

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Health Scrutiny Panel      **DATE:** 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

#### **UPDATE REPORT ON THE RECONFIGURATION OF THE BOROUGH'S ACTIVITIES OFFER FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES**

1. **Purpose of Report**

To provide an update on the progress made in enhancing the range of community based provision for people with a learning disability as requested by the Health Scrutiny Panel meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2016.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Health Scrutiny Panel is requested to note the report and the progress being made in enhancing the range of community based services for people with a learning disability.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities –**

The reconfiguration of services for people with a learning disability will meet several of the current Slough Wellbeing Board strategy priorities including:

- Increasing life expectancy by focussing on inequalities
- Improving mental health and wellbeing

**Key Needs Assessment Data:**

The number of adults with learning disabilities known to Slough's Adult Social Care service is 356. The numbers of people with learning disabilities are projected to increase. In Slough, there were 2,153 adults with learning disabilities in 2007. This number is predicted to increase to 2,644 in 2017 and to 2943 by 2027.

The key areas of inequalities for people with Learning Disabilities are in housing, health and employment. There is a need to develop with people, Carers and partners an activities offer that:

- Promotes social inclusion, supports involvement in community activities and improves access to universal services
- Develops independent living skills and job related skills creating locally based work experience and job opportunities
- Improves health and life expectancy and addresses health inequalities

- Maintains the health and wellbeing of people thereby preventing or delaying their need to access hospital or residential care
- Safeguards people- raising awareness about keeping safe whilst promoting positive risk taking and encouraging involvement in community activities

### 3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

Services delivered will support the following outcomes in the Five Year Plan

- More people will take responsibility and manage their own health, care and support needs
- Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances

## 4. **Other Implications**

### (a) Financial

A saving of £347,000 was achieved as a result of the reconfiguration of the borough's activities offer for people with learning disabilities.

The remaining day service buildings, Priors and Phoenix, will require refurbishment and new adaptations to help meet the needs of people with complex needs. The Capital Strategy Board granted £826,000 in September 2016 towards the refurbishment of the Phoenix and Priors buildings. This work will be completed during this year.

### (b) Risk Management

| <b>Risk</b>   | <b>Mitigating action</b>  | <b>Opportunities</b>  |
|---|---|---|
| Legal- challenges have been issued to some local authorities when reconfiguring their day activities offer which has then delayed the implementation of services. | Reviews of all people receiving their activity offer through the community or through a building based day centre are continuing. Families and advocates have been and will continue to be involved in the reviews. No issues have been identified so far | Families and advocates have been and will continue to participate in all reviews of service users who are attending day centres.  |
| Property-minimal risk   | None  | The Dug and Alcohol Treatment Service has now moved to the site previously occupied by the Elliman Centre following its closure on the 1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2017. |
| Human Rights-minimal risk   | None  |   |
| Health and Safety-minimal risk  | None  |   |
| Employment Issues- Staff could leave whilst uncertainty   | A restructure of the staffing team was successfully carried out and   | The new job descriptions provide opportunities for staff to develop activities  |

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| remains about the future of in-house services. Vacancies would need to be filled by agency staff which would increase the staffing costs. | implemented on the 1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2017.  | for people with learning disabilities and promote greater integration with the community at large.   |
| Equalities Issues-minimal risk  | None   |  |
| Community Support-minimal risk  | None   |  |
| Communications- The need to reconfigure the activities offer is not understood/ not accepted by staff, people and families                | Service users and families continue to be consulted as part of the on-going work to ensure that their activities offer meets the needs of service users. | Whilst some service users have been concerned about having their activity offer delivered from the community or from a different building based day centre, others have welcomed the opportunity to access their choice of activity at a time of their choosing with their own friendship group. |
| Community Safety-minimal risk   | None   |  |
| Financial –   | None   |  |

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

No issues identified.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

None identified

(e) Workforce

A new staffing structure was implemented from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2017. This resulted in £65K savings for the period January to March 2017; £347,000 savings in a full financial year.

New job descriptions have supported staff to develop partnerships with other council directorates, voluntary and community organisations. Some staff have welcomed these opportunities and used their new contacts to develop activities that service users can access. Examples of activities that staff have developed include art projects, gardening and allotment work and volunteering opportunities for local social enterprises.

5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 The needs of service users and their achievement of the outcomes that are important to them remain paramount when determining their activities offer. Reviews are continuing of all service users who were or are currently having their

activities offer met by the Local Authority. All activities are risk assessed to reduce the potential risk to the service user or to other members of the public. Three service users have elected to attend a day centre in another borough. Other service users have gone onto enjoy the new activities in the community and have flourished.

- 5.2 An update on the service users that were accessing the Elliman, Priors and Phoenix building based services in 2016 is given below.

**Elliman Centre.** Fifty-seven service users were accessing the service prior to its closure on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2017.

- Seventeen service users are accessing the community activities available at the Britwell Hub. Eleven of the seventeen are also accessing the Priors Day service. Two service users have joined the Recycled Teenagers group which is based at the Britwell Hub.
- Eight of the former Elliman service users moved to the Priors Day service.
- Fifteen former Elliman service users moved to the Phoenix Day service.
- Fourteen former Elliman service users have their activities offer met through either their supported accommodation provider or through other community organisations.
- Three former Elliman service users are currently not taking up the activities offer from the Borough as a result of ill-health or have chosen to withdraw from services.
- Seven former service users who were accessing local authority transport have been supported to either travel independently albeit with the support of a family member or Carer or are using community transport.

**Priors Day Service:** Forty-five service users were accessing the service in 2016.

- Twenty-one service users access the Priors Day service.
- Six service users have moved to the Phoenix Day service.
- One service user is accessing the Britwell Hub and attending the Priors Day service.
- Thirteen service users are now having their activities offer met through either their supported accommodation provider or through other community organisations.
- Two service users are attending the Priors and Phoenix day services.
- Two service users have chosen to withdraw from services.

**Phoenix Day Service:** Twenty-four service users are accessing the service.

- Four service users have now moved across to the Priors Day service.
- Four service users continue to access the Phoenix day service.
- Five service users who did not have a learning disability but were accessing the day service are having their activities offer met by other services.
- Seven former service users of the Phoenix day service are now having their activities offer met through either their supported accommodation provider or through other community organisations.
- There are currently vacancies within the Phoenix Day service which will be filled by service users where it is felt that this service would best support them to achieve their outcomes.

- 5.3 Examples of other activities that service users are accessing through the community include music, Langley College, Slough Mencap, Cinema, PALS, bowling and places of worship.

The case studies below exemplify the feedback we have received from service users about the activities that they are currently doing.

### **Case Study 1**

H has a learning disability and Autism with challenging behaviour. H needs one to one support to manage his behaviour and to develop independent and life skills.

H attended the Elliman day centre before its closure in January 2017. H also received thirty hours of one to one support from two personal assistants. By using existing family support networks the number of H's one to one hours was reduced to twenty-four hours.

H now has two personal assistants working with him at the times that he needs support. H is supported to go out to shopping centres. H is learning to use public transport and enjoys going to restaurants. He also goes out for walks in local parks. During the summer H likes to sunbathe in the park. Having a personal assistant has enabled H to live a fulfilling life and to develop his independence skills as much as his abilities can allow.

H's new support plan was reviewed and the family confirmed that both H and his family are happy with his current support plan. The family have reported that the support H receives provides valuable respite for H's main Carer. H's carer has health issues and the support is a protective factor to prevent a Carer breakdown.

### **Case Study 2**

C had attended the Elliman day centre four days a week for a number of years and was in a supported work placement. The reconfiguration of services last year provided C with an opportunity to consider community activities. Initially, both C and her parents were nervous but worked with social workers and day centre staff to look at other activities.

C's weekly activities are now as follows:

- Monday- Britwell Hub
- Tuesday- Craft session at local church
- Wednesday (work experience)
- Thursday- Activities at Chalvey Community Centre provided through Destiny Support
- Friday- Britwell Hub

C also attends Mencap on a Wednesday evening.

The changes to C's activities offer have allowed C to learn to travel independently on her own, to learn how to cook and to make new friends.

## **6. Comments of Other Committees**

None

## **7. Conclusion**

This report outlines the progress made in reconfiguring the borough's activities offer to one which provides opportunities for people with learning disabilities to

learn new skills and integrate with the wider community. Family Carers receive valuable respite from the demands of their caring roles secure in the knowledge that the people they care for are accessing activities which bring them different and new experiences. The closure of the Elliman Centre went well with minimal impact for people who use the service and there have been many letters of support and thanks received by the service.

8. **Appendices:**

None

9. **Background Papers**

None