

**Briefing to:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee- FOR INFORMATION

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**Slough Learning Disability Change Programme** *Nothing About Me Without Me*

**1. Purpose**

This briefing paper summarises a number of strands of work and projects relating to Learning Disability services in Slough which have been consolidated into a major Change Programme for learning disability services over the next 3 years and beyond titled *Nothing About Me Without Me*. The purpose of this programme is to increase opportunities for people with a learning disability to access support and care based on the best service models that delivers value for money.

**2. Context**

- Slough spends approximately £8.3m net per annum on learning disability services, £4m of which is spent on residential placements and £1.8m on the Council's in house provider services such as day care, respite care, supported living and residential care. This expenditure represents over 30% of the total adult social care expenditure in Slough.
- Slough has more learning disability users in residential care than comparator authorities and many of these residential placements are outside of Slough.
- Historically there has been a pattern of spot purchasing relatively expensive day care services and a number of users in residential care placements, placed out of the borough, also receive day care provision.
- There are approximately 7-10 service users annually, many with very complex needs, moving into adult's services from children's services as part of a *transitions* process, which represents an additional financial pressure on learning disability budgets each year.
- While there has been growth allocated to adult social care budgets overall in previous years, this has been proportionately less for learning disability services and there are also savings for the current financial year 2011/12.
- In addition, the reductions in Supporting People Funding means that we require a change in the learning disability Supporting Living service and models of support.
- The development of Personalisation for people with a learning disability means that all service users will have a Personal Budget by the end of this financial year and in some cases, service users have chosen to receive their Personal Budget as a Direct Payment.
- The majority of service users require support and care because of their disability in order to access different opportunities for employment, training, work experience, education and day opportunities. Those with a Direct Payment can employ Personal Assistants funded through their Personal Budget.
- However, at present, there are a limited number of Personal Assistants as the market for this type of support is in the early stages of development. Also, there has been limited provision of alternative opportunities for people with a

learning disability as resources to date have been invested in building based care in residential and day centre settings.

- A number of service users in residential placements outside Slough have stated a desire to move back into the borough and some have the potential to move into their own accommodation with support and become tenants (supported accommodation) rather than remain in residential placements. The cost of some of these residential placements is high and there are 20 people in placements that cost over £100,000 per person per annum.
- However, there is currently insufficient supported accommodation and much of the supported accommodation provided to date has been group living schemes which the majority of service users no longer want as they prefer to have their own accommodation and tenancy but as part of a network of accommodation with support.
- The main drivers behind this Change Programme are therefore:
  - many service users wanting to access different opportunities,
  - the need to develop different models of care and support with less reliance on residential care with more supported accommodation
  - to ensure better value for money for the care we purchase particularly in relation to residential care.
- There are a wide range of needs and aspirations across the group of service users we work with. Many will require ongoing day care or residential care because of the care needs they have and in a number of cases for people living at home with their families, their parents provide the main care and many are now becoming older and they require the respite that day care and residential respite care provides them with. Therefore a balance has to be struck in ensuring support and respite for those who need it is provided, while developing different types of care and support arrangements for those who wish to access them.

### **3. Existing Projects/Programmes**

The key projects being undertaken that comprise this overall programme of work include:

- Achieving value for money in residential and respite services provided by the Council (Lavender Court and Respond)
- Recommission the support to service users provided by the Council's Supporting Living Team from independent sector providers, to enable service users that could potentially become tenants to move into their own supported accommodation
- Reviewing the cost of some externally funded residential placements using a national pricing tool and where possible negotiating lower costs with providers
- Looking at what kind of services are needed to support people into employment, work experience, training and education and how the use of personal budgets can support this
- Working with people who use day services at the Council's day centres (Priors, Phoenix and Elliman centres), to see what additional day opportunities some service users may want and how the use of personal budgets may support this
- Looking at what are the best kind of supported living services to support people to live at home
- How people might return to the community in Slough from residential care
- To work with Children's Services so that the experience of young people and their families making the transition to Adult Services, is better and ensure as many of those young people have the opportunity to live in Slough