

PROPOSED ENGAGEMENT ON OPTIONS FOR FUTURE DELIVERY - CONNECT SHORT-TERM SERVICE AND COUNCIL-PROVIDED DAY SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY – CABINET MEMBERS RESPONSE

Relevant Cabinet Member

Mr A Hardman

Relevant Officer

Director of Adult Services

Cabinet Members Response

The call-in identified a number of challenges to Cabinet, all of which have been answered in turn below.

Call-in challenge one: It fails in regards equal right and equalities.

Call-in response one: The report sets out in paragraphs 38 and 39 that duties under the Equality Act 2010 will be met by the completion of detailed Equality Impact Assessments for each element of the service where change is proposed. Equality Relevance Screenings have indicated that full Equality Impact Assessments will be required for all of the services included in the report and the report clarifies that these will form a key part of the next stage of work in relation to these services. This is formalised in Cabinet decision (f) which requested that a further report, informed by the proposed engagement exercises and detailed impact assessments, be brought to Cabinet by April 2018, with proposals for future service delivery, including proposals for formal consultation where required.

Call-in challenge two: Reasons being given for the decision are not appropriate.

Call-in response two: The decisions made by Cabinet were to carry out engagement with people using services, family carers and staff to gather ideas which will inform future proposals for how services are delivered. Paragraphs 9 to 22 set out in detail the case for change and the reasons for the decision to engage about future service delivery, and the reasons can be summarised as follows:

- The need for financial sustainability and maximising value for money and best use of resources, in the context of increasing demand for Council-funded services, to ensure that the needs of individuals eligible for services can continue to be met now and in the future. Detailed information on the current financial position of the services is included in the report to support this. A benchmark of the equivalent cost of externally provided services, based on the cost of current external contracts, has been used to illustrate the current issues in relation to value for money.
- The aim to encourage a vibrant and varied range of day service provision across Worcestershire, with services of a high quality which meet the needs of

service users, secure improved outcomes and are responsive and flexible in providing the type of services which people want.

- The evidence that usage of Council-provided day services by people with learning disabilities has been reducing over time and is forecast to continue to reduce over future years. This is due partly to changing expectations from individuals and families, particularly younger individuals, wanting a more mixed variety of services during the week, and also to the growth in the number and variety of external provision of day opportunities in Worcestershire. Furthermore, many people with a learning disability tell us they want meaningful employment rather than day opportunities.

The proposed engagement exercises will explore with service users, carers, staff and partners ways in which these issues can be addressed in future, and the results of this work will be reported back to Cabinet in April 2018.

Call-in challenge three: It fails regarding aims and desired outcomes.

Call-in response three: The aim of the decisions in the Cabinet report is to enable a period of detailed engagement and co-production with people using services, family carers, staff and other stakeholders. This will inform any future proposals relating to the services, which will then be subject to formal consultation as required. The ultimate desired outcomes are those set out in Response Two above; however, the engagement work will inform how these outcomes are to be achieved, to be set out in detail in the proposed follow-up report to Cabinet in April 2018.

Call-in challenge four: A presumption of openness

Call-in response four: The report outlines in detail what the services are which are the focus for the proposed engagement. As stated in the report, the engagement exercises will seek to gather ideas and options, assess impacts of any potential changes to services, and explore options to increase usage, options for income generation and ideas for more efficient operation of the services. The engagement exercises will be fully inclusive of all stakeholders as outlined in the report.