

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER

17 June 2015

Report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care

**PROPOSED EXPENDITURE ON BATHROOM AND TOILET
IMPROVEMENTS FOR VICTORIA STREET LEARNING DISABILITY
SERVICE
ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek Cabinet Member approval for the expenditure on bathroom and toilet improvement for Victoria Street Learning Disability Service.

Information and Analysis

Victoria Street is situated in Brimington between Chesterfield and Staveley. The Service is registered under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 to provide 16 short stay respite beds and crisis response placements to adults with a learning disability over the age of 18.

The quality of the care and support provided by the staff within the service is both excellent and highly regarded by those that use the facility and their carers. The building itself has been subject to a more recent programme of improvement including decoration, equipment and furniture and approximately 10 years ago, refurbishment work was undertaken in the bedrooms and these remain in a good condition. The grounds have also received input and a sensory garden is being planned.

Despite these ongoing minor improvements CQC inspectors have informally noted the poor state of the environmental and building conditions. They felt that the bathrooms and toilets were not 'fit for purpose'. If inspected formally in relation to environmental and building conditions, it is highly likely that the unit would not meet the required regulatory standards.

The bathrooms, toilet and shower rooms are in a poor condition and do not provide an effective environment in which to provide personal care and support for our clients and a safe working space for our staff.

It is essential in order to be able to meet the care and support needs of all clients that the service has suitable and adequate bathroom facilities. At present the lack of suitable facilities prevents the service from admitting any clients with either Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities and/or with complex personal care needs. This reduces both the choices available for people and the capacity for Victoria Street to compete with private providers in the market.

Specifically the facilities have the following issues:

1. Ground floor bathroom – damp walls and the domestic bath is sited to a wall allowing no moving and handling facilities to be used. The suggested improvements would provide a disabled accessed bath unit placed in the middle of the room.
2. Ground floor toilets (two cubicles) – there is very limited disabled access due to layout and the facilities are in a very poor condition. It is proposed to knock two cubicles into one to improve space.
3. Ground floor small shower room and toilet – this is currently the only space available to support disabled clients with any personal care on the ground floor but this is limited. The room is inadequate in terms of space and facilities and is in a poor state of repair.
4. First floor disabled access shower cubicle and seat – this is not used by clients due to its poor condition. Space also has asbestos present.
5. First floor bathroom and ‘walk in’ shower with seat – the units are very old and are in a poor state of repair.
6. First floor two bathrooms with baths – these facilities are in a usable condition but have unpleasant plastic walls which are in a poor condition.

Their service remains an essential element of the Direct Care offer and continues to deliver a highly valued resource for people with complex needs. Adult Care commissioning is completing work instigated as part of the Transforming Care Programme looking at a joint health and social care crisis response approach to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions. A joint health and social care review of short break provision for people with a learning disability is also underway. It has been recognised that the bed based resources within Direct Care could provide a key contribution to these future developments. The Learning Disability Accommodation and Support Strategy has identified a need for short term accommodation with focused support to develop skills for independence for young people leaving education and wanting to live independently. This service could be provided as part of the Direct Care offer in existing resources as part of their life skills function. This would also contribute to the return to the county for young people attending out of area placements. This strategic vision is already provided as part of Victoria Street’s current service provision in offering short breaks, crisis intervention and in meeting complex behavioural support needs and life skills work for young people failing in transition. Victoria Street has developed an

expertise in supporting very complex and challenging needs and provides a much needed crisis response service, which is not readily available anywhere else in the area. For example, the service has supported people from placements with private providers where the situation has broken down or individuals have required temporary support away from home. Victoria Street is supporting clients with these needs in liaison with DCC key partners such as specialist health providers (DCHS, Ash green). Moving forward Victoria Street has a key role to play in the departments' future commissioning intentions in providing support for people with behavioural support needs and in joint working with the NHS and other providers supporting people (including young people) as part of the pathway to independence.

The facilities and environment needs to be brought up to standard and made fit for on-going and future purpose.

The proposed improvements would have the following benefits for clients, staff and department:

- The improvements will provide a social and physical environment that will maximise the quality of life for our clients and staff wellbeing and morale.
- The improvements will allow the unit to be CQC compliant in this regard and for the department to maintain its responsibilities under Moving and Handling, Infection Control and Health and Safety regulations.
- The improvements will enable staff to provide care and support in a safe environment where people can be assisted in line with moving and handling regulations with dignity and respect.
- The improvements will enable the staff to provide personalised residential care for clients with complex care needs in an accessible, homely and non-institutionalised environment. The present condition of the facilities presents an institutionalised image and sends a negative message to our clients and their carers in respect of the quality we attached to the service we provide.
- The improvements will allow our staff to safely promote an ethos that allows maximum independence by providing facilities that our clients can use safely and independently.
- The improvements will allow Victoria Street to continue meeting the existing and future commissioning intentions for the department and allow Direct Care to have a key role in these developments in the North East division.

2. Financial Considerations

1. - £35,000 Bathroom in reception total refurbishment - full refurbishment
2. - £22,500 Toilets in reception converted to one assisted toilet
3. - £ 1,750 Shower on ground floor minor improvements

- 4. - £15,000 Bathroom on first floor major improvement
- 5. - £ 1,750 Shower on ground floor minor improvements
- 6. - £10,000 Two x Bathroom on first floor minor improvement
- Total: £86,000

All the above costs include an allowance for professional fees and contingencies. The work will be completed by DCC property division.

3. Human Resources Considerations

There are no HR considerations.

4. Legal Considerations

None

5. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: Legal and Human Rights, equality of opportunity, health, environmental, transport, property and crime and disorder considerations.

6. Background Papers

None

7. Key Decision

Yes

8. Is it necessary to waive the call-in period?

Yes

9. Officer's Recommendation

For Cabinet Member to approve the expenditure on bathroom and toilet improvements for Victoria Street Learning Disability Service

Mary McElvaney
Strategic Director – Adult Care