

## **Cabinet – 28 February 2006**

### **Modernisation of day care services for people with learning disabilities**

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Councillor Alan Paul - Social Care and Inclusion
<b>Service:</b>	Integrated Learning Disability Service
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Key decisions:</b>	Yes - To agree to endorse the plan to modernise day services for people with learning disabilities
<b>Forward plan:</b>	Yes

#### **Summary of report**

The Walsall Learning Disability Strategy [2003] identified that a priority objective was to modernise day services to provide greater opportunities for individually tailored, local services.

The CSCI Inspection of learning disability services in Walsall [2004] identified that the Council had a consistent and coherent strategy which included plans to replace traditional large scale services with a range of individualised services

Following the report of the Modernising Services Working Group in April 2005 a plan was prepared to identify the changes required in the day services for people with a learning disability in Walsall. The proposed plan was launched in February 2006 and an extended consultation period was concluded in Autumn 2006.

In January 2007 the Health & Social Care Scrutiny & Performance Panel reviewed the consultation process and supported a recommendation that the plan is submitted to Cabinet for formal approval and that in addition that the panel should receive updates on progress at 6 monthly intervals

This report recommends that the plan now submitted to Cabinet be approved.

#### **Recommendations**

- (1) Cabinet members endorse the plan to modernise day services for people with a learning disability.
- (2) Cabinet would like to thank the Health & Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel for their work and their support for these proposals.

- (3) That Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel be provided with updates on progress together with being informed of any significant concerns expressed by service users or carers.

### **Resource and legal considerations**

The modernisation of day services in Walsall will be delivered within the identified revenue resources allocated to the learning disability service.

There is no statutory duty to provide day services although there is a legal duty to meet the assessed needs of citizens under the NHS and Community Care Act 1990.

### **Citizen impact**

Services are presently provided in a traditional manner involving large groups of people with a learning disability being transported across the borough to 3 large day centre sites.

The White Paper 'Valuing People' [2001] said that services should enable people with a learning disability to lead full and purposeful lives within their community

The proposed plan emphasises a change to smaller service settings in township communities enhancing individual and inclusive person centred services.

### **Community safety**

All service users will have individual person centred care plans which include appropriate risk assessments. Staff support and activities will be provided in accordance with the risk assessments.

### **Environmental impact**

No issues

### **Performance and risk management issues**

Day services contribute to PAF C30 Helped to Live at Home indicators. Walsall is in the top 30% of Councils nationally. The proposed plan will enhance future performance and the expectations of future service users and carers.

### **Equality implications**

Existing services do not promote equality and inclusion due to the nature of their large segregated settings.

The services proposed are in small community integrated settings supporting an inclusive range of services. The person centred approaches will also provide a more sensitive range of services addressing the diverse cultural needs of Walsall's citizens.

## **Consultation**

The proposed plan was launched in February 2006 as part of the Learning Disability Partnership Board Annual Open Event at the Quality Hotel. Approximately 80 service users and carers attended.

Copies of the proposed Plan were made available in day centres and to all attendees.

Service users, carers and staff were initially offered until May 2006 to submit their views and concerns through a variety of mechanisms including:

- By post, telephone or email
- 'Surgeries' in day centres
- Individual or group meetings

The initial response was less than anticipated and not felt to be representative. Accordingly, the consultation period was extended and a themed event was held at the end of September 2006 to formally end the consultation period.

The event, held at the The Crossing at St. Paul's, was attended by in excess of 40 carers and was, effectively, a reprise of the views expressed at the launch in February. The agreed outcome was to proceed with the proposed plan and adopt a continuous consultation approach involving individual/group discussions, regular surgeries and newsletters.

## **Vision 2008**

Make Walsall a healthy and caring place.

The plan will facilitate people with a learning disability becoming valued members of the community. Services to be developed will include support to address the significant health issues in the lives of people with a learning disability.

## **Background papers**

- Assessment of Day Care Services for People with Learning Disabilities – Report of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel – April 2005
- Action Plan implementing the recommendations of the Inspection of Service for people with a learning disability – Cabinet July 2004
- Walsall Learning Disability Strategy - 2003
- Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – 2001
- Valuing People: much achieved, more to do – summary of Inspections carried out in 2003/2004
- Valuing People: The story so far... – expectations for change 2005-2010
- Minutes of the Modernising Services Working Group
  - 1<sup>st</sup> November 2004
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2005
  - 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005
  - 15<sup>th</sup> April 2005

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Signed:

Kathy McAteer  
Acting Executive Director:

Date: 15 February 2007



Signed:

Councillor Alan Paul  
Portfolio Holder

Date: 16 February 2007

# **Day Service Modernisation Plan – Report Details**

## **Background issues**

The Government objective is to enable people with learning disabilities to lead full and purposeful lives within their communities and to develop a range of friendships, activities and relationships [Valuing People White Paper 2001]

Services in Walsall are heavily reliant on 3 large, often institutional, day services at Northgate, Brewer Street and Goscote. The buildings at Northgate and Brewer Street have substantial structural problems which could limit the life of the buildings without substantial capital investment [Assessment of Day Care Services for People with Learning Disabilities – Report of Health & Social Care Scrutiny & Performance Panel 2005].

The services have provided much needed respite for families, but they have made limited contribution to promoting social inclusion of independence for people with learning disabilities. People with learning disabilities attending them have not had opportunities to develop individual interests or the skills and experience they need in order to lead ordinary lives or move into employment.

## **Development of the Modernisation Plan**

The Plan was developed from a range of issues regarded as important. This included input from:

- People who use the services
- Families
- Support staff
- Professionals
- Young People
- Managers
- National good practice
- Elected Members who gathered evidence on behalf of the Health & Social Care Scrutiny & Performance Panel

## **Modernisation Plan proposals**

The Modernisation Plan will develop small scale bases in the natural townships, communities and LNP areas across the town to replace the large centres

Services will be organised using Person Centred Approaches, users will be supported to do at least 3 things per week based on individual needs. The bases will support 12-18 service users each. Individual groups or activities will be limited to 2 or 3 people. People with the same kind of care need, like physical disability, will not spend all of their time together.

The smaller service settings will promote integration within local communities rather than transporting people to isolated buildings. The small bases will be much more sensitive to the local community's cultural needs.

Transport to the bases will continue to be provided but over time will change as people will be encouraged to walk or use public transport as part of the social inclusion process. The traditional 'bussing' of service users on council minibuses results in reduced opportunities for interaction within local communities.

There is a commitment to ensure that existing family carers continue to receive the day time respite which is so important to them. However, future users of the services will be offered support based on Person Centred Planning principles which may differ from the full 5 days per week in structured services which the traditional services offer.

Users of services have indicated the importance of the friendships they have developed in traditional services. However, day services need to be more meaningful than just social clubs and address individual support needs. The 'Friends Together' group, developed from Citizen Advocacy Groups, will inform the commissioning need to develop social activities in partnership with Voluntary Organisations to maintain and develop appropriate and inclusive social networks.

Two large Day Services will close [Northgate and Brewer Street] as new community bases are developed.

The facility at Goscote will remain but change its function to a more specialist role. Services will be based on individual sessions which will not require full time attendance. Some services at Goscote will have a greater health support orientation; this is because existing and future users have substantial health support needs including:

- Dementia – 4x greater risk than the general population
- Epilepsy – 20x greater risk than the general population
- Sensory – 200x greater risk than the general population

## **Modernisation Plan Timescale**

### **2007 – 2008**

- Community Mapping – who, what, when, where
- Identify Community Bases
- Replace Northgate service with community bases
- Liaise with users in the development of inclusive social activities

### **2008 – 2009**

- Continue to develop services and identify bases
- Review new services with Users, Carers and Staff
- Commence development of employment pathways
- Replace Brewer Street service with community bases
- Commence Transport review

### **2009 -2010**

- Review new services with Users, Carers and Staff
- Modify Goscote service to
  - Small community base
  - Sessional specialist services
  - Health support including Nursing

### **2010 – 2011**

- Commission independent 'Quality Network' review of services

## **Conclusion**

The Modernisation Plan will change the traditional service delivery models in Walsall from a large group and day time respite orientation to services based on individual needs and meaningful activity. Social Inclusion and cultural sensitivity will be enhanced.

The proposed service will be in line with the expectations of modern service settings and the Valuing People White Paper.