

ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 76

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Daily Living Centre
Date of Meeting: 24th April 2009
Report of: Director Adult Social Care & Housing
Contact Officer: Name: Karin Divall Tel: 29-4478
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Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The Daily Living Centre is based in a privately rented business unit and the lease expires in October 2009.
- 1.2 This lease expiry provides an opportunity to explore whether there is a better location for the DLC which provides improved value for money and improved access.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member agrees the relocation of the Daily Living Centre.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 In the first six months of 2007/8 the DLC received 1,370 visitors, 1,990 phone calls and 1,131 enquiries by post. Customer feedback is excellent and people who visited the DLC found this to be a valuable source of information (100% of people completing the survey). There are however issues regarding location, accessibility and noise levels from an exercise studio above the centre.
- 3.2 The service costs an annual £100,000 which funds the staff team and the building rental. The DLC is based within Hove Business Park, on a 5 year lease which expires in October 2009. The service stands alone with its own management arrangements and therefore is expensive to run costing about £36 per visitor.

- 3.3 The expiry of the lease provides an opportunity to review the location of the DLC. And a suitable alternative venue has been identified at Montague House Resource Centre. Although the space available is less than currently available, there is adequate room to provide a useful service and in a more accessible location.
- 3.4 Montague House Resource Centre currently accommodates the Assessment Team for people with Physical Disabilities, the Sensory Team, and the Occupational Therapy Initial Response Team providing daily living aids and equipment. The Day Service provides a traditional day service for Disabled Adults but is also developing improved outreach and reablement work. By relocating the Daily Living Centre and Montague House together there are opportunities to develop a user led service which brings together a range of services for Disabled Adults as a centre of excellence.
- 3.5 An Equalities Baseline Assessment has been completed and this identified that service users find it difficult to visit the DLC by public transport, and that the parking bays are taken by people not using the DLC. An opportunity was also identified to develop a mobile DLC and to better promote the service, and the co-location of the DLC within Montague House could enable this service to be developed.
- 3.6 By relocating the Daily Living Centre at Montague House this will provide better value for money as there will not need to be a separate manager for the building and there will not be extra service charges or rental costs.
- 3.7 Work is currently underway to enable service users of Montague House day Service to volunteer at Tower House Day Service for Older people. Similar opportunities would be available for service users to volunteer at the DLC and thereby learn new employment skills.
- 3.8 Closer links have been developed between the Federation for Disabled People and Montague House Day Service including information and advice services run by the Federation for service users. The Federation are interested in opportunities to link more with the DLC and to promote the availability and sale of daily living equipment.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation with the service users at Montague House Day Service was carried out during February and no issues were raised about the impact on existing services at Montague House. The comments received included.....

“I have been unable to visit the D L C as it is not on a bus route” C W

“ I was not aware a service like this is available, it is a good idea, and I would use it” J S

“ I went there once by taxi, but it cost me a lot of money” J C

“ It would be a great asset for the resource centre” P P. JFS. AC

“ Would an O T be available to discuss issues with us?” D C

- 4.2 Consultation was carried out with services who use the DLC during March and the only concern raised was that the space at Montague House is slightly smaller than that currently provided at Hove Business Park. We are therefore responding to this by reviewing the equipment provided, carrying out house-keeping to

remove any redundant equipment and will continue to meet with services who use the DLC during the relocation to ensure that a full range of equipment that meets their needs is available at the new location.

- 4.3 The Brighton & Hove Federation of Disabled People are also aware of the planned relocation of the service and are interested in developing equipment services, for example by selling equipment, once the new service is established.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The relocation of the Daily Living Centre to Montague House will support Value for Money through delivery of efficiency savings estimated at £40,000 and making better use of assets. The works required to support the move will be managed within the budget.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley Date: 26th March 2009

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 This report describes the re-location of the Daily Living Centre to a more accessible location. Full and proper consultation has been undertaken, in accordance with Human Rights Act principles. There are no other specific legal implications arising from this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Sandra O'Brien. Date: 7th April 2009

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 An Equalities Baseline assessment has been carried out for the DLC and some of the areas for development are incorporated in this report. Montague House provides a well resourced and accessible building for disabled people.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The relocation of the DLC at Montague House maximises the use of the building and provides a long term location within an existing council building.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The building at Montague House provides a safe and secure resource for disabled and vulnerable people.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The location of the service within a council building reduces risk of losing services and provides better value for money.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The service provides a city wide service and the location in Kempt Town is better served by public transport than the existing service in Hove so should provide a more accessible service for people across the city.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The other option is to remain at Hove Business Park but this does not provide a value for money option or ideal location.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 There is an opportunity with the expiry of the lease to review an alternative location of the DLC.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None