

20 JANUARY 2000**DEVELOPING SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES**

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the current service arrangements for people with Learning Disabilities and those who care for them. To outline the Strategic Direction for service development that is needed to bring services in line with national best practice, and some of the actions required to ensure that the Council's services are configured to meet service user needs effectively.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Current services for people with learning disabilities are traditionally based, are not set up to meet service users' individual needs, and do not reflect national best practice.
- 2.2 Services have to be developed that meet user need, and that are locally based.
- 2.3 Following a consultation process with stakeholders of the service, costed plans will be brought forward to re-configure services. Any changes will be made within existing resources.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to:
- (a) support the commitment to partnership working to develop a range of services to people with learning disabilities;
 - (b) approve the move to consult with service users and carers in order to develop a Resource Centre approach that will meet service users' individual needs within their own communities; and
 - (c) request a costed plan with proposals.

4. **Background**

Current Service Provision

- 4.1 The Council currently provides services to 200 adults with learning disabilities and their families. Services usually begin with a transition period whilst a young person is still at school, and can continue into old age. People with learning disabilities are often receiving services from the Council for most of their lifetime.
- 4.2 Services currently provided are as follows:
- (a) Assessment and social work support through the Disability Team
 - (b) Day Service at Whaddon Way, Surrey Road, Beanhill, Tower Drive and Wolverton.
 - (c) Day services are also purchased from Buckinghamshire County Council and voluntary agencies including MacIntyre.
 - (d) Rehabilitation services to support people at home, and often with their own tenancies
 - (e) Supported Living schemes
 - (f) Residential and nursing home care purchased from the independent sector
 - (g) Community Team (provided by Milton Keynes NHS Community Trust)
 - (h) Hospital re-settlement (Manor House Re-provision)
- 4.3 There are a variety of needs in this care group. This can range from those who are severely and multiply disabled, those whose behaviour challenges services, to those who with support can lead independent lives and can do meaningful work.
- 4.4 Most of the services currently provided by the Council have not been reviewed for many years, are very traditional, and are now not in line with recognised national best practice. In addition, there is evidence that services are not arranged effectively to meet the needs and aspirations of young people and their families seeking a service on leaving school.
- 4.5 Services to people with Learning Disabilities have traditionally been underfunded and have not received the attention of other mainstream services.
- 4.6 The current service configuration was inherited from Buckinghamshire County Council following LGR. These arrangements are not best placed to foster inter-agency and partnership working, and offer limited choices to those who use the Council's services.
- 4.7 Many of the services are provided away from the individual's community. For example, day services often require people to spend significant amounts of time on Council transport, and provide a limited range of activities and opportunities for work.

4.8 In the recent Department of Health document “Facing the Facts” (November 1999) the conclusions and implications for development of services to people with learning disabilities are as follows:

- (a) Services should develop under “better life” principles. These principles encourage the development of social inclusion, Citizenship and ordinary living in the local community.
- (b) Day services should be provided on a small scale based locally to where people live.
- (c) Supported employment services should be accessible to all people to offer them the opportunity to find and keep open paid jobs of their choice in the local community.
- (d) Information should be accessible to all people using services to ensure that the person has the maximum involvement possible when determining their choice and need of social care support.
- (e) Supported living should be developed to ensure that people can live independently with the right level of support to ensure their success.
- (f) Services should work on a partnership and inter-agency approach to ensure that the person using services has all their needs co-ordinated and that the priorities are balanced in terms of health and social care services.

Proposals for the Development of Services

4.9 The Council's services to people with Learning Disabilities need to change to meet the needs and aspirations of both service users, and those who care for them. In order to achieve these changes in existing services an extensive consultation with people using services, carers and staff will commence in January 2000 as follows:

- (a) Monday 31 January 2000 – managers
- (b) Tuesday 1 February 2000 – day opportunities
- (c) Wednesday 2 February 2000 – supported living and residential care
- (d) Thursday 3 February 2000 – assessment and access to services
- (e) Friday 4 February 2000 – parents and carers

4.10 Out of these consultation meetings will come themes for service change. This process will highlight what people want and need in terms of future service provision. Following this, it is intended to re-shape services to ensure that they are delivered more locally, and in partnership with the health services and independent sector stakeholders.

4.11 The services will be developed with a focus on enabling people to access their local community and become an inclusive, integral part of community life. Services that support and enable people to fully utilise their community for employment, housing,

education and leisure activities can be delivered from “Resource Centres.” These are small building bases for staff and people using services to work out from in order to effectively access ordinary activities in their local community. Often a “Resource Centre” can be run from a room in a local community centre or from a traditional day centre which has been opened up to the local community for advice, information and community based activities.

- 4.12 Developing services in line with national good practice will mean changes to the way services are currently designed and delivered in Milton Keynes. These changes will affect the services from the assessment process through to service delivery. If people with learning disabilities are to have choices to participate in their community, the style and culture in which services currently operate will need to change. It will mean:
- (a) the development of flexible services that enable people to find and keep paid jobs with support;
 - (b) services which access education and vocational training;
 - (c) services which support access to community based leisure and social facilities; and
 - (d) services that support people to live in their own tenancies.

Working with other Council Services

- 4.13 In developing the new style of service, it is intended to develop more partnership working within Council services as well as with health and independent sector colleagues. Discussions have already begun with Deborah Cooper, the Economy and Learning Manager in Learning and Development Directorate, and European funding is being explored.

5. Issues and Choices

Developments Currently Underway

- 5.1 There have been developments in some services over the past few months as follows:
- (a) At Tower Drive, following an initial appraisal by the National Development Team (NDT), individual programmes for service users have been set up, and new supervision arrangements for staff are in place. Service users will have a re-assessment of their individual needs over the next few weeks.
 - (b) Supported Living Scheme. Following the independent case review, recommendations were made which include:
 - (i) Improving assessment
 - (ii) Exploring the externalisation of supported living services
 - (iii) Clarifying responsibilities and arrangements with the Community Team for People with Learning Disabilities

A work programme is in place to ensure that all of the recommendations are considered and implemented. This is a dynamic document that is regularly updated in order to ensure that progress in improving the service continues.

- (c) Manor House re-provisioning. It had been intended to seek agreement from Committee to a Section 28A agreement allowing for the transfer of funds from Buckinghamshire Health Authority to Milton Keynes Council to facilitate the re-settlement of people from the Manor House Hospital in Aylesbury into the community. This agreement is not yet ready for Committee consideration, and discussions about contractual arrangements will continue. Any Section 28A agreement to facilitate the transfer of funds will require approval of the Council and the Milton Keynes Health Forum.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Environmental

The development of more local based services will be compatible with the Council's policy on sustainability.

6.2 Equalities

The development of new services will comply with legislation around equal opportunities and the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. The development of a 'person centred approach' to delivering services around an individual person fits in with national best practice.

6.3 Financial

The council currently invests £3,714,000 in purchasing and providing services to people with learning disabilities. Following the consultation programme outlined in paragraph 6.1, a costed plan will be produced to re-configure service to meet service users' needs. It is anticipated that any changes will be made within the current resources.

Service Deficits will be made known to Members.

6.4 Legal

The NHS and Community Care Act 1990 and related legislation applies.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

The development of a "Resource Centre" model will mean that staff will be needed to work on a more flexible basis. Services should be responsive to the assessed needs of each individual person. Accommodation for delivery of local services needs to be sourced from within that local community. New services will need to develop around supported employment and partnerships with colleagues in Health and the voluntary sector need to be strengthened to gain the necessary scales of economy in service delivery and to avoid duplication of services.

7. **Conclusions**

- 7.1 In order to meet service user needs and aspirations, and to ensure that the Council is providing services in line with national best practice, there is a need to develop a different approach to meeting the needs of people with learning disabilities and those who care for them.

Background Papers: Department of Health "Facing the Facts" (November 1999)

Work Plan in Response to Independent Case Review of Supported Living
(December 1999/January 2000)