

OP/ PD Commissioning
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Dear Stakeholder

RE Stakeholder Consultation

Southwark Council Budget Proposals and the future of Holmhurst Day Centre SE24

I am writing to you as you have been identified as a stakeholder of the Holmhurst Day centre in Half Moon Lane, SE24.

The council has just published its proposals on how it intends to make the necessary savings to balance its budget, including information about which services may have to change. At this stage, they are just proposals and suggestions and no final decisions have been taken.

Contained within these proposals, are plans to cease operating a day service at Holmhurst, and transfer those people who use the service either to Fred Francis Day Centre, which is located nearby, or finding alternative ways of providing day care where appropriate.

It is important to note that no final decision has yet been made to close Holmhurst.

The budget for 2011-12, will be proposed to council assembly on 22 February. Any decisions reached by the council assembly on this date will be subject to the outcome of the consultation we are undertaking with the older people who use Holmhurst and their family members, stakeholders of the project and the equality impact assessment that is being carried out to inform any decision on the proposal. The final decision will then be made by the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care.

Southwark Council location address: 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ.

A consultation time line is outlined below

Activity	Timing
Initial letter to affected individuals and family informing of proposal	24.1.11
Letter to invite service users and family to initial consultation meetings	26.1.11
2 x consultation meetings with family	3.2.11
General stakeholder consultation is sent to identified statutory and community sector partners.	8.2.11
Older People's Partnership Board presentation on the proposals	14.2.11
Further consultation event with family if so required or requested, to reflect back on the assessments and further consultation representations.	Early March 2011
Consultation process closes	9.3.2011
Publish feed back on consultation exercise	22.3.2011
Final decision on proposals	April 2011.

Details of the proposal

The Council currently provides day services for older people with eligible care needs on sites as follows:

- Holmhurst Day Centre, on Half Moon Lane, Dulwich, which supports older people with dementia and mental health problems.
- Fred Francis Day Centre, on Lordship Lane East Dulwich, which supports older people with dementia, mental health problems and physical frailty.
- Southwark Park Road Day Centre, on Southwark Park Road, Bermondsey, which supports older people with dementia, mental health problems and physical frailty.

The Council can no longer afford to fund services across 3 sites and proposes to close the Holmhurst service. The centre operates six days a week from a converted domestic house. There are 32 people who are registered as users of the centre. On average around 14 people use the project per day, and attend on average 3.4 days per week. Holmhurst is the smallest service and utilisation at the scheme is less than other day centres, making it less cost effective.

The building at Holmhurst is not suitable for long term use as a day centre. Because of the size of the building there is no scope for the project to take other service users from other centres if required. The capital works to provide additional capacity would be prohibitive and given the residential nature of the area it means planning restrictions could also be an issue. It is also located on the edge of the borough, and therefore increasing the amount of time many older people may have to travel to attend the project from other parts of Southwark.

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It is proposed that those who wish to may transfer to Fred Francis Day centre. This project is run by the council and is located approximately 1 mile away from Holmhurst. Approximately 2/3rds of the people currently using Fred Francis have dementia or a mental health condition. There are already well established links with older adults community mental health teams and other relevant services. Fred Francis offers an extended range of activities and hosts in-reach from a range of community and statutory services some of whom also provide services at Holmhurst and are known to the people who attend Holmhurst. A number of current Holmhurst service users already use Fred Francis on other days.

Relatives of those who use Holmhurst are being consulted and have the opportunity to go and visit Fred Francis. If a decision is made to close Holmhurst then each user will be assessed in order to establish if their needs can be met at Fred Francis. This assessment will involve the older person and their family/ carer, who will be visited by a named social worker to discuss their individual circumstances and requirements, in order to offer as much choice as possible in terms of alternative provision and to ensure that any transition is made in a way that minimises disruption.

Why the proposal is being considered

The Council is having to do this as there is a massive reduction in the funding the Council receives from central government, with unprecedented savings of £33 million required next year and £18 million the year after that. This is the second worst settlement in real terms of any London Borough in 2011-12. These savings have not been easy to find, but have been informed by the Cabinet's seven agreed budget principles, core values and priorities.

Social Care accounts for approximately 33% of the council's budget, and the department is required to achieve over £ 8 m savings in the next financial year. We have sought to protect our most vulnerable residents; whilst at the same time have tried to do all that we can to preserve other front-line services for all of our residents. Inevitably some front-line services will be affected, but where these difficult choices have arisen we have sought to ensure that alternative service providers are available, or to investigate ways in which the voluntary sector or the community may help. The proposal to close Holmhurst is likely to save the council in the region of £400,000 per year, which will make a considerable contribution to the savings required in the coming year.

The consultation process

The Council's Cabinet would now like to hear from the community about what their response to the savings ideas are, before the budget is finally agreed in February. All the information is available via the home page of the website on www.southwark.gov.uk.

Given the severity of the financial situation facing the council, it is considered necessary to start a period of consultation on the specific proposal concerning Holmhurst prior to the Council Assembly on 22nd of February. This would allow a reasonable period of formal consultation to take place, for the reviews of the people who use the centre to have taken

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place to ascertain their individual circumstances and the impact of the proposals in relation to their individual circumstances, and an opportunity for these responses to be thoroughly considered, to inform the council making a final decision on the proposal in April 2011. Although the council would normally allow for a longer period of consultation on such a proposal, given the level of savings that it is required to deliver in the coming year, it is thought that the period set out in this letter is reasonable. Furthermore all the 32 current registered users of Holmhurst are already known to the council, and therefore we are able to assess the impact of the proposal and target relevant stakeholders within the time scales set out above.

We would particularly welcome your views on the following

1. What do you consider will be the impact of the closure of Holmhurst is likely to be on the current service users , and what implications is it likely to have for older people with dementia in Southwark
2. If a decision is made to cease operating at Holmhurst, do you consider that the proposed plans to assess the current service users and involve family and carers in this process to be reasonable. Is there anything else that you think that the council could do to help the service users?
3. Do you feel that the closure of an alternative day centre to be more suitable proposal for the council to consider? If so which one and please give reasons.
4. Any other views you would like to express on the proposal including any views on alternative ways that Adult Social Care can achieve the required savings?

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for any views you may express.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah McClinton
Deputy Director, Adult Social Care

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