

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 16th April 2018

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WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Cllr Pantelic –
Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

PART I **NON-KEY DECISION**

REFERENCES FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – DISABILITY IN SLOUGH

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to ask Cabinet to consider the recommendation of the Health Scrutiny Panel (26th March 2018).

2. Matters for resolution from Cabinet

The Health Scrutiny Panel made the following recommendation at its meeting on 26th March 2018:

- That a recommendation be made to the Cabinet to seek its commitment in principle to take further action to make Slough a 'disability friendly town'.

3 The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Corporate Plan

3a Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) Priorities

- Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities: Ensuring that Slough is a 'disability friendly town' will bolster services for our most vulnerable residents. The Health Scrutiny Panel have also expressed an interest in forming a Task & Finish Group on the matter.
- Improving mental health and wellbeing: This commitment will have a positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing of residents with physical disabilities or barriers to learning.

3b Five Year Plan Outcomes

- Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs: By supporting local residents with disabilities, Slough Borough Council (SBC) will remove some of the present concerns of those affected and allow them to focus on managing their own care needs.

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

The initial commitment to such a policy has no immediate financial aspect. Any such implications will be reported in full as specific proposals are made.

(b) Risk Management

Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)	Recommendation
Service provision in Slough to be improved to ensure maximum opportunity for disabled residents	Cabinet and scrutiny function to consider the matter in depth	Cabinet recommended to commit in principle to take further action to make Slough a 'disability friendly town'

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

Provision of services and amenities needs to be in line with the Equality Act 2010.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

It is not necessary to undertake an Equalities Impact Assessment at this stage. However should any actions require an assessment, this exercise will be carried out when necessary according to Slough Borough Council's rules and guidelines.

5 Supporting Information

5.1 At its meeting on 26th March 2018, the Health Scrutiny Panel took an item on the reconfiguration of SBC's activities for people with learning disabilities. This item reported on a range of matters, such as:

- **A survey of users** – this provided positive feedback, with a majority of respondents stating that the new provision had led to them seeing more of their peers and developing new skills.
- **The Priors and Phoenix day centres and the Britwell Hub** – this also demonstrated the effectiveness of service provision. Recent focus group sessions had outlined satisfaction with the activities available at these centres (especially cooking, music, computing and exercise classes). Whilst bowling was being missed by many respondents, a weekly event at one of the centres was allowing friendship groups to be maintained.
- **Transport** – this was the main area of concern noted by both officers and members. Whilst the activities offer has attracted praise, users and relatives were concerned that the options for transport were limiting opportunities to use them. Whilst the mobility component of payments from the Department for Work and Pensions is intended to be used for this, SBC would continue to work with the Transport Team to ensure that access was as wide as possible.

- 5.2 The discussion of the last of the above points widened out. Some members of the Panel had recently undertaken site visits of bus stops in Slough; the full findings of this will be reported back to the Panel on 28th June 2018. However, there were concerns that the facilities for users with disabilities could be inconsistent, and thus were an issue when it came to using the provision on offer.
- 5.3 Given the above matters, the Panel have requested to arrange visits to the Phoenix Day Centre and the Priors Day Centre (once its refurbishment has been completed). The findings of these visits will also be reported back to the Panel at the appropriate time and used to shape its future work. The Panel will also be drawing on the views of representatives from the local community at its meeting on 28th June 2018, and may also consider the most appropriate methods of working alongside a Co-Production Board which will be established by SBC in the near future.
- 5.4 However, the Panel has asked that its desire to see Cabinet commitment to these efforts be registered. Should this be the case, it will then seek to work with Cabinet and SBC officers to bolster a holistic approach to service provision for disabled residents. As part of this, it has asked to receive a report on 28th June 2018 which will scope out the most suitable areas for a Task & Finish Group; this is with a view to commissioning such a review. This review would then undertake a range of relevant activities (e.g. site visits, discussions with service users and officers) and seek to make recommendations. These would then be reported back to Cabinet as appropriate.

6 **Comments of Other Committees**

The report on the reconfiguration of the Borough's activities for people with learning disabilities had not been taken by any other committees. It is publically available in the agenda papers for the Health Scrutiny Panel's meeting on 26th March 2018 (item 7).

7 **Conclusion**

The Cabinet is requested to decide upon the recommendation outlined in section 2 and discussed in sections 5.1 – 5.4 of this report.

8 **Appendices**

None

9 **Background Papers**

'1' - Agenda papers and minutes, Health Scrutiny Panel (26th March 2018)