

AT A MEETING  
- of the -  
**HEALTH AND SOCIAL  
CARE MODERNISING  
SERVICES WORKING  
GROUP** held at the Council  
House, Walsall on **Tuesday  
18 October 2005** at 6.00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Councillor Ault  
Councillor Walker  
Councillor Woodruff

Julie Metcalf  
Trish Skitt  
Roy Cadman  
Stuart Bentley

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Munir and Councillor Oliver

**CHAIR**

In the absence of Councillor Oliver, Councillor Woodruff chaired this meeting.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip identified at this meeting.

**LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES – PROGRESS UPDATE**

The group noted the minutes of the Partnership board, previously circulated.

(annexed)

Stuart Bentley reported that the “Making our Choices” Group had received the read easy version of the report favourably, although there were concerns over what was to happen next, specifically around the closers of Brewer Street and Northgate.

**INTERIM INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE – PROGRESS UPDATE**

Roy Cadman, Manager of the Independent Living Centre, was introduced to the group and gave a presentation outlining the present position and some ideas for possible progression.

(annexed)

Councillor Woodruff asked why the emphasis was on the over 50's.

Roy Cadman replied that the bid was primarily about people with disabilities but that it had focused on the over 50's to ensure that they were not overlooked. Julie Metcalf confirmed that the centre will be open to any adult with an impairment.

Councillor Woodruff asked if there were demographics for adults with impairments in the Borough.

Julie Metcalf replied that there was some information from the 2001 census indicating around 12% of the 18-65 year olds reporting some form of impairment. Councillor Walker stated that this was above the national average. Trish Skitt stated that the PCT had information on people with a life limiting illness, which was a slightly different indicator. Roy Cadman further stated that there were figures, linked to housing, on the Intranet, but he was unsure how these figures were collated.

Trish Skitt stated that there were ambitious targets set around training. Roy Cadman stated that these were to:

- Provide training for 50 people already in employment
- Provide training for 120 unemployed people
- Progress 20 of the above through to NVQ levels 1 or 2
- Provide advice and guidance to 250 people
- Help 10 people gain employment

These targets to be met by the summer of 2008. Julie Metcalf also stated that there would be specific targeting of Black and Ethnic Minorities.

Councillor Woodruff asked it was possible to produce a Virtual Tour of the ILC for people who may find it difficult to access the site.

Julie Metcalf replied that they were looking at equipping a house and that it might be possible to have a least a video link to the ILC.

Councillor Woodruff asked whether the Occupational Therapy advisers would be internal or external.

Julie Metcalf replied that they would be internal on a sessional basis.

Councillor Woodruff then asked about the input from the PCT.

Trish Skitt replied that the PCT had written the initial bid. They had seen that there was a real gap and had recognised that this would fit into the bigger picture. It was also part of the bid to demonstrate the link between service provision and the equipment store.

Councillor Woodruff asked if the question of rear access to the centre had been addressed.

Roy Cadman stated that this would be difficult due to the number of fire doors and the height of the steps at the rear entrance meaning that any ramp access would probably be at the expense of 2 parking bays. Also, it was rumoured that the owners of the building were planning work which would further limit parking spaces.

Councillor Woodruff asked if the planning department had been contacted.

Julie Metcalf replied that they had not yet approached planning but would this would be an issue to address once the contract was signed on 21 October 2005.

Councillor Woodruff asked if a date for opening had been agreed.

Julie Metcalf replied that this would depend on the access work, but would probably be February of 2006. However, they were keen to open during the current financial year. She believed she would be in a much better position to give a date at the next meeting of this group

AGREED:

- That the possibility of a Virtual Tour or video link, to the ILC, be explored.
- That planning be approached with regard to parking issues around the ILC.
- That progress towards an opening date be reported back to the group at the next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Tuesday 10 January 2006

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6:45 p.m.