

TITLE OF REPORT: **Recommission Day Service Activity**

REPORT OF: **Sheena Ramsey - Chief Executive and Interim Strategic Director – Care, Wellbeing & Learning**

Purpose of the Report

1. The report asks Cabinet to approve a plan to recommission the current day service provision to people with disabilities within Wrekenton Community Base, thus, leading to the closure of the service. The plan will also include providing alternative forms of support to existing service users who access in house disability services who do not have complex needs.

Background

2. The budget proposal 'recommissioning day service activity' had an initial saving target of £1million (£0.5m for 2016/17 and £0.5m for 2017/18). The £0.5m for 2017/18 was subsequently deferred pending the outcome of the review of day services.
3. The proposal centred on an overarching intention that through a review / reassessment process:
 - Existing service users without complex needs who currently use various in-house disabilities provider services could potentially be able to be provided with alternative support to in-house provision which may reduce social care costs to the Council.
 - Existing service users with complex needs would continue to use in-house provision within the facilities of Blaydon Lodge, Marquisway Bungalow, Blaydon Resource Centre and Marquisway Resource Centre.
 - The Council would be able to determine the need for future provision within the Community Bases of Phoenix, Winlaton and Wrekenton.
4. At the time of the budget proposal being agreed, there were 277 service users using in- house disability day service provision.
5. The 2017/18 net budget for the provision of in house day services is £2.507m.

Proposal

6. The Adult Social Care Provider service, alongside Assessment and Personalisation and Commissioning colleagues, have established a delivery plan which will have the effect of closing Wrekenton Community Base. Some service users with complex needs can transfer to other in-house services such as Marquisway Resource Centre, Phoenix Community Base, Shared Lives or accessing the sporting clubs of Special Olympics Gateshead Tyne & Wear and Angling 4 All. A number of relatively

independent Wrekenton service users, can alternatively access the 3 'drop-in' Guidepost groups across the borough.

7. The service will seek to cease the unnecessary 'double running' costs being borne by the Council in some cases whereby service users living within independent sector Independent Living Schemes (ISLs) and residential care also attend In-House disability day services. Furthermore, this approach provides fragmented support to individuals with a mixture of staff providing day support. Adult Social Care Commissioning, are currently working with those respective independent sector providers for the delivery of day support to existing Wrekenton service users as opposed to their continued attendance at the Community Base.
8. Of those service users affected by the proposal to recommission day service activity, 44% will continue to receive In-House disability provision from Marquisway Resource Centre (20%), Shared Lives (12%), Phoenix Community Base (8%) and Sporting Clubs (4%). The remaining service users will either: be provided with support from their own ISL or residential care provider (34%), no longer require a service (18%); one individual (2%) has gained paid employment and a remaining individual has secured his own tenancy and no longer needs day provision.
9. All 15 employees employed at Wrekenton Community Base will be at risk of compulsory redundancy. Initial scoping work has shown that most, if not all, employees 'at risk' can be redeployed into vacant positions or into other suitable positions on a 'bumped redundancy' basis.
10. Marquisway and Blaydon Resource Centres will continue their provision for service users with complex needs who require building based provision
11. Phoenix and Winlaton will continue their functioning as Community Bases for people with complex needs
12. The proposal describes stage 1 of the in-house disability day service review. Stage 2 of the project will centre on the In-House provision adopting an Enablement framework to increase people's skills, independence and work based skills/competencies, thus, reducing people's reliance on social care services. As such there will be a transient client group within the service.
13. The service intends to increasingly withdraw from provision in which service users are supported within one static service area and alternatively, the service users can grow and ameliorate their abilities by using the "sessional activities" within the service's 2 main sporting clubs 'Angling 4 All' and Special Olympics Gateshead Tyne & Wear and also 'Next Steps' user led enterprises – creating a more flexible and multi based offer.
14. It is anticipated that the proposal to close Wrekenton Community Base will be resisted by some family carers of service users at the Base. The closure is planned for late September 2017.
15. As part of this service review it is proposed that some existing Marquisway service users transfer out of the centre. As some of these service users have used the facility for over 20 years, this naturally requires the utmost sensitivity from Provider and Assessment and Personalisation teams.

Recommendations

16. It is recommended that Cabinet supports the proposal to recommission disability day service activity.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To generate estimated savings of £0.3m for the Council by closing the Wrekenton Community Base service and providing service users without complex needs with other types of community support;
- (ii) To allow the Council to deliver stage 1 of the disability day services review and proceed with stage 2 of embodying an Enablement Framework within the service provision, ensuring people's skills and confidence are developed to secure a combination of: paid employment; enterprise; volunteering or independent living outcomes to reduce their reliance on social care services
- (i) To enable service users to benefit from the future 'pick' and 'mix' style service model allowing people to access an increased range of activities during their daily week.

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Policy Context

1. The Care Act (2014) part 1 focuses on Adult Social Care reform. Section 2(1) places a duty on local authorities to provide a range of services that reduce needs for support for people with care needs and their informal carers, and contribute towards preventing or delaying the development of such needs.
2. The Care Act gives councils new obligations to shape the local care market to promote quality and choice.

Background

3. The budget proposal 'recommissioning day service activity' had an initial saving target of £1 million (£0.5m for 16/17 and £0.5m for 17/18). The £0.5m for 2017/18 was subsequently deferred pending the outcome of the review of day services.
4. The proposal centred on an overarching intention that through a review / reassessment process:
 - Existing service users without complex needs who currently use various In-House disabilities Provider services could potentially be able to be provided with alternative support to In-House provision which may reduce social care costs to the Council.
 - Existing service users with complex needs would continue to use In-House provision within the facilities of Blaydon Lodge, Marquisway Bungalow, Blaydon Resource Centre and Marquisway Resource Centre.
 - The Council would be able to determine the need for future provision within the Community Bases of Phoenix, Winlaton and Wrekenton.
5. At the time of the budget proposal being set, there were 277 service users using In-House disability day service provision.
6. The total net budget for the provision of in house day services is £2.507m. and the gross saving from the proposals outlined in this report is £0.465m (full year effect). The estimated savings of £0.3m (full year effect) includes the potential reprovision costs associated with the proposed changes in the way in which day services are provided.

Consultation

7. The Council consulted on the budget proposals to recommission day service activity as part of the budget planning process for 2016/2017 and 2017/2018. Specific consultation has been undertaken with service users / family carers within service user reviews and all service users and family carers have been notified of the 'recommissioning day service activity' proposal relating to all service areas.
8. The Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care have been consulted.

9. The High Fell Ward Councillors have been consulted in respect of the closure of Wrekenton Community Base.

Alternative Options

10. The alternative is to remain as we are now; this will not deliver budget savings or the disability day services review outcomes

Implications of Recommended Option

11. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that the proposals outlined in this report will generate estimated savings of £0.3m (£0.150m in 2017/18).
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – 20 (15.92 FTE) employees will be ‘at risk’ of redundancy as a result of this proposal. Initial scoping work has shown that most if not all employees ‘at risk’, can be redeployed into vacant positions or into other suitable positions on a ‘bumped redundancy’ basis.
 - c) **Property Implications** - The closure of Wrekenton Community Base will have an impact on the Wrekenton Community Hub. Colleagues across Adult Social Care and Communities and Neighbourhoods will work collaboratively on reviewing the revenue stream and use of facilities within the Hub.
12. **Risk Management Implications** – The proposal (particularly the closure of Wrekenton) will be resisted by service users / family carers. Extensive support will be provided to service users / family carers to minimise the impact of changes and to ensure that people’s needs are consistently met.
13. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – The proposal will support parity of esteem on addressing the needs of those with protected characteristics. The service is utterly responsive to the feedback received from service users and family carers on the proposal.
14. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – No impact
15. **Health Implications** – Whilst the proposal may evoke changes to people’s service provision, the service will continue to support accessibility to health services and appropriate care and treatment, as well as being responsive to adverse reactions from notice of such changes.
16. **Sustainability Implications** – The proposal will ensure that through the combination of In-House disability Provider services and alternative community options, service users and their family carer’s needs continue to be met.
17. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising out of the report.
18. **Area and Ward Implications** – The closure of Wrekenton Community base affects the High Fell ward and a high proportion of service users live either within this ward

or close proximity to it. Any alternative provision will be considered in light of service users own/the service's transport capabilities, enabling people to be able to adequately access those alternative facilities.