

**ADULT CARE AND WELL BEING
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
22 JANUARY 2018****LEARNING DISABILITY DAY SERVICES: ENGAGEMENT ON
OPTIONS FOR FUTURE DELIVERY OF CONNECT SHORT
TERM SERVICE AND COUNCIL-PROVIDED DAY SERVICES**

Summary

1. The Panel is to be briefed on Learning Disability Day Services, in particular the planned engagement with service users, carers, staff and stakeholders on options for future delivery of Connect short-term Service and Council-provided Day Services.
2. The Council's Strategic Commissioner of Adult Services, and the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care have been invited to this meeting, as well as Speakeasy N.O.W, a self-advocacy charity for people with learning disabilities.

Background

3. As part of its duties under the Care Act 2014, the Council funds a wide range of day services and opportunities for adults with learning disabilities who are eligible for care and support. Day Services are currently commissioned from two types of provision – external providers and those provided internally by the Council.
4. The Panel will be aware that Cabinet recently approved plans to engage with service users and carers about options for future delivery of Connect Short-term and Council-provided Day Services. The proposals agreed also intend, through the proposed engagement process, to use a co-production approach to future service development and delivery, whereby those receiving services are involved in the planning and delivery process. The report to Cabinet on 2 November is attached at Appendix 1.
5. Resource Centres cater for Care Act-eligible service users with a higher or more complex level of need, typically providing 2:1 or 1:1 support. There are Resource Centres in Worcester (Cherry Orchard), Kidderminster (Orchard Street), Bromsgrove (Wendron Centre) and Pershore (Three Springs). Resource Centres also include the "Growing Old with a Learning Disability" service, which specifically meets the needs of older service users.
6. Connects services provide a range of services in the community:
 - day services for Learning Disability Care Act-eligible service users, typically on a 5:1 or 8:1 staff ratio, forming part of an individual's personal budget in their Support Plan

- weekly drop-ins, open for all and catering for a range of service users with a combination of Care Act eligible and non-eligible needs, and not included in personal budgets
- short-term preventative service. This is a wide-ranging service which provides short-term support to clients over a period of up to 12 weeks. Typical support given is support to access the community and social activities, support to become more physically mobile, support with finances and form completion e.g. benefits applications, support with housing, and support to find volunteering and employment opportunities. Client groups include people with physical disabilities, older people and people with mental health needs, as well as people with learning disabilities. The majority of people accessing the service do not have the level of need to be eligible for other Council-funded services under the Care Act.
- Connect Wyre Forest also runs a front-desk drop-in service during opening hours

7. There are Connect services in Worcester (operating out of County Enterprises, St Paul's Street), Kidderminster (Blackwell Street), Redditch (Halcyon Centre), Bromsgrove (Wendron Centre – co-located with Resource Centre), Droitwich (recently co-located on a temporary basis to Wendron Centre, Bromsgrove), Evesham (Library) and Malvern (Cube).

8. Since 2016/17, the general prevention element of the Connect service (including the Connect Short-term Service) has been funded by Public Health Ring-fenced Grant, with total funding of £603,000 allocated in 2017/18.

9. The Leisure Link service, also provided by Adult Social Care Provider Services and funded from the Learning Disability budget, comprises three day/evening clubs for people with learning disabilities and operates in Wyre Forest. The service is used by approximately 100 people, with a mix of Care Act eligible and non-eligible needs. A small fee per session is charged, but the service currently has a net cost to the Council of around £28,000 per annum.

10. Following Cabinet approval and Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board's acceptance of the decision to commence engagement on the future delivery of services, a comprehensive programme of engagement has been arranged to include, staff, service users, carers and stakeholders. Speakeasy are coordinating and facilitating Service User engagement. A schedule of carer and staff engagement is included in Appendix 2. The information gathered during engagement will be used to inform recommendations for future service delivery and a report is due to be presented to cabinet in April 2018.

Scrutiny to date

10. Although many Panel members are new, following the May 2017 County Council elections, the Panel has maintained oversight of Learning Disability Day Services. Recent discussions are referenced in the background papers section of this report, and include an update on Day Services in May 2016, and in March 2017, a discussion about support for employment opportunities, involving staff from the Council and service users.

11. As part of these earlier discussions, the Panel has been advised that the expectations of people with learning disabilities and their carers was changing and individuals wish to be more independent, access mainstream opportunities and be part of their communities.

12. The Panel will also be aware that Cabinet's approval of the engagement proposals was examined by the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (the OSPB is the Council's over-arching Scrutiny Board), on 6 December 2017, following a call-in of the decision. (A call-in is the right for councillors sitting on scrutiny committees to delay the implementation of a decision which has been made (but has not yet been implemented) to allow a committee to consider the decision.)

13. The call-in was made on the basis of a perceived element of presumption and predetermination of the options. However, the OSPB concluded that 'it appeared there was a genuine willingness for engagement and proposed that the decision should be accepted'. The Minutes to the discussion are referenced in the background papers to this report.

14. A further report is due to be presented to cabinet in April 2018, to include proposals for future service delivery and for formal consultation where required.

Purpose of the Meeting

15. Panel Members are asked to:

- Determine whether any further information or scrutiny is required at this time
- Agree any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Member

Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Report to Cabinet on 2 November (Agenda item 13: Proposed Engagement on options for Future Delivery – Connect Short-term Service and Council-provided Day Services for Adults with a Learning Disability – Agenda and Minutes also available on the Council's website [here](#))

Appendix 2: Learning Disability Internal Day Services Engagement Programme

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on 6 December 2017 – available [here](#)
- Agenda and Minutes of the Adult Care and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 16 March 2017 and 23 May 2016– available [here](#)