

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE - 21 June 2004

REPORT ON: DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 445 - 2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose a reconfiguration of day services for people with learning disabilities taking account of the anticipated demand over the next five years.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee:-

2.1 authorises the Director of Social Work to implement the proposed model for day services outlined in this report.

2.2 remit to the Personnel Committee to recommend the staffing implications resulting from this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The reconfiguration of services will be undertaken as financial resources become available to implement the changes. Further reports will be brought forward in due course outlining these in detail.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 People with learning disabilities will have enhanced opportunities in accessing a range of day services which will meet their needs more fully.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The policy direction and new service developments accord with the Social Inclusion and Community Planning agendas.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 The proposed developments in this report point the way forward in terms of a radical change for delivering day services and providing day opportunities for people with learning disabilities in our communities. Locally, through a Strategic Review of Day Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities 1998 (see Committee Report 225-98), the existing model of day service delivery which centred around an institutional approach and grouped people into 'special needs categories' was explicitly rejected. As a result of this report care provided at Dudhope Adult Resource Centre was re-provisioned with widening day opportunities for day services in the community.

- 6.2 The national policy directive for people with a learning disability was outlined in 'The Same as You' (Scottish Executive, 2000) and underpins the cultural and philosophical changes we propose to adopt our strategic direction locally. Proposals for day care in this report are about improving and re-organising services so that they are person centred, put individuals at the heart of decision making and involve them in community life including education, leisure and recreation, day opportunities and employment. The challenge in taking this forward is to develop a better public understanding and awareness of the needs of people with learning disabilities in our communities.

7.0 CURRENT SERVICE

- 7.1 Day Services are currently provided by Dundee City Council Social Work Department, NHS Tayside and the Voluntary Sector. The Social Work model comprises three Day Care Centres and two 'Out and About' teams. The Whitetop Day Care Centre, which is for people with profound and multiple disabilities, Kemback Street Adult Day Care Centre and Douglas Adult Day Care Centre. The 'Out and About' teams model the new type of service we would wish to develop and have been evaluated by Dundee University as outlined below. In summary the total number of individuals receiving a Social Work Day Care Service is 156, Voluntary Sector 79 and, in addition, service is provided by Community Links and NHS Tayside.

8.0 BROAD DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODEL

- 8.1 There will be a shift from centre based to developing community based day services in keeping with the national policy directive and local needs and trends as outlined below. The future model will comprise of a range of dispersed day services teams located in communities across Dundee as well as two resource centre services for two further distinct groups of people:

- a) those with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and
- b) those with complex needs and/or challenging behaviour.

All will require a responsive and flexible service that will provide individuals with the opportunity to access mainstream community facilities wherever possible.

- 8.2 All of the national and local indicators emphasise a need for greater community involvement and social inclusion. This will require full corporate communication and involvement e.g. the Community Services Department, Housing and Leisure and Recreation. For example, a partnership approach could enable dispersed Out & About Teams to operate from Sheltered Housing or Community Centres across Dundee, or there could be better access into mainstream services for people with PMLD with adequate toilet and changing facilities. There is also a need to create better access to libraries, colleges and other recreational facilities. The involvement of service users in this process of change should be endorsed and continued.

9.0 PROFOUND AND MULTIPLE LEARNING DISABILITIES

- 9.1 The recent report 'A Framework for Services in Dundee for People with Learning Disabilities' (Dundee City Council Social Work Department, March 2004) identifies that in 2004/05 (this financial year) there will be 10 young people with learning disabilities ranging from mild to moderate/complex needs reaching their 18th birthday and transferring to Adult Services (including four with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD)). In 2005/6 there will be a further 21 (including five with PMLD) and in 2006/7 the numbers will be 18 (including four with PMLD). The number of adults with PMLD in Dundee is currently 58 and will increase to 71 over the next three years.

- 9.2 The Whitetop Day Centre is currently best placed to meet the needs of people with the more profound needs and who require specialist input and individualised therapeutic

programmes. Our aim is to offer these people the opportunity to spend up to 50% of their day accessing a range of different day opportunities.

10.0 COMPLEX NEEDS/CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR

10.1 There are 45 service users receiving day services at Douglas. Many of these have complex and challenging needs and would benefit from focused and individualised programmes.

In order to meet the needs of those with PMLD and those with challenging and complex behaviours two main service bases will be required:

- a) a first centre specialising in the profound and multiple learning disabled group (eg the Whitetop) and
- b) a second centre for individuals with complex and challenging behaviour.

It is recommended that the suitability of Kemback Street be explored in terms of its potential fitness for purpose as the second centre.

11.0 MILD TO MODERATE LEARNING DISABILITIES

11.1 There are approximately 130 adults with a learning disability who could benefit from a dispersed day service model and day opportunities in terms of ordinary living as opposed to centre based models of day care. The main elements and benefits of that service would be to:

- Support individuals to participate in meaningful ordinary life experiences.
- Develop effective links with employment, education, leisure and transport.
- Empower the individual to participate in the decision making process.
- Develop effective partnerships with carers.
- Increase percentage of budget spent on direct client provision (staff) and reduce the costs spent on maintaining physical resources (buildings). (*Best Value Review 1997*).
- Ensure that there is an integrated care pathway between Health Day Services and Community Day Opportunity Services.

11.2 The proposed model of day services for people with learning disabilities has been tested and evaluated through the pilot 'Out & About' teams (Out & About, An Evaluation of Dundee City's Community Opportunities Pilot Project, December 2003). The two Out & About (O&A) pilot teams aimed to:

- explore the feasibility of accessing resources in the community as a viable alternative to 5-day weekly attendance at an Adult Resource Centre.

11.3 The principle findings are that:

- O & A offers a day service to adults with learning disabilities that is extremely flexible, responsive to their individual interests and makes extensive use of mainstream facilities.
- The response to the project from service-users, those Social Work staff involved in the project, and from carers too is overwhelmingly positive, even enthusiastic.

- The O&A pilot project amply fulfilled its stated aim: to demonstrate 'the feasibility of accessing resources in the community as a viable alternative to five-day weekly attendance at an ARC.

12.0 MOVING DAY OPPORTUNITIES FORWARD

12.1 The transition from building based services towards dispersed community day opportunities for adults with learning disabilities will be phased between 2003/04 and 2005/06. This transition will see a fundamental change underpinned by a person centred approach and will require a number of dispersed bases facilitating local community access across Dundee as well as two centre bases for those with more complex and profound needs. The proposed model will:

- Increase dispersed day opportunities for people with a learning disability,
- Re-model day centre activities in response to the increasing population of people whose behaviour and needs are now challenging the current model of day service delivery,
- Be responsive in meeting the needs of people with multiple and profound learning disabilities.

12.2 The remodelling of day services as outlined in this report also provides an opportunity to review transport requirements and arrangements for this service user group. It is proposed therefore that transport be reviewed in relation to Kemback Street, Douglas and the Whitetop Centre with a view to commissioning transport fit for purpose.

14.0 CONSULTATION

Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Management) and the appropriate trade unions.

15.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

Alan G Baird
Director of Social Work

Date: 9 June 2004