
LEARNING DISABILITY DAY CARE SERVICES

ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HOUSING

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Veronica Copeland,
Adult Services Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Cliff Brown, Director of Community Services

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is:-
 - (a) To approve a scoping statement for a proposed review of the modernisation of day opportunities for adults with learning disabilities.
 - (b) To agree that formal consultation with all key stakeholder groups can commence between 27 July 2010 and 26 October 2010.

Summary

2. The shape of our society is changing. In Darlington, one of the major challenges that Adult Social Care must prepare for is the large number of people who will need care and support in the future. There will be more people with learning disabilities requiring support and many of them will need care for longer. As a result, the current Adult Social Care system will face increasing costs.
3. People have increasing expectations of public services. People with learning disabilities will expect higher standards and greater choice over their own lives. People want a system that meets their needs whatever age they are and that recognises that people's priorities can change during the course of their lives.
4. The support people receive should be flexible and adaptable to suit different needs, should keep them safe if they are in vulnerable situations and should give them as much control as possible over their own care. As a result, Adult Social Care Service need to ensure that everyone has the potential to have personalised services delivered with dignity, compassion and respect that they want and expect in the future.
5. Adult Social Care must modernise to respond effectively to this increased demand and expectation. If we do not reform the system, we will struggle to manage budgets in years to come, and social care funding will increasingly be restricted to those with the very highest needs and lowest incomes.

6. Darlington's current range of day opportunity services for persons with learning disabilities are based upon a traditional model and may not provide sufficient choices for people (especially those coming through transitions from Childrens Services) or the most appropriate support to gain maximum independence and need to be remodelled and redesigned to match current need and meet future demand. To achieve the modernisation required we need to consult with key stakeholders to help develop a future model and to monitor the quality of services in the future.
7. Training opportunities need to be time limited and outcome focused with a view to obtaining employment or with a planned exit strategy. Currently there is a tendency for places to become used long term as an alternative to day care and more focus is needed on 'move on' arrangements.
8. The Scoping Statement for the review is attached at **Appendix 1** for consideration.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) The Scoping Statement for a review of the modernisation of day opportunities as appended to the report be agreed.
 - (b) Formal consultation with all key stakeholder groups is approved.

Reasons

10. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
 - (a) Valuing People Now (Department of Health 2009). This Government strategy sets clear targets to promote more personalised services, where people have more control over their lives, including what they do during the day. This is a 3 year strategy and the Government wants to see:
 - (i) All individuals have personalised, high quality support and care plans
 - (ii) More people in employment
 - (iii) More people able to live in their locality
 - (iv) The needs of people with the most complex needs are met in a creative and personalised way.
 - (b) A life like any other (Joint Committee on Human Rights) This report clearly states that people with a learning disability have the same human rights as people without a disability and should be supported to have the same life choices as other members of society, and take an active part in community life.
 - (c) Personalisation through Person Centred Planning (Department of Health 2010) *Putting People First* recognises that person centred approaches are key to planning and self directed support and maximising choice and control for individuals. We have carried out over 150 person centred reviews to date and service users are asking for more personalised day opportunities where they have more personalised support and control over their lives.

- (d) Improving the life chances of disabled people (Prime Ministers Strategy Unit 2005)
The Government set a vision that by 2025 'Disabled people in Britain should have full opportunities and choices to improve their quality of life and will be respected and included as equal members of society'.
- (e) To rise to the challenge of the transitions agenda, whereby people up to the age of 25 are encouraged to self direct their own support. This support will be outcome focussed and promote and enable access to universal services, further education and employment opportunities.
- (f) The main policy driver around the needs of carers focuses upon their ability to undertake their caring role in the confidence that their relatives / friends needs are being addressed in a modern person-centred way.

Cliff Brown
Director of Community Services

Background Papers

Valuing People Now

Valuing People into Employment Now

Author: Pauline Mitchell
Extension: 3873

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	This report has implications to address health and wellbeing for the residents of Darlington and specifically for service users and family carers who use current learning disability services.
Sustainability	There are no issues relating to Sustainability which this report needs to address.
Diversity	The provision of learning disability services is targeted at vulnerable local people with assessed needs.
Wards Affected	This report does not impact on a particular Ward, but Darlington as a whole.
Groups Affected	This report impacts on adults with learning disability needs and their family carers.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the Council's Budget or Policy Framework.
Key Decision	Approval to consult with key stakeholders.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report contributes to the 'Healthy Darlington' and 'Prosperous Darlington' themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
Efficiency	This report does not identify specific efficiency savings.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

11. Darlington Borough Council spends above the average of comparator authorities on day opportunities. The largest proportion of this spend is on services for people with the highest levels of care needs. These services are mainly provided in-house or commissioned from experienced and skilled providers from the independent sector.
12. There is agreement that day facilities have a key role to play in the overall range of health and social care services available to people with learning disabilities and their carers, along with an acceptance that these services have been a neglected area in the modernisation agenda for health and social care.
13. We are entering a time of considerable demographic change when people are living longer and many children with disabilities who formerly might have had a tragically short lifespan are growing into adulthood on into old age. The Government response to these trends is outlined in the White Paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: A New Direction for Community Services', (2006). There are a number of key themes for the development of community services for adults with learning disabilities:
 - (a) Services should be personal and responsive to reflect people's needs and wishes, and treat them with dignity and respect.
 - (b) There should be a renewed focus on putting resources into prevention, public health and well-being. Access should therefore be improved and not only to health and social care but to the full range of universal services including the independent, voluntary and community sectors.
 - (c) Health and Social Care sectors should work closely together in partnership with the independent sector to produce a range of desired outcomes.
 - (d) Provision should be made relevant to marginalized and excluded groups and all sectors of the community need to be informed about what is available.
 - (e) The theme of increased choice and control is encapsulated in the recent document 'Putting People First'. The 'one-size-fits all' approach to service provision is no longer applicable as aspirations and experiences change through the generations. Users should have Individual Budgets to choose provision according to their particular needs.
 - (f) 'Valuing People Now: a new three year strategy for people with learning disabilities' (2009) sets out the next steps for the 'Valuing People' policy (2001) for people with learning disability, describing the direction of travel and delivery policy for the next three years. The aim is for people with learning disabilities to live an ordinary life in the community along with their fellow citizens as described by human rights legislation and the Disability Discrimination Act.
14. As a result of the national agenda outlined above, we propose to undertake formal consultation for all key stakeholder groups in considering models of good practice to look at meeting the needs of Darlington's learning disability population. It is important that

stakeholders have a key role in the inception of any proposals and that as a partnership we work together to produce services that meet the current and future needs of people with learning disabilities in Darlington.

15. We would expect any new models of care should help people to achieve the following outcomes:
 - (a) Improved health and emotional well-being;
 - (b) Improved quality of life;
 - (c) Making a positive contribution;
 - (d) Increased choice and control;
 - (e) Freedom from discrimination;
 - (f) Economic well-being; and
 - (g) Maintaining personal dignity and respect.

Outcome of Consultation

16. Following analysis and evaluation of the findings of the consultation exercise a further detailed report will be produced, including recommendations for the modernisation of day opportunities.