



Report of Director of Adult Social Services

To : Inner South Leeds Area Committee

Date: 20/2/07

Subject: Learning Disability Day Services Modernisation

Electoral Wards Affected:

**Middleton Park
City & Hunslet
Beeston & Holbeck**

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council Function

Delegated Executive Function available for Call In

Delegated Executive Function not available for Call in Details set out in the report

Executive Summary

In July 2006 Executive Board approved the plan contained in the “Commissioning Plan for Learning Disability Day Services” to modernise day services for adults with learning disabilities in Leeds.

The report to Executive Board recommended locality based consultation take place to ensure implementation plans responded to the aspirations and concerns of all stakeholders. This process commenced in October 2006.

This report provides members with details of the consultation process in the Inner South Area of Leeds and invites comment and ongoing contribution to this process. It is hoped that the consultation needed to complete a detailed plan will be concluded for South Leeds by April 2007 and this plan will form part of the city wide plan for learning disability day services to be ready by July 2007.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 To provide local ward members with relevant background information regarding the plan to modernise learning disability day care in Leeds and up to date information on the local consultation exercise that is taking place in South Leeds during February and March.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 In line with the Governments' 2001 White Paper "Valuing People" Local Authorities are required to modernise their day services for adults with learning disabilities to improve their:
- rights,
 - choices,
 - independence and
 - social inclusion.
- 2.2 Following an extensive consultation exercise in the winter of 2002-2003, the Learning Disability Partnership Board in Leeds adopted a vision for change for people with learning disabilities; this is that:
- “People with learning disabilities living in Leeds will be supported in having a lifestyle, which offers the same opportunities as any other adult in the local community.”**
- 2.3 The Commission for Social Care Inspection will in due course introduce a system for the registration, inspection and regulation of day services. It is essential that the Council is prepared for the introduction of inspection and regulation. Many of our current buildings bases are in a poor state of repair and are wholly unsuitable for a modernised service.
- 2.4 Whilst, people with learning disabilities will be supported to use mainstream services as other adults in our community, an essential ingredient of the modernisation plan is to ensure that local, high quality buildings based more specialised services are also developed to meet the needs of those individuals with complex and specialist needs and to maintain the day time respite support that family carers have told us is so important to them. This approach will ensure continuity of service to those who may be unable to access mainstream services.
- 2.5 In July 2006 Executive Board approved the plan contained in the "Commissioning Plan for Learning Disability Day Services" to modernise day services for adults with learning disabilities in Leeds. A summary included in the Letter to Carers (appendix1) gives a brief overview of the main aims for the service which are contained in this plan

3.0 The Local Consultation Exercise

- 3.1 One of the agreed recommendations of this paper was to undertake an intensive local consultation exercise to ensure local implementation plans responded to the aspirations and concerns of stakeholders. It was decided therefore to consult with the service users, staff and family carers who directly receive or deliver current social services day service provision with the aim of gaining their broad support for a local implementation proposal. Consultation with Ward Members and other stakeholders is

a key part of this process. This process began in October 2006 and in this part of Leeds will focus on the service currently provided by Moor End Day Services in Hunslet. (Details of Moor End Day Services are contained in appendix three)

- 3.2 Each local implementation proposal will be agreed by one of five Consultation Boards representing the five City Administration Wedges. Two of these areas will be split into 2 separate stakeholder areas to ensure the consultation has a local focus. The Consultation Boards in those areas will therefore need to consider two separate implementation proposals. There will be seven implementation proposals to be agreed in total. These seven local proposals will outline the future of all existing day services and will provide the framework for the city wide project plan to modernise learning disability day services.
- 3.3 Each board will have service user, carer and staff representatives and be chaired by an independent chairperson. Local elected members will also be invited to be involved in these discussions. The Project Manager will plan every aspect of this process and be responsible for its delivery. This is summarised in the flow diagram in appendix 2.
- 3.4 At the beginning of December a letter (see appendix1) was posted directly to all family carers and we have now begun to process the replies as we aim to visit every carer who responds, to gain their views. Service user consultations have been planned and will be carried out by Leeds Advocacy and will take place in each day centre in January. All consultations with staff have been completed and presentations to Parents & Carer Associations at the day centres have also taken place.
- 3.5 We have recognised that we have a significant number of carers from South Asian communities who have sons or daughters who currently attend our services in this area. To ensure they are not excluded from this process, every letter sent to these carers has been followed up with a phone call from a specialist worker with the appropriate language skills. This aims to check that these carers understand the information sent to them and are offered support to contribute to the consultations if they wish.
- 3.6 The consultation process aims to generate sufficient feedback from the various stakeholder groups to ensure their aspirations and concerns are fully considered in any proposals drafted. This information allied to the analysis of need in each area will be presented at the Consultation Boards to form part of any proposals agreed there. (Preliminary findings from this exercise are contained in appendix three)
- 3.7 A number of Independent Chairs from outside social services will be employed to chair these meetings. It is anticipated each board will meet up to three times to agree proposals for each area.
 - First Board Meetings : Introductory Session : clarify role and remit of each Board
 - Second Board Meetings: Presentation and discussion of needs/resources analysis and stakeholder views for each area.
 - Third Board Meetings: Agree and sign up to proposal for each area. Proposal of members who may want to join a future DSM Strategy Board which will represent stakeholder views throughout the modernisation process.
- 3.8 The consultation process will be conducted in two stages. Five area proposals covering Wetherby, Moor End, Horsforth and Bramley centres will be completed by the end of April 2007. The proposals for the remaining four areas covering Ramshead

Wood, West Ardsley, Potternewton and Rothwell we aim to have ready by July 2007 along with the final report and city wide plan.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 This consultation process is part of the "Commissioning Plan for Learning Disability Day Services" agreed by Executive Board in July 2006. It also forms part of the wider "Commissioning Strategy for Adult Day Services" agreed by Executive Board in December 2005 and the Department's Adult Service Transformation agenda.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1 The consultation process is being carried out by dedicated Social Service staff from within existing resources. Any proposals arising from this consultation will be costed as part of the capital and revenue business plan for the city wide day services modernisation project. No particular legal issues have been identified at this stage.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 The consultation process for the modernisation of learning disability day services in the Inner South Leeds Area will involve service users, family carers, staff, elected members and wider stakeholders.
- 6.2 A local consultation board will be formed with an Independent Chairperson to consider the needs of the adult learning disability population in this area and the feedback from the local consultations.
- 6.3 The Board will have representatives of these various stakeholder groups will be asked to agree a set of proposals for how the framework for modernisation agreed by Executive Board in July 2006 will be implemented in the Inner South Leeds area.
- 6.4 It is anticipated that this process will be completed in this area by April 2007 and will form part of a city wide plan for learning disability day services to be completed by July 2007

7.0 Recommendation

- 7.1 Members are asked to note this report and are invited to comment on aims of the plan and on the local consultation process.
- 7.2 Members are invited to suggest how they wish to be kept informed of the outcomes of this process in the future and how they would like to be represented on the local consultation board.