

# HOUSING CABINET MEMBER MEETING

## Agenda Item 98

Brighton & Hove City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Review of Learning Disability Day Services – Creation of Day Options Team</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>11 February 2009</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Director of Adult Social Care &amp; Housing</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Naomi Cox</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 29-6400
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<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Forward Plan No: HSG 2189</b>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

### FOR GENERAL RELEASE

#### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The government's 'Valuing People Now' paper issued 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009 emphasises the need for personalised services offering more choice and control to service users. This is an update of the 'Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' White Paper that was issued in 2001.
- 1.2 In December 2008 the Government published the 'Putting People First' ministerial concordat setting out the reform of public services and transformation of adult social care.
- 1.3 In September 2007 the Adult Social Care and Health Committee endorsed a vision for the future of day services. This vision was of a person-centred service empowering people to pursue day activities of their choice.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Housing approves that the council's Integrated Learning Disability Services create a Day Options Team. The Day Options Team would be developed slowly over time. The Day Options Team would offer an advice, guidance and co-ordination point to maximise the day opportunities available to people with learning disabilities in Brighton & Hove.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Member for Housing monitors the progress on the development of this additional team through regular briefings from the implementation team.

### **3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS**

- 3.1 In 2006 the Improving Day Services working group of the Learning Disability Partnership Board completed a self-audit of day services using government toolkits supplied by the Valuing People Support Team. The audit identified several key issues and questions about current methods of service delivery.
- 3.2 In 2007 the Lead Commissioner for Learning Disabilities hosted two visioning days to consult stakeholders about the future of day services. The vision was endorsed by the Adult Social Care and Health committee in September of 2007
- 3.3 December 2007 the Learning Disabilities Modernisation Project Board initiated a review of in-house day services. The outcome of the review proposed changes to the delivery of day services and recommended creating a Day Options Team.
- 3.4 The proposal to create the Day Options Team along with the proposed changes to day services were consulted on during a 12-week formal consultation, the outcomes of which are reported below.
- 3.5 The proposals were then presented in a report to Housing Cabinet Member in November 2008. The recommendations about day services have not been approved and are no longer part of this recommendation.
- 3.6 The Day Options Team would be modelled on and developed from the successful and popular Voluntary Work Project (which helps people with learning disabilities obtain voluntary work using the support systems available to them). This means that, like the Voluntary Work Project, the Day Options Team would provide a service to anyone with a learning disability in the city and to their support providers. The Day Options Team would give people more choice and control by:
  - Helping support services to co-ordinate their efforts and share some resources
  - Helping services to develop new opportunities for day options
  - Providing information and expertise about day options to service providers and to people with learning disabilities and their carers.
  - Providing some brokerage assistance to people using self-directed support and helping people maximise the use of the support they have available

### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 The formal 12-week consultation ran from 7 July to 28 September 2008. It involved all key stakeholders: service users, family carers, the Learning Disability Partnership Board and key partners in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector. Account was taken of accessible ways of communicating with service users given their specific communication needs as a result of their learning disabilities.

#### 4.2 Responses received:

**Day Service Users:** 103 individuals responded to this consultation, with assistance from the day services' staff. 70 service users participated in speak up groups facilitated by an independent advocacy organisation. An independent person-centred planning facilitator audited 37 service users' person-centred plans.

**Carers and families:** 14 individual responses and 32 people contributed to group responses.

**Staff:** 20 individual responses and five in-house day service staff teams, two residential staff teams and one management team sent group responses. Unison attended project team meetings.

**Other organisations and groups:** Better Lives steering group, Carers Centre, Speak Out network Big Meeting, and a public consultation event.

### 5. CONSULTATION FINDINGS

5.1 The feedback received fell broadly into distinct themes (the complete consultation report was submitted to the Housing Cabinet Member's meeting in November 2008 and is available upon request):

- What people like about the current day services
  - Consistency & safe, secure environment
  - Trained, experienced, familiar staff
  - Variety of activities or options available to service users
- Responses to the proposed new team
  - More options will be available for service users
  - Will reach more people than at present
  - Difficult for people with learning disabilities to make informed choices
- Emphasis on the importance of changes being carefully planned and personalised or avoided all together
  - People with learning disabilities find change very difficult
  - Belief that change is the same as loss
- Belief that this is a plan to save money and reduce services
  - Lots of statements about anticipated day centre closures
  - Lots of questions and queries about self-directed support in the future

## **6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### Financial Implications:

- 6.1 The total budget for the Integrated Learning Disabilities Service is £23m, which is made up with £32m expenditure budget offset by £9m income budgets. The Integrated Learning Disabilities Service intends to apply for temporary external funding to initiate the Day Options team. The creation of a Day Options Team is one of the objectives in the Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy recently approved by Housing Cabinet Member and by the Joint Commissioning Board. The implementation will be managed through the Financial Recovery Plan (FRP) process already in place.

Finance Officer Consulted: Neil Smith      Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009

### Legal Implications:

- 6.2 The report sets out the proposal to create a new Day Options Team, in line with government initiatives seeking to make adult social care services more person-centred, flexible and efficient.

The creation of a Day Options Team is one of the objectives in the Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy recently approved by Housing Cabinet Member and by the Joint Commissioning Board

The need to formally consult with key stakeholders has been met and consideration must be given to the outcome of that consultation. In particular, concerns expressed regarding how changes and choices are managed must be acknowledged and such changes implemented carefully and sensitively. Further, officers must ensure that day support received continues to meet assessed need.

Staff job descriptions and roles will be created for the new team. There will need to be ongoing consultation with staff and trade unions regarding the specific implications for individual staff, in accordance with employment legislation.

Service users will need to continue to receive support as per their needs assessment – it is not suggested that eligibility will be affected by the proposed addition of the Day Options Team. The level of service provision to service users and families should not change; it should remain in-line with their assessed needs.

*Lawyer Consulted: Hilary Priestley      Date: 23/01/09*

### Equalities Implications:

- 6.3 The purpose of the new team is to make a more flexible range of day opportunities available to more people with learning disabilities. This improves many people's access to services, information and activities. An Equalities Impact Assessment was done during the consultation process.

#### Sustainability Implications:

- 6.4 It is anticipated that the addition of the new team would result in an increase in the use of community and mainstream services and facilities.

#### Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 6.5 It is hoped that the new team will increase the community's capacity to welcome and support citizens with learning disabilities as they are supported to participate more fully in community services and facilities.

#### Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 6.6 The new team affords more opportunity to meet the government and council's move towards personalisation of services.
- 6.7 The proposed new team afford the opportunity for services to work in partnership even more frequently, which also gives service users more choice.
- 6.8 The existing support services could be in a better position to move towards the user driven market, which is the model of future social services.

#### Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 6.9 The changes proposed should enable people with learning disabilities to be more active participants in the life, activities and facilities of Brighton & Hove.

### **7. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

- 7.1 Leave things as they are: The government and Brighton & Hove Adult Social Care are clear that services must become more personalised and service users must be given more choice and control than they have at present. The existing support services for people with learning disabilities in the city are endeavouring to provide more choices and more control for their service users. However resources are tied up in the provision of the current, more traditional services. It will assist the move to personalisation and will assist service providers to make the most efficient use of their resources if they have a central resource they can use and share.

### **8. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 To ensure we are providing a personalised range of day options to people with learning disabilities in line with national requirements and the personalisation of adult social care.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. None

### **Documents In Members' Rooms: None**

### **Background Documents**

1. Learning Disability Day Services Review (Adult Social Care Committee Report 17th Sept 2007)
2. Valuing People White Paper 2001 & Valuing People Now 2009.
3. Putting People First 2007
4. Having a Good Day - Social Care Institute for Excellence 2007.
5. 'Review of Learning Disability Day Services' report to Brighton & Hove Housing Cabinet Members Meeting November 2008