

Resource and legal considerations:

Any resource implications arising from improving performance will be found from within approved budgets. There are no legal considerations arising from this report.

Citizen impact:

Improvement in services, particularly in respect of access and quality, contributes to better outcomes for the citizens of Walsall who are our service users.

Environmental impact:

There is no specific environmental impact from this report.

Performance management:

The actions being undertaken will improve the performance of the directorate and make a positive impact on the overall performance of the council.

Equality Implications:

These actions relate directly to equitable availability of and access to services for adults.

Consultation:

As indicated in the attached report there will be extensive stakeholder consultation as the process develops and in particular as part of developing a vision and strategy for the new service.

Contact Officer:

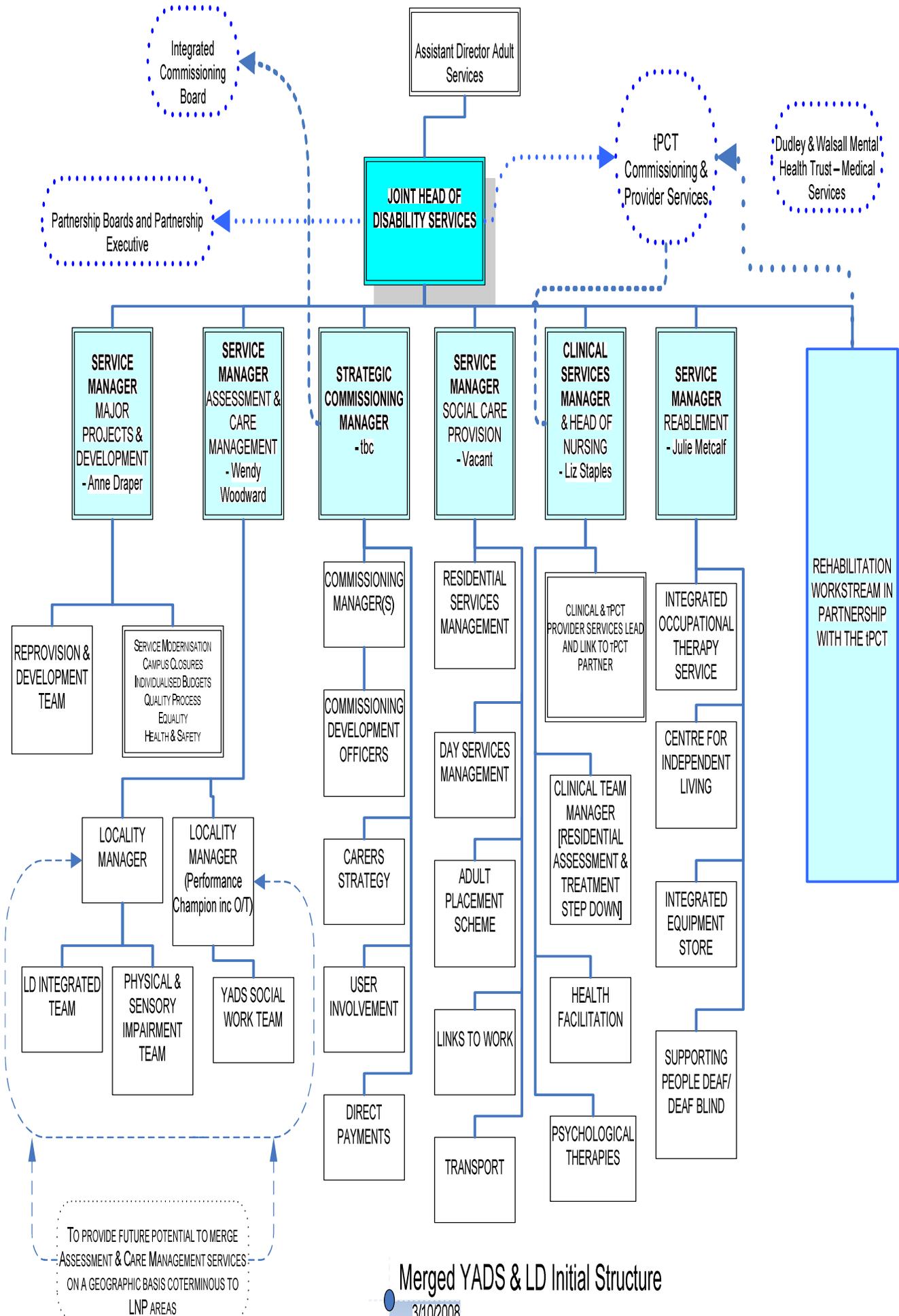
John Greensill
Tel. 01922 658383
Greensillj@walsall.gov.uk

1. PROGRESS REPORT – MERGER OF YOUNGER ADULTS AND LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES

- 1.1 During the summer/autumn of 2006 and following an overspending trend in Adults Services the Interim Head of Adult Services was commissioned to undertake a scoping exercise of services to people with a disability.
- 1.2 The review of service delivery suggested that significant benefit would be realised by bringing together Learning Disability Services and services to Younger Adults with Disabilities.
- 1.3 In February 2007 it was agreed that a new merged structure would be fully implemented from 1st April 2008 with the extension of the Pooled Budget agreement following the transitional year.
- 1.4 The decision meant that two existing Head of Service posts would be deleted and replaced by a Joint Head of Disability Services and a lower graded Service Manager post.

2. PROGRESS TO DATE

- 2.1 The new Joint Head of Disability Services has been appointed (John Greensill) and the initial merged service 'went live' on the 1st February 2008.
- 2.2 An initial management structure has been agreed (attached) and it is anticipated that the Service Manager posts who lead the individual sub-structures of the service will be in place by the end of April 2008.
- 2.3 The first 6 months of the new structure (to August 2008) will concentrate on the basics of service delivery including Policy, Procedure and Budgetary compliance. This initial period will also address differences in performance and culture between the two elements of the merged service.
- 2.4 By August 2008 the basics of the new £40 million per year service will be in place this also includes in excess of £15 million present investment by Walsall tPCT.
- 2.5 There will follow a year of more refined service development to maximise the advantages of the merged service including the development of a full Pooled Budget and the potential to extend partnership arrangements with Walsall tPCT.
- 2.6 A focus of service development will be to improve rehabilitation services in Walsall and extend relationships in voluntary sector partnerships.
- 2.7 Service development work post August will include substantial involvement of all stakeholders in Disability Services including:
 - a) Service Users
 - b) Carers
 - c) Staff
 - d) Professions
 - e) Walsall tPCT
 - f) Voluntary Organisations



Merged YADS & LD Initial Structure

3/10/2008

