

Report to: Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 16th July 2012

Lead Member: Lead Member for Social Care and Children's Services
Lead Officer: Head of Adults and Business Services

Report Author: Head of Adults and Business Services

Title: Review of Day Services in North of County

1. What is the report about?

The report is about the Review of Day Services in the north of the County.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide an update to Members on the review of Day Services in the North of the County and to advise Members on a preferred option for future delivery of services for formal consultation.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Members support the preferred option for formal consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

4. Report details

4.1 Background

As part of the modernisation of social services there was a need to review the provision of stand-alone day services for older people in Prestatyn & Rhyl to ensure that the service offered was consistent with the policy of reablement.

There are 2 centres providing day services, Hafan Deg in Rhyl and Llys Nant in Prestatyn. The former is in a purpose built community building with easy access which is Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant. The latter used to be in the former residential home in Prestatyn but was moved to a temporary base in the centre of town. This is not purpose built and, while staff have made the best of the accommodation, it is nonetheless former office accommodation which is not easily accessible.

A review of the services was commissioned in July 2011 and a number of recommendations made. These included that: the service should focus on time-limited reablement intervention to support independence using a single base; people should continue to receive a service suitable for their assessed needs in an appropriate environment; commissioning and contracting functions should be strengthened to support day service development. A savings requirement of £180,000 was identified by the service and approved by Members as part of the medium term financial planning process.

As part of the financial planning for 2012/13, the savings requirement was reduced to £90,000. £30,000 from this financial year has been achieved through the retirement of one of the managers and a reorganisation of the remaining management functions. This leaves £60,000 to be found from the proposals below in 2013/14.

4.2 Consultation To Date

As part of the review, staff, users and carers of the 2 centres were given an opportunity to meet with the reviewer and give their own perspective on the services provided. This demonstrated that the services were highly valued and the staff were committed to meeting the needs of the people attending. Carers, in particular, noted the importance of the respite offered to them through the service.

The Assembly Member and MP arranged 2 public meetings in October 2011 to discuss the review of the service, attended by senior managers from the Council. The feedback from these echoed the sentiment of users and carers to the reviewer but also explored wider community use of the facilities in Hafan Deg and opportunities for the development of alternative activities across Rhyl and Prestatyn.

A stakeholder reference group has met twice, once to explore options for the development of the service and once to finalise the principles involved in any future service model. These principles are:

- Local Authority services need to ensure that they are able to evidence added value in service provision – this will be a focus on time-limited intervention to support individuals to maintain their place in the community as independently as possible. This is already beginning to happen in day services in the south of the County.
- There is a need for longer term care for older people in both Prestatyn and Rhyl to ensure respite is available for carers and social activities are available for isolated individuals. This does not need to be provided by the Local Authority directly or in our premises.
- The use of Hafan Deg, the building in Rhyl, should be maximised to enable it to be sustainable and to offer community facilities to other groups, including the tenants of War Memorial Court and other organisations currently using the building.

4.3 Preferred Option for Consultation

- Explore alternative community facilities for the provision of longer term care and respite in both Prestatyn and Rhyl, including use of the independent and 3rd sectors.
- Focus time limited reablement activity within one site at Hafan Deg, pending discussions and consultation with the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCU) on a health & social care community facility for North Denbighshire.
- Develop a charging model for community use of the facilities in Hafan Deg and explore the marketing potential for this, allowing for the reablement activity within it.

5. Lead Member Comment

It would be helpful if local members and other interested parties would come on board and explore alternative, and probably better, ways of providing day care which could incorporate other useful services to help both the cared for and carers. We are now all looking at a far greater life expectancy and Denbighshire is right to explore new ways to cope with this prospect. Policies such as reablement and investment in Extra Care are showing people, myself included, that there is a different way to lead longer, healthier lives. Many Councillors themselves are extremely good examples of how to carry on living useful and fulfilling lives, still working hard helping others at an age when others have retired.

I hope the Committee Members will adopt the recommendation to continue exploring other options as I believe that to be the best way forward.

6. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The proposal enables services to continue to be provided to older people in a sustainable way, thereby managing some of the effects of the demographic changes affecting the County.

It also provides an opportunity for more people to benefit from the facilities in Hafan Deg, by opening it up to wider community use, as well as stimulating the provision of services within the independent and third sector.

7. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There will need to be additional reviewing time to ensure that any changes to services are managed as sensitively as possible. In addition, Day Services Staff will need further training on reablement. Both of these will be managed within existing resources.

As part of the consultation, an Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken.

8. What consultations have been carried out?

As above (item 4).

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The Medium Term Financial Plan contains a saving for this and it is important that the review identifies the most efficient way of delivering an appropriate service. If it cannot identify the savings, alternatives will need to be found within the service.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

Until the outcome of formal consultation is known it is not possible to be specific about risks but they may include:

Potential risks to existing posts within the service – this would be managed through the usual HR processes.

Complaints from existing users and carers if any changes in care arrangements result from the proposals – this would be managed through sensitive reviewing and communication.

11. Power to make the Decision

The NHS and Community Care Act 1990 places a duty on Local Authorities to assess social care needs. The National Assistance Act 1948 and Chronically Sick and Disabled Act 1970 provides for the provision of services to meet any eligible needs. This can be through 3rd party arrangements as currently exist with domiciliary care and residential services.

Article 6.3.1 of the Council's Constitution

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