

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

9 August 2016

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

Hathersage Youth Provision

1. Purpose of Report

To seek Cabinet Member approval to change youth provision in Hathersage and Hope Valley from building-based provision in Hathersage to mobile youth provision, by utilising the Youth Mobile Information Unit and to declare the building surplus to the operational requirements of Children's Services.

2. Information and Analysis

Currently, youth provision in Hathersage is delivered from Stanage Hall, which is leased from Hathersage Memorial Hall Committee. The lease term has expired, but the lease is continuing until notice of termination is given; the termination period is 3 months. The current cost is approximately £2,180 per annum and the centre is used one evening per week.

The service previously provided by the Multi Agency Team (MAT) from Stanage Hall will not be significantly different to the service which is to be provided by utilising the youth mobile unit.

The current lease grants unlimited use of the building. However, this is not being maximised, mainly due to limited capacity. The MAT currently offers one session of youth provision per week from the building.

As a result of the change of the MAT teams in High Peak and the amalgamation of the Bakewell MAT into surrounding teams, the youth offer in Hathersage has changed. This is due to a change in youth work priorities, which is to target and support the most vulnerable young people. The current lease for the Stanage Hall no longer fits the Council's Youth offer.

Stanage Hall was closed due to health and safety reasons for a substantial period last year.

During the building closure, youth work sessions continued using the mobile youth vehicle. This proved to be successful in the community and allowed for greater flexibility to deliver sessions in the Hope Valley. The response received from young people was positive and they enjoyed this new provision.

2.1 Future and Proposals

The proposal, in terms of the delivery of Youth Services in the Hathersage area, is to withdraw from the lease on Stanage Hall and to offer youth provision from the mobile unit to allow greater flexibility for youth delivery across the MAT area.

A change to mobile provision would mean greater flexibility in delivering youth provision where needed, and greater ability to respond to need around Hathersage and the Hope Valley area.

Initial consultation, generally, with young people regarding the move to mobile provision has had a positive reaction, with young people in Wirksworth very much in favour of the change due to the importance of youth provision being more available in their area.

Young people in Hathersage were given the opportunity to participate, both through Hope Valley College and also at sessions run at the youth centre. The general consensus from young people at Hope Valley College was that they were happy for youth service to be delivered by utilising the youth mobile unit. No young people attended the consultation sessions at the Youth Centre. This further indicates that a move to mobile provision would allow for engagement with more young people.

The proposed future plans are to offer young people a more flexible project from the youth information vehicle which will target priority communities, including Hathersage, in the Council's MAT catchment area.

The MAT will develop a 12-week rolling project in each area as part of its commitment to universal youth work and work closely with the local voluntary, community and independent sector, through links with the MAT Community Worker, who will offer on-going advice and guidance to the voluntary sector in order to increase their capacity.

Informal conversations with the Hathersage Memorial Hall Committee have indicated that its Members would be supportive in terms of terminating the lease on Stanage Hall as they would have capacity to retain and redevelop the building for future community use. There are

also other groups within the Hathersage community who have expressed interest in using this space, ensuring that the Council terminating the lease agreement is an option which is acceptable to the Memorial Hall Committee.

3. Financial Considerations

The current cost of the lease for Stanage Hall is approximately £2,180 per annum. It is felt that the mobile youth vehicle is far more cost-effective and enables youth workers to work in different communities and therefore increase opportunities for young people to access services, advice and information.

Moving to mobile-based provision would enable the MAT to make greater use of its youth work resources.

Children's Services currently pay cleaning and caretaking costs of approximately £1,700 per annum through the service level agreement with County Property at Stanage Hall. This would cease when the lease at the hall is terminated and county property would need to undertake appropriate negotiations to remove the cost and buy-out of hours.

It is estimated that the change to mobile-based provision will cost approximately £500 per annum for fuel. Taking this into account, the overall saving from the move to mobile provision would be approximately £1,680 per annum.

4. Legal Considerations

The Director of Legal Services will serve the relevant notice on the Landlord of Stanage Hall in order to bring the lease to an end on receipt of instructions from the Corporate Landlord.

5. Human Resources Considerations

Moving to mobile-based youth provision will not have any impact on the current staffing levels, but will mean that resources are used more efficiently in the MAT area.

Children's Services currently pay for cleaning in Stanage Hall. This will no longer be required and will cease when the lease is terminated. County property will deal with this and a surrender of the lease could mean the buy-out of hours / redeployment of cleaning staff.

Within Corporate Property, there is a part time Cleaner. The affected employee has not yet been consulted and the relevant Council policies and procedures for redeployment and redundancy will be followed.

It is anticipated that there will be redundancy costs due to the length of service of the employee.

The Council will seek to mitigate the compulsory redundancy and also seek alternative employment in line with the provisions set out in the Council's Redundancy, Redployment and Protection of Earnings policies.

Formal consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Section 188 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, and will be covered by the Council's corporate notification of the Secretary of State of potential redundancies, under Section 193 of the Act.

Consideration of service need, accessibility, facilities, location and internal space have been included as part of the service department consultation.

The proposal will be subject to Trade Union consultation.

6. Transport Considerations

Currently, the building-based youth provision is not accessible to young people outside of the immediate community due to the lack of local public transport. By changing to mobile provision, it means that services can be taken into the communities where they are most needed.

7. Property Considerations

A change to mobile provision would mean that the building currently used by the youth provision, at Hathersage, is surplus to the operational requirements of Children's Services.

On the assumption that the property is declared surplus to the requirements of Children's Services, the Corporate Landlord will assess the Council's strategic need for the property to meet the wider objectives of the Council.

The property, which is in the leasehold ownership of the Council, will either be retained to meet the service needs of the Authority or approval will be sought to declare the property surplus to requirements.

In the event that the property is deemed suitable for an alternative use, the revenue budgets will be transferred to the Corporate Landlord.

Should the property be deemed surplus to the requirements of the Authority, the annual running costs of £2180 per annum will be saved

and the Corporate Landlord will seek approval to declare the building surplus and the required notice will be served to terminate the lease.

8. Social Value Considerations

The move to mobile, rather than building based, provision will enable youth workers to work in more rural communities and enable more rurally isolated young people to access provision.

9. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered – prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, health and environmental considerations.

10. Key Decision?

No

11. Call-in

Is it required that the Call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report? No

12. Background Papers

Available from Bish Sharif, Head of Service - Services for Teenagers

13. Strategic Director's Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member approves:-

- The change of youth provision in Hathersage from building-based to mobile-based provision; and
- That Stanage Hall be declared surplus to the operational requirements of the Children's Services Department.
- That the Corporate Landlord considers whether the Council has any further requirements for the use of the property and, if not, consideration be given to the termination of the lease.

Jane Parfremment
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