



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2014

SUBJECT: LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES

REPORT BY: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ADULT SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To respond to the questions raised by the Voluntary Sector Representatives on the Council's learning disability services

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Voluntary Sector Representatives have submitted a series of questions to the Council on learning disability services. This report provides the Council's response to the queries raised.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Learning Disabilities Services come under the Healthier Outcome of the Single Integrated Plan.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 **We hear that the Council are making cuts across services for people with learning disabilities if this happens what is the outcome for service users? - where do they go? and what about their parents and carers - will they get the help they need?**

As part of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) all directorates of the Council have to put forward proposals to make the identified savings following the reduced settlement from Welsh Government. Proposal impact on all residents of the borough and are not targeted a specific client group. At a series of special scrutiny committee all directorates were asked to provide reports on their discretionary services, these are services the Council currently chooses to provide but does not legally have to. One of these proposals covered day services for adults, the preference of members of the Health Social Care and Well-Being committee members was to request officers do further work on two options:-

1. Rationalise the number of buildings that day service is currently provided from. This would look to provide service on regional basis with reduction in the number of satellite centers.
2. Provide a targeted day services for people who meet critical and substantial need, which is the eligibility criteria that is likely to be introduced across Wales in accordance with the Well-Being Act.

Officers are currently working on these proposals and a further report will be taken to scrutiny in October. It must be stressed that these are still proposals and decisions will be made by cabinet and full council next year.

If these proposals are progressed individual and carers will be reviewed individually to determine eligibility and how their needs are met. It is important to note that people may still have needs, however, they will not be met by the Council in the same way as they are currently. Alternative community solutions that are not commissioned need to be developed with individuals being more in control of meeting their own needs and outcomes.

4.2 Who are day services intended for? For example people with a learning disability, older people with learning disabilities, parents and carers for respite?

Day services are provided for adults over the age of 18. Provision could be to meet need of social isolation and or to enable a carer/family to continue in their caring role.

4.3 What are statutory duties relating to learning disability services? - and what are discretionary?

Services are not designated statutory or discretionary based on client groups. Discretionary services for social services include, day services, shopping, meals on wheels and transport which impact on all people over the age of 18.

4.4 Can you give examples of criteria for 'moderate', 'substantial' and 'critical'?

It is not possible to give examples as it depends on individual assessments, which could include a carer's assessment where applicable.

4.5 Transport costs – how much are they? – and who is eligible for transport?

In the 2013/14 financial year the integrated transport unit held a budget for adult social care transport of £1.023m. However, projected spend for the year currently amounts to £1.178m.

At present there is no eligibility criteria for transport, and virtually everyone who attends day centers accessing the local authority transport. The introduction of an eligibility criteria would look to promote individuals independence by provision of travel training, and getting people to use either their mobility vehicles or mobility allowance.

4.6 What will be the redundancy costs for staff? – and impact on budget?

At this stage it is not possible to say if there will be any redundancies but the first option would be redeployment of staff to other service areas.

4.7 Would the Council be happy to receive some Third Sector solutions/ideas?

The Council would be happy to receive any suggestions/ideas that would save money.

Author: Jo Williams, Assistant Director of Adult Services