

This report may be of interest to: Policy and Resources Committee

WHADDON WAY DAY SERVICE

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Committee on progress with expanding the current day service at Whaddon Way Special Needs Unit to provide a service to an additional five severely disabled young people, who will be leaving school in July 2000.

2. Summary

- 2.1 This report outlines the need for service development at Whaddon Way, how it is proposed to meet that need and also gives an indication of future similar needs.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To note the report.

4. Background

- 4.1 Social workers from the Adult Disability team, working alongside nursing staff from the MK Community NHS Trust, have been undertaking a prolonged programme of assessment and transition planning for a group of young people who will be leaving Redway School in July 2000. This group of young people have very severe physical and learning disabilities, to the extent that they require a service specifically designed to meet their needs.
- 4.2 The five young people have had full assessments under the Disabled Persons Act 1986. All will need five days per week day care in a setting where their health and physical needs can be met and a range of appropriate activities provided. Their parents, who have all had Carers Assessments, have visited the Council's existing Special Needs Units at Tower Drive and Whaddon Way. Detailed comments have been made on what they would like to see from these services (particularly as these service users will be much younger than some of the other users in the same unit).
- 4.3 A series of consultation meetings with parents have been held and further meetings are planned in the run up to the service starting.

- 4.4 The Health Authority have been approached for funding for a Grade E Nurse post to ensure that health needs (including tube feeding) are appropriately supported within the day centre. This post will be employed by the MK Community NHS Trust to ensure professional supervision, holiday/vacancy/sickness cover and links with the other health services that these young people will be receiving. The postholder will however need to work closely with the Council staff team to ensure a seamless service is provided.
- 4.5 Milton Keynes Council funding for this service, including transport, is included in the demographic growth items reported to Policy and Resources Committee on 19 October 1999.
- 4.6 It will be important to have staff in post well in advance of the service commencement date to ensure an effective handover from the school and an adequate programme of staff induction and training. A target date of 1 April 2000 is being aimed for three new Council staff and the nurse to start.
- 4.7 The importance of developing this joint model of service goes beyond the immediate group of young people and their carers. Another eighteen people with similar levels of need are expected in the coming years, particularly between July 2003 and July 2006. It is likely that substantial building improvements will be needed to accommodate this latter group.

5. **Issues and Choices**

- 5.1 The young people concerned have a very high level of disability. Meeting their needs is effectively an inescapable commitment for the Council. Health funding to meet needs within day services is breaking new ground. It should also be recognised that health funding will also be going into meeting respite care needs for these young people and their families.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Environmental

None.

6.2 Equalities

This service expansion will enable day care to be provided for a group of very disabled young people.

6.3 Financial

The cost to the Council of expanding the Whaddon Way day service is projected to be approximately £65,000 in 2000/01, with additional costs in the region of £20,000 due to be met by the Health Service. Substantial further costs will be incurred to meet the needs of further school leavers, particularly from 2003.

6.4 Legal

None.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

Needs of the school leavers in July 2000 can be met within existing buildings, although three additional Council staff will be required.

Background Papers: None