
OVERVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Purpose of Report

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under my Adult Services Portfolio:

Learning Disabilities – Re-provision of Day Care Facilities

2. A development at South Park is due to commence in September 2007, which includes a new day facility. The timescale for completion is April 2008.
3. An opening event will be planned for April 2008 including an official daytime event and a party for the users in the evening. A communication strategy will be formalised with colleagues in leisure to capitalise on the venture.
4. The remaining cohort of users at Beck House have been identified and the staff are currently visiting existing facilities to identify where to locate the remaining service which will be arts/craft focused and will be part of the artist in residence service provision. The Grass Roots service is also looking for accommodation and plans are underway to look at this provision as a future social enterprise within the Learning Disabilities Employment Strategy.
5. Learning Disability Partnership Board sub-groups are being revitalised, bi-monthly meetings being held with the lead officer to monitor progress.
6. An Employment Strategy for people with Learning Disabilities has been written and plans are in place to address DBC's employment of adults with a Learning Disability.
7. An Autism Consortium has been established to look at specialist services across the Tees Valley.

Rosemary Court

8. The remodelling and new build works at Rosemary Court are now completed with official handover taking place on 17 September 2007. The 42 units of accommodation are being let over a four-week period and eleven former residents are returning to the scheme. Adult Social Services will be using four units to provide intermediate care and a small shop will operate at the scheme providing people with Learning Disabilities employment opportunities.

9. This is the first Extra Care Scheme developed in Darlington in partnership with Hanover Housing Association who own 14 of the units to accommodate older people with mental health needs.

Engagements

10. I have undertaken the following:

- 24 July – Asylum Support
- 27 July – Project 700
- 6 August – Learning Disability Partnership Board
- 7 September – Mental Health Review Group
- 21 August – Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee
- 10 September – Briefing Meeting with Adult Services Managers
- 18 September – Special Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee
- 1 October - Learning Disability Partnership Board
- Several Briefing Meetings with the Director of Community Services

Councillor Bryan Thistlethwaite
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Services