

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 20 June 2013	<b>Decision taker:</b> Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care and Equalities
<b>Report title:</b>		Vision for Day Opportunities for Adults with Learning Disabilities	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		Adults with learning disabilities	
<b>From:</b>		Director of Adult Social Care	

## RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That the vision for day opportunities for adults with learning disabilities be agreed as set out in Appendix 1.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Informed by the council's Fairer Future Promises and building on the Vision for Adult Social Care the council in conjunction with various stakeholders and national experts from NDTi (National Development Team for Inclusion) developed a draft vision for Day Opportunities for people with learning disabilities.
3. Formal consultation on the draft vision took place over 12 weeks between April and July 2012 and the council received feedback from 299 people through written and verbal responses. Overall, the key message from service users and carers was that they welcomed the greater choice and opportunities that the proposed vision would introduce into their lives but they needed more information and support to understand the options and choices being offered and reassurance that there will continue to be high quality day services on offer.
4. A report including the vision and the feedback from the consultation was presented to Chief Officers and subsequently to cabinet in January 2013. Overall the consultation feedback indicated that users, carers and stakeholders supported the vision.
5. Cabinet agreed that further work was required across council departments to identify how the vision can be made a reality and supported through departmental strategies and activities. This report provides an update on this work and sets out how the vision has been aligned with the council's economic wellbeing strategy. It recommends that the draft vision does not require any changes following consultation feedback and that it should be formally adopted as the council's vision for learning disabilities day opportunities.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. Feedback from the formal consultation on the draft vision revealed that there was broad agreement with the intention to offer more choice and control through person centred support planning, personal budgets, and a market offering a broader range of quality supports that are attractive, affordable, and sustainable to people with personal budgets.
7. The consultation confirmed that people want more flexible supports and activities, both as individuals and in groups, and that people agree that the purpose of day opportunities should be to enable independent living, social inclusion, employment and leisure, and to give carers a break. As such it is recommended that the draft vision on which the council consulted can be adopted without change as the council's vision for day opportunities for people with learning disabilities.
8. Although there was broad agreement on the vision, consultation feedback revealed that for service users and carers, the quality and experience of assessment and support planning is just as important as having high quality services that they will be able to trust and afford. Since consulting on the vision the council has focused on support planning and market development, in order to respond to these concerns and this work is ongoing.
9. During the consultation, people were clear that they want a choice over how their support plan is developed, and we have created a range of options for people to choose from:
  - a. The social workers in our learning disability team have recently undergone specialist training in support planning to enhance their skills in this area;
  - b. We have trained and developed a number of external individuals and organisations in support planning to offer a choice where people want help to produce their support plan but would like an independent person to work with them;
  - c. We recently awarded a two year grant to Cambridge House to establish a peer support planning programme for people with a learning disability and their parents and carers. The project will also offer monthly information sessions on support planning to help parents and carers better understand the process and respond to queries and issues.
10. Help to develop a support plan will be offered free to the service user and their circle of support so their personal budgets will solely be for purchasing support to meet their FACS (Fair Access to Care Services) eligible needs.
11. Another key message from the consultation feedback was that the population of people with learning disabilities who use day opportunities services is not homogenous. Support planning and the range of supports offered by providers operating in Southwark needs to be able to respond to the diverse range of needs and particular groups and tailor what is offered on an individual basis.
12. Based on the work undertaken following cabinet's consideration of the draft vision, plans have been developed to meet with service users and carers in the Autumn/Winter 2013 to discuss their experience of the quality of support planning and to find out if the market of support available is meeting their needs and expectations. The key groups that we intend to meet with are:

- a. Older people with learning disabilities and older carers;
  - b. People with smaller personal budgets;
  - c. People with high support needs including challenging behaviour, complex health needs and autism;
  - d. Young disabled people in transition to adulthood and their parents.
13. The vision for day opportunities is one way in which the council is fulfilling its promise to develop a fairer future for all the people of Southwark. All council departments need to work together and with external partners to promote a fairer future and make it a reality. Both the vision for day opportunities and Southwark's economic wellbeing strategy are focused on helping people to be independent and financially resilient. Ensuring that the implementation plan for the economic wellbeing strategy identifies how people with learning disabilities will be helped to access education and training, paid employment, and volunteering will be important and officers in corporate strategy are supporting adult social care to take forward this work through engagement with local colleges and other stakeholders. At the same time, the support planning that is being undertaken with people using day services will ensure that people can purchase the support they need to access education, training, paid employment and volunteering in Southwark.
14. The council created an Innovation Fund to invest in new schemes and projects to support people with a learning disability into paid employment and to help them retain jobs, and to work with employers, including the council, to ensure more jobs are accessible. The outcomes achieved from these projects will further inform the economic wellbeing strategy implementation as well as develop direct opportunities for people to purchase support via their personal budgets.
15. In order for the vision to be implemented effectively, the consultation identified that service users, carers and parents need more help from the council, independent organisations and service providers to understand the range of choices and opportunities available to them. The key to ensuring this is robust and effective assessment and support planning. However, we are also developing information and support infrastructure to provide timely and targeted advice and support as required. This includes:
  - a. The Riverside Access, Information and Advice service provides information on a wide range of services and activities available in the borough including free to access;
  - b. We will continue to hold regular Provider Markets, where users, carers, parents and organisations can meet the providers of services and support to understand the range of services available in the market;
  - c. From June we will be holding weekly sessions within local day services where users, carers and parents can "drop in" to talk through specific concerns or issues with a social worker, or simply discuss the range of options available to them in a personalised market;
  - d. The Cambridge House project will offer regular sessions for individuals to meet to discuss their experiences of personalisation, share learning and increase their understanding of personal budgets in a peer led environment.

## **Community impact statement**

- 16 The equality impact assessment completed following the consultation found no significant negative impacts on any key groups. However, there was a need identified for good assessment and support planning to ensure users, carers and parents were fully aware of the new range of choice available with personal budgets to ensure that there were no indirect negative impacts.

## **Resource implications**

- 17 The implementation of the new vision has no staffing implications that are outside of the expected activities and responsibilities of the social work and commissioning teams.
- 18 The existing budget for learning disability services is expected to fully fund the personal budgets being established. There may be some duplication of funding as block contracts are ended, but the commitments for 2013-14 are within the division's allocated budget and any duplication has been identified as transitional organisational funding to support the development of their new business models.

## **Financial implications**

- 19 The proposal and recommendation contained in this report is being funded from existing Departmental budgets. There are no further financial implications to consider.

## **Consultation**

- 20 A significant consultation process was undertaken from April 2012 to July 2012, the outcome of which was reported and agreed by Cabinet in January 2013.

## **Legislative Framework**

- 21 The council has a statutory duty to provide a range of services to people within the borough who have been assessed as having eligible needs as defined in social care legislation and guidance. The proposals detailed in this report are also consistent with the Personalisation Agenda in social care and government policy to promote choice to enable service users to decide which services are best to meet their needs and who provides a service to them.
- 22 In making her decision the Cabinet Member is required to have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) The Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) informs the council of the impact that its decision will have on the community and specifically if there are any groups within the community who will be impacted. It requires the identification of any issues needing further analysis and/or actions being taken to mitigate impact.
- 23 This is important because in reaching a decision Members (and the council officers) must have due regard to the (PSED) as set out in the Equalities Act 2010 and specifically the need to:
- i. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct
  - ii. advance of equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

- iii. foster good relations between those who share a relevant characteristic and those that do not.
- 24 The decision maker will note that the EQIA specifically addresses the impacts of the proposed changes likely to have on people using these services.
- 25 The report recommends that the vision for day opportunities for adults with learning disabilities be agreed without amendment.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Vision Adult Social Care	Adult social care	Alexandra Laidler <a href="mailto:alexandra.laidler@southwark.gov.uk">alexandra.laidler@southwark.gov.uk</a>
Equality Analysis	Adult social care	Alexandra Laidler <a href="mailto:alexandra.laidler@southwark.gov.uk">alexandra.laidler@southwark.gov.uk</a>
LD vision consultation outcome key themes	Adult social care	Alexandra Laidler <a href="mailto:alexandra.laidler@southwark.gov.uk">alexandra.laidler@southwark.gov.uk</a>
Consultation Responses (Key Themes) on a Draft Vision for Southwark Day Opportunities for Adults with Learning Disabilities (Cabinet report)	Southwark Council website <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;Mid=4250&amp;Ver=4">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;Mid=4250&amp;Ver=4</a>	Alexandra Laidler <a href="mailto:alexandra.laidler@southwark.gov.uk">alexandra.laidler@southwark.gov.uk</a>

**APPENDICES**

No.	Title
Appendix 1	A Vision for Southwark Day Opportunities and Community Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sarah McClinton, Director of Adult Social Care	
<b>Report Author</b>	Alexandra Laidler, Head of Service, Disabilities & Independent Living	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	20 June 2013	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Health and social care divisional accountant	Yes	Yes
Senior Solicitor Safeguarding and Community Services	Yes	Yes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	20 June 2013	