a flexible approach.

Not familiar enough to have an opinion.

Comments why stakeholders **don't know if support** a community based approach (2 people);

I think there are benefits in connecting people to their local community obviously but in my experience people just want the support, they don't care if it strictly local.

I don't really understand what you mean re community based.



Benefits of a community based approach

Comments highlight a range of benefits with integration in the community being most frequently mentioned.

As a provider of community activities for the whole community, we see how important it is for people with additional needs to integrate with others from the local community. We see friendships formed and a reduction in isolation and loneliness. Older people in general enjoy socialising and meeting others. Finding a new interest or learning a new skill within a community setting enables those taking part to feel a greater sense of community and belonging.

Improves sense of being part of your community.

Specific interests can be catered to, age related opportunities and mixed age opportunities can be made available, knowledge and skills can be shared, all ages can be more involved in their community.

Integration and independence.

Gets residents out of the care home and into the community, which prevents isolation and gets them meeting new people and allows them to see different environments.



What might prevent people being involved

Stakeholders identified a number of difficulties or challenges community based activities might pose customers, many reflect those identified by the parents / careers of current customers.

If services are serious about promoting independence they need to be able to offer facilities and activities to those who need physical assistance or equipment to use them as well as those who are more mobile.

*Access to facility
e.g. how far from home, transport & parking, not knowing anyone.*

*Lack of confidence
Lack of transport to attend.*

Going somewhere they have never been before. Alack of knowledge regarding what is available and if it will suit their particular needs.

Family restrictions if they lived with their loved one e.g. activities may not be around times for family members to take carer breaks.

Lack of knowledge or awareness of what is available.

Not aware of services accessible to them, lack of staffing to support residents out into the community.



Ideas for what, how & where activities could take place

Ideas and suggestions from stakeholders included;

Smaller more accessible groups in local areas Not sure what facilities are available - we need to look at premises that are local to where people live and are accessible.

Cooking/ nutrition , money management, hobbies, youth groups, using community centres , pubs function rooms, cafe's , college open during evening, places of worship.

Dementia friendly not just accessible for those in the community but also accessible for those who live in care homes.

A variety of interest groups, exercise and learning sessions could take place in community venues around the borough. Either run by the venue with trained staff or run by the council at the venues. Walsall Community Network have 15 organisations situated within local communities/areas which would be ideal for these services.

This would give users more opportunities to access services as well as support community organisations financially to provide services to all members of their local community.



Findings – potential future users

The very low base limits analysis of the data, only counts are reported.

9 potential future users completed the survey made up as follows;

- A potential future user of day opportunities / activities (2)
- A parent / carer of a potential future user of day opportunities / activities (4)
- Member of the public (3)

Most respondents feel the aspects listed are important.

Counts Respondents	Total					
		Important	Neither important or not important	Not important	N/A	Don't know
Base	67	56	3	5	-	3
Encourage and support independence	9	8	-	1	-	-
Teach people new skills / improve existing skills	8	7	-	1	-	-
Help people be more involved in the local community	8	6	1	-	-	1
Help people prepare for adulthood	8	6	-	1	-	1
Prepare people for and help get work	8	6	-	1	-	1
Help people be involved in volunteering	8	5	2	1	-	-
Help people make and keep friendships	9	9	-	-	-	-
Enable carers or parents to have some time to do things that they want to do	9	9	-	-	-	-



Findings – potential future users

Views on moving to a more community based model are divided.

– Support (2)

"It makes sense for activities etc to be organised in the local communities around available facilities and expertise."

"Important to involve people in communities"

– Do not support (3)

"This seems to be a 'cost cutting' exercise on behalf of the local authority, again targeting the most vulnerable in society."

"As full time carer for father with dementia, I would oppose to any change to service. My father attends the Watermill for Day Centre and respite. A fabulous safe friendly environment giving routine and stimulation through all kinds of activities specific for dementia sufferers and provides essential respite support."

"Adults with learning disabilities do not need to be put with a PA. They need to be with adults like themselves that they can form friendships with. This is most important to them."

– Don't know (4)

"I feel that a "community lead approach" is just another word for "relying on charity to provide much needed services".

"As long as the right level of support was available and individual needs were assessed and responded to accordingly. This cannot be a one size fits all approach"

Findings – potential future users

Benefits of a more community based model;

"Easier access for the users and their carers. Make travel to and from activities much simple. More likely to encourage users to meet at the organised events but also to potentially meet up independently with carer support at other times maybe for coffee or meals."

"In ADDITION to the services provided by the tax that WE pay, they could be vital for establishing meaningful connections with our local public."

"I am sure there would be benefits for younger or even older service users who have mental capacity. However, I cannot see any benefit in changing from specialist day care services, in my opinion they are a vital service allowing families to continue caring for their loved ones at home for as long as practically possible."

"Diverse activities encourage inclusion in groups."

"Helping users with confidence and allowing them to become engaged with their local communities."

"I don't. I see a lot of isolation and depression in adults with special needs."



Findings – potential future users

What might prevent people from being involved in community based activities;

“Nothing if the activities are well-publicised and accessible.”

“Lack of routine and structure.”

“Being scared of getting used to a service with no guarantee of it continuing.”

“Lack of support.”

“Badly advertised, difficult referral process.”

“The activities they can do. There is only so much shopping an adult can do.”

Findings – potential future users

Ideas for what, how and where community based activities could be delivered;

"Music and Drama activities in the evenings. There are numerous school and church halls and a youth theatre in Aldridge - don't know costs etc but definitely worth investigation I would have thought. Special Olympics/other sporting activities (there is a club in Sutton Coldfield but what about Aldridge/Walsall) Film club."

"The current providers of services seem to be 'working' fine on this. Obviously more opportunities for voluntary and paid employment would be desirable."

"Dementia sufferers need routine, mental stimulation, familiarity and a safe, secure building with trained staff. I cannot think of a better service than what the Watermill already offers."

"Local church halls, Forest Arts Centre. Life skills such as cooking, travel training and money management."

"Keep to the day centres."

