

Sue Redmond
Director of Community Services

Overview & Scrutiny Members

Fax: (01225) 713983
Operator: (01225) 713000

Direct Line: (01225) 713956
keithhillman@wiltshire.gov.uk

Please ask for: Keith Hillman Our ref: KH/SAG Your ref:

30th May 2007

Dear Scrutiny Member

Social Care Task Group

Firstly, I would like to thank members of the Task Group for their report and recommendations on the learning disability day care services. The recommendations are accepted and will be included in the work programme for these services.

The business case previously presented to Cabinet has been revisited following feedback received during the extensive consultation process and to reflect the outcomes of the first phase of the individual assessments.

Whilst this will not change the overall vision for day services, it will impact upon the way in which services are delivered. We are also having to take into account that the individual assessments have not yet been completed. The process is more time consuming and complex as, in this second phase, we need to establish current and future needs for both residential and day care resources. The assessments are scheduled to be completed by the end of July 2007.

Following the review of the business case and the consultation process, I have written to all service users, carers and families to update them. This review, along with information from the consultation meeting, results in several changes.

I am progressing changes to the staffing structure which reduces the number of Senior Care Workers whilst increasing the number of Care Workers. Staff have been consulted on this and the new structure will be in place by August 2007. The recruitment freeze has been lifted, so in future, there should be less reliance on agency staff and the capacity available to provide a day care service to those entitled to it.

Cont'd/.....

I am also progressing changes to transport entitlement following assessment and assistance to use alternative means. Contracts for transport are being retendered in conjunction with Special Educational Needs Transport and should be in place in September 2007.

The above changes should result in financial savings this year. However, I am not progressing any property changes until the individual assessment reviews have been completed and options discussed with all stakeholders. My intention is to report to Cabinet on this during the Autumn. I am not satisfied with the current state of some of the properties and investment will be required if retention is the best option for the future.

The model for day care service which has been reported to Cabinet and which remain in place are:-

- To enable people to use universal or community services by providing outcome focussed and time limited development programmes [thus reducing people's dependence on services];
- To provide a 'safe place' to people who require this, or indeed, in recognition of unpaid carers and families' need for respite, or to enable them to maintain their own lives;
- To support people who may not be eligible for services, as a result of the change in eligibility, or to people who can receive lower levels of support, ie. Through providing access to discrete signposting, advice, information and social opportunity service.

It is clear that the Department will also have to provide some support in our day services to meet the overall assessed needs of some people who are placed in residential care homes.

Whilst the future position, re. property remains uncertain, I believe we have listened and acted on information received from the consultation and revisited the business case to ensure services will remain in place to meet the needs of service users. In addition, we need to be aware of the potential impact upon property issues arising from the One Council for Wiltshire debate.

I will attend the 7th June Scrutiny meeting to answer any further questions members may have.

Yours sincerely

JOHN THOMSON