

Appendix 1



Social Services Department

[Recipients address]

1st Floor West
Merrion House
Merrion Centre
Leeds
LS2 8QB
6th November 2006

Dear

IMPROVING DAY SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

In July the main decision making group in Leeds City Council, the Executive Board agreed the framework to modernise day services for adults with learning disabilities in Leeds. This framework was the result of over three years of city wide consultations with service users, carers, staff and other stakeholder groups and is in line with the Government's expectations on how it expects us to deliver our services as set out in the "Valuing People" White Paper.

A Modernisation of day services for adults with learning disabilities aims to provide:

- A person centred service which offers more choice and independence for service users
- Fit for purpose modern high quality facilities and buildings
- Services delivered in your local area
- Improved access to mainstream services including better access to education, employment, social and leisure opportunities
- More flexible respite care during the week

A more detailed summary of the modernisation framework is attached to this letter.

The next stage of the modernisation process is to agree what services will look like in each local area in Leeds. This will involve discussion of what services are required to meet the individual needs of people with learning disabilities in their local community in line with the agreed framework.

The consultations will consist of a number of meetings in each local area and/or the opportunity for individual consultations in your own home. This will be taking place over the winter months

If as a family carer you wish to be involved in these discussions please return the slip on the back page of this letter and we will contact you when the consultations in your part of Leeds take place.

Your sincerely

Dave Rosser
Head of Learning Disability Services

www.leeds.gov.uk

switchboard : 0113 234 8080



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

What does day service modernisation mean ?

“People with learning disabilities living in Leeds will be supported in having a lifestyle, which offers the same opportunities as any other adult living in the local community” (Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board)

- **Attending local services** : people should be able to access appropriate services in their local community and not have to travel long distances to receive these services.
- **Increasing social inclusion** : by the far greater use of mainstream services for social, leisure and educational activities.
- **Supporting employment** : more emphasis on supporting people to make contributions to society through voluntary and paid employment.
- **Modernising buildings** : where needed they should be fit for purpose, smaller, at the heart of people’s communities and ideally sharing space with non learning disabled groups. Many of the existing day centres will need to be replaced with more suitable, up to date buildings.
- **Continuing to provide respite for family carers** : day services provide vital respite for many family carers and this service will continue where needed.
- **Offering flexible services** : allowing support for individuals and respite for carers to be offered at the times they are needed, not just Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm.
- **Developing person centred approaches** : should be used for service planning and reviews for individual service users
- **Responding to changes to accommodation services** : people in residential care having the choice to stay at home, using their homes as community bases and receiving their day opportunities in different ways.
- **Making changes to transport** : people travelling shorter distances to services and developing more flexible forms of transport provision which promote independence rather than dependence.
- **Offering self directed support** : such as Direct Payments or Individualised Budgets will be offered to people as alternatives to traditional services.
- **Developing partnerships** : with other Council Departments and independent sector providers to offer more choice and greater access to community facilities.
- **Using signposting** : to alternative provision either in the independent sector or in mainstream services for people who are not eligible for, or moving on from statutory services.

Appendix 1

REPLY SLIP

(To help us plan our consultations it would be appreciated if this slip could be returned within two weeks. Thank You)

I / We (name)

.....

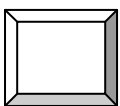
.....(address)

..... (Telephone)

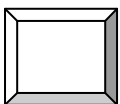
Name of the person you care for :

The Centre they currently attend :

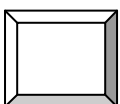
Please tick appropriate box and return in envelope provided



On the basis of the information provided I am happy with the proposed direction of change and don't feel the need to be involved in further consultations. I would like however to be kept informed as the plan for my local area is agreed.



I do not wish to be involved in formal discussions but would I would like someone to talk to me about how the changes may effect the service I receive now so I can give you my views.



I would like to be involved in any formal discussion groups that are held about services in my local area.