

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

23 February 2021

Item 6 – Public Participation

From Rich Rogers

To Councillor Simon Jacobs, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Public Protection

Question (P21-06)

How have learning disabilities services been supporting people if respite and day centres have been closed during the pandemic?

Response

The council operates 3 building based respite units for people with a learning disability and 5 day centres.

At the start of the pandemic these services had to close in accordance with government guidance. We did however, maintain one of the building based respite units in order to support people who were in crisis and for those who we supported to be discharged from the psychiatric hospital in Salisbury, Fountain Way's.

During this period the teams who would ordinarily work in the day centres and respite units worked in the community supporting individuals and their families.

As the initial lockdown eased and further public health guidance was received, we were able to reopen the day centres (although numbers of people who can attend at any one time is greatly reduced in accordance with infection control guidance and to ensure that we are able to support our service users to socially distance).

Our three respite units have also now reopened, again, we are following strict public health guideline and can only offer this service currently to a small number of people at anyone time.

It should be noted that the pandemic the teams have continued to work with people who would normally access our services in their own homes or in the local community when it is safe to do so. As a result of this change in practice across the teams we are building on this and are developing a new exciting programme of work, known as the 'Enablement and Outreach Service' which will be designed to support people to access their local community and develop their skills.

There are also approximately commissioned 22 day services operating although some are providing virtual support. The Council has provided funding to support

those services with infection prevention and control and is coordinating rapid flow testing so that day services can improve their operation.