

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: Modernisation of Short Break Services for People with a Learning Disability

Committee: Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 20 July 2010

Cabinet Member: Councillor Monahan

CMT Member: Director for Community Services

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Ref:

Part: I

Executive Summary:

This report is seeking approval to engage users, carers and other stakeholders in a consultation around the future model for short break services for people with a learning disability.

In the light of both Putting People First strategy and Valuing People Now, we need to promote and support independence and offer a much wider range of alternatives for short breaks. By April 2011, Adult Social Care should have 30% of all service users with a personal budget. This will enable people to choose alternatives to the current residential short break services they receive.

We have two respite in-house units, Colwill and Welby offering a city wide service. Welby Respite Unit is in an outdated building and is not fully DDA compliant. People with complex physical disability needs cannot be supported at the unit. Colwill is a purpose-built facility.

We have been successful in a bid for a Capital Grant to modernise Colwill, which gives us the opportunity to reconfigure our current provision.

Corporate Plan 2010-2013:

This report links directly to the Council's corporate objectives around supporting users and carers and promoting independence. It links to Corporate Improvement Priority 3 (Helping People to Live Independently) and Corporate Improvement Priority 14 (Providing Better Value for Money).

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

The proposals around Welby will lead directly to budget savings whilst ensuring no decrease in the amount of short breaks available. We estimate that the full year financial saving will be approximately £350k.

Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.

Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed. This will be reviewed and updated fully during the consultation process.

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that:-

1. Consultation commence with service users and carers (using advocacy services and external facilitation where appropriate) and dedicated social work professionals about re-provision of short break services in the city
2. The successful capital bid to South West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership provides the opportunity to also consult on combining residential short breaks onto one site and we recommend that the consultation takes this proposal into account
3. Consultation with staff and other stakeholders is commenced on the proposal
4. The results of the consultation in relation to short breaks are reviewed by the Learning Disability Partnership Board.
5. Health and Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel are asked to review the proposal as the beginning of the consultation and review the outcomes prior to them being presented to Cabinet.
6. Alternative management arrangements are explored for Colwill through a partnership approach with the independent and/or voluntary and community sector, adopting the same approach as outlined above.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

It would require significant future investment to improve Welby. We believe demand for this kind of provision will decrease with the promotion of personal budgets. Providing alternative respite arrangements will further promote choice and control for both users and carers.

Background papers:

None.

Sign off:

Fin	JB-CoSF AC10 11 002	Leg	JB 1135	HR	MG 100 6/004	Corp Prop		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member: Pam Marsden											