

# ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH CABINET MEMBER MEETING

## Agenda Item 39

Brighton & Hove City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Re-modelling in-house accommodation for people with a learning disability</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> January 2012</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Director of Adult Social Services/Lead Commissioner People</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Karin Divall</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 29-4478
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:Karin.divall@brighton-hove.gov.uk">Karin.divall@brighton-hove.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No		
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All		

### FOR GENERAL RELEASE

#### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report sets out proposals consult on the re-modelling of our in-house accommodation for people with learning disabilities.
- 1.2 The re-modelling of the in-house service is required to contribute to an increase in local services for people with challenging behaviour and other complex needs who are often at risk of being placed out of the City. The service currently provides some challenging behaviour services but at a higher unit cost when compared with other local authorities. It is therefore proposed to remodel the in-house service by making some changes to the accommodation, further increasing staff skills and flexibility, and by focusing the in-house service on those with the greatest needs.
- 1.3 This paper proposes that consultation commences with staff and service users to inform the development of a model of accommodation which delivers improved value for money in line with other authorities and focuses on providing specialist accommodation. The consultation will explore opportunities to improve value for money by consolidating our accommodation into larger properties and providing a staffing structure which is flexible, skilled, and which continues to meet the needs of people using our services.
- 1.4 The consultation process will ensure that people living in our services are appropriately supported in the context of their individual learning disabilities to engage and participate in the consultation. There will also be consultation with staff, unions, and family carers as appropriate.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member agrees a period of 90 days consultation with all stakeholders.
- 2.2 The Cabinet Member agrees that following full consultation a further report is brought to Cabinet Member Meeting in June 2012.

## **3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS**

- 3.1 The Learning Disability Accommodation and Support Plan 2011 set out three key objectives to meet the range of accommodation needs for people with learning disabilities in the City:
  - Better commissioning of specialist services
  - Reshaping the local market to better meet local need
  - Maximising independence through move on, prevention, and building on support in the community
- 3.2 This plan builds on the Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy plan 2009-2012 that depicted how money should be spent on services for people with learning disabilities. The plan, explained how important legislative papers 'Valuing People', person centred plans and self directed support had impacted on individuals, to enable more choice and control over services received. 'Valuing People Now' (2009) key aims are to enable people to participate as fully as possible with a voice regarding decisions about their care.
- 3.3 The in-house Learning Disability Accommodation Services provide a mix of Residential Care and Supported Living Services. These are primarily in street properties, with two of the services being provided to residents of self contained flats. Some of the buildings are owned by the Council and others owned by Registered Social Landlords. The services currently range in size from 2 person services up to 8 person services. The current configuration is based on a response to the closure of large long stay hospitals (Foremost) about 20 years ago when the principle of "an ordinary house on an ordinary street" was applied. Since that time, people with learning disabilities have increased longevity, increasing complexity of need and increased expectations of independence and citizenship.
- 3.4 It is proposed to consult with our stakeholders to jointly model an in-house accommodation service which improves value for money, consolidates our existing properties, increases the capacity of our homes where practicable, maximises the use of technology and which builds upon a workforce with the skills to work with people with challenging behaviour and delivers financial efficiencies over the next two years.

#### **4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION**

This report is recommending that a 90 days consultation period should commence and that this should include:

Staff

Unions

Service Users and residents

Families/Guardians

Carers

IMCA's [Independent Mental Capacity Advocates]/Advocates

And this will be achieved through:

Focus Groups

One-ones with service users and their advocates

Open evening event

Questionnaires

Staff Meetings

Regular Bulletins

For service users the following will be used: accessible communication formats, Makaton, individual person centred care planning.

#### **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### **5.1 Financial Implications:**

The draft budget proposals presented to Cabinet on 8 December 2011 include savings targets of £311,000 in 2012/13 (full year effect £415,000) and a further £415,000 in 2013/14 in respect of re-modelling of the in house accommodation service for people with learning disabilities. Council will consider the budget on 23 February 2012 and any changes in the savings requirement will be considered as part of the consultation and subsequent implementation plan. Delivery of these savings would reduce the unit costs of the in house service to be more comparable with services in other authorities and represent better value for money. The projected cost of providing these services in 2011/12 is approximately £2.47 million for learning disabilities accommodation services plus £1.92 million for supported accommodation, a total of £4.39 million. The detailed financial implications of the proposals, following consultation, will be included within the next report.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Name: Anne Silley Date: 20/12/11*

## 5.2 Legal Implications:

As set out in the body of this report the Local Authority has to fulfil dual functions in meeting its statutory community care duties to people with learning disabilities in the context of central and local Guidance on individual choice and control, and its duty to the public purse. The Local Authority also has a duty to consult with all interested and affected parties and properly seeks permission to do so from Cabinet Member thus ensuring compliance with the constitution of the Council. The consultation proposals also ensure compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998 [in particular Article 6 European Convention on Human Rights *Right to a Fair Trial*] and Equalities legislation. Any resulting proposals informed by the consultation process must ensure compliance with Community Care and Equalities legislation and the Human Rights Act 1998.

*Lawyer Consulted: Name Sandra O'Brien*

*Date: 12 December 2011*

## 5.3 Equalities Implications:

An E.I.A is attached at appendix A and will be used to fully inform the proposed consultation. Further EIA work will support options for re-modelling the service.

## 5.4 Sustainability Implications:

The consultation will explore the opportunities to consolidate the service into fewer buildings which in turn would reduce fuel consumption and bills e.g. fewer food shopping trips, less vehicles.

## 5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

People living in larger housing accommodation may feel a greater sense of personal security. Use of assistive technology may also enable a greater sense of security for individuals e.g. alarms to inform door or windows left open etc.

## 5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

The consultation will be carried out with all affected stakeholders in order to fully explore models for future accommodation and to develop and fully inform options in order for a decision to be made at a future CMM.

## 5.7 Public Health Implications:

People living in our in-house accommodation are some of the most vulnerable people in the City and staff work proactively with health colleagues to improve residents health and well-being.

5.8 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

Accommodation services are currently provided in fifteen buildings across the City.

**6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

The consultation process will aim to explore alternative models of accommodation which will meet the needs of the service users whilst delivering improved value for money.

**7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The decision is sought to carry out a full consultation with stakeholders before developing a 2 year plan that delivers a more cost effective service that is re-focused on supporting people with complex needs, and challenging behaviour, and supporting people to move-on and increase their independence.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices: Appendix A: Equalities Impact Assessment**

**Documents in Members' Rooms**

1. None.

**Background Documents**

1. None.

