

Agenda Item: 7 (w)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

25 MARCH 2014

REPORT OF THE ACTING STRATEGIC DIRECTOR ADULT CARE

**DAY SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH LEARNING
DISABILITIES IN ASHBOURNE AREA & DISTRICT**

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek approval to commence formal consultation with clients, carers and interested parties on the implementation of an integrated model of day opportunities for older people and people with learning disabilities in Ashbourne and the surrounding area.

To seek approval to commence consultation with service users, family carers staff and other interested parties on a proposal to close the Bankcroft Day Centre building and transfer the service to the Ashbourne Library.

2. Information and Analysis

In January 2013 the Adult Care Senior Management Team proposed a new model of day opportunities in the Ashbourne area. The new library in central Ashbourne, which includes a purpose built day facility, opened in April 2013 and older people who had received services at the Henmore Centre moved across to this building at this point. These clients are very satisfied with the new facilities. However, the facility could be further utilised. A recent project has been undertaken to determine the best possible use of facilities in the area and has concluded that social care, health care, the voluntary sector and other agencies should work together to integrate services for older people and people with learning disabilities based at the library and elsewhere.

There is currently a facility at Bankcroft, a building in central Ashbourne, which provides day opportunities for people with learning disabilities which is both underutilised and costly to maintain. It is proposed, therefore, that Bankcroft Day Centre should close (as the service previously provided for

older people at Henmore has already) and the services become part of one flexible service with two shared building bases at the new facility at the library and Waltham House at Wirksworth, with an outreach component in both locations. It is considered that the needs of all eligible clients at Bankcroft would be able to be met satisfactorily in this way.

The main benefits and components of the new service would be

- The service would have a personalised approach (adults with complex needs not learning disabilities or older people specific) and be outcome focussed.
- There would be a menu of activities both inside and outside the buildings at the Library and Waltham House, designed to meet the needs of all clients.
- Initially the day service would operate 5 days per week, with the potential to develop an offer of a 7 day service if demand increases.
- The building would be used by partner organisation and other community groups with the scope to generate income from this.
- Transport arrangements can be reviewed to deliver efficiencies.
- The management and staffing could be used by all services and the combination of budgets would deliver efficiencies.
- Amalgamation of the two services would generate one vibrant, community focused and well utilised service as well as improve efficiency without negatively impacting on service delivery.

Individuals would predominantly utilise the building which is closest geographically to where they live in order to maximise opportunities to engage in their own local communities but may travel to other buildings, as appropriate for specific activities.

Informal consultation with service users and family carers has been undertaken and at this stage there have been no objections to the proposal. Initial consideration of the new model has identified positive impacts, particularly around improved access to the building and its resources for people with physical disabilities, the wider range of facilities for managing and supporting the needs of people with personal care needs and the capacity, through an amalgamated staff team to extend the opening hours and days of the service. However, it is proposed to now commence formal consultation with clients, carers and other interested parties.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

The length of the consultation will be 8 weeks. A Communication Plan will be required to make sure that all people who are potentially affected are fully aware of the proposals contained in the Cabinet report and have an opportunity to comment. Around 21 people will be directly affected by the proposal.

The consultation will need to extend to include other stakeholders such as local voluntary organisations; the local Learning Disability Partnership Board; local NHS; Derbyshire Carers; and Personal Advisers in Children and Younger Adults who work with young people in transition.

Material will be prepared in Easy Read format and the proposal will be available both in leaflet/letter format as well as online, with a feedback questionnaire.

In addition there will be the opportunity for the public to make their views known verbally through the Call Derbyshire Help desk.

Two meetings with clients and family carers are planned, to take place in Ashbourne. They will take place at different times of the day to maximise attendance. Officers will attend these meetings to explain the proposals and get people's views.

The results of the consultation will be subject to a further report to Cabinet accompanied by an Equality Impact Assessment.

3. HR Considerations

The proposed closure of the Bankcroft Centre and the implementation of the integrated model of day opportunities would necessitate a revised staffing structure. Detail of a revised staffing structure would be subject to a further report to Cabinet dependent upon the outcome of the formal consultation exercise

4. Financial Considerations

If the proposals are approved following consultation, amalgamation of the two service structures and realigning the staffing model as proposed would bring initial efficiencies of £38,270 in staffing and £6,500 from the rent on Bankcroft. This would provide an immediate saving of £44,770. There would also be further efficiencies gained through reduced building maintenance, utility costs and transport.

5. Legal Considerations

The Director of Legal Services has advised that the proposals would need to be the subject of a formal consultation exercise. The proposals will also need to be the subject of an Equality Impact Assessment and this will be informed to a large extent by the consultation exercise. The outcomes from both will be included in a further report to Cabinet.

6. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

7. Key Decision

No

8. Call-in Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report?

No

9. Background Papers

No

10. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet approve the commencement of formal consultation for the new integrated service and closure of Bankcroft Day Centre and the transfer of the services to Ashbourne Library, as outlined in this report.

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