



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE AND BANSTEAD)

CONSULTATION ON IMPROVEMENTS TO LEARNING DISABILITY DAY SERVICES

22 SEPTEMBER 2008

KEY ISSUE

Surrey County Council is consulting on proposals to improve in-house learning disability day services. The consultation started on 14 July 2008 and will end on 14 November 2008.

SUMMARY

The consultation document, *Choice, Independence, Rights and Control* (July 2008) details proposals for the future provision of learning disability day services in Surrey. Surrey County Council currently operates seven day services including Bentley in Banstead and Colebrook in Redhill. Full details regarding the current services provided and other background information can be found in the consultation document (**circulated separately to Members**).

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Reigate and Banstead) is asked to:

- (i) Comment on the information provided in the consultation document on improvements to day services for people with learning disabilities across Surrey.
- (ii) Comment on proposals for the Bentley day service in Banstead to become a 'Centre of Excellence' for people with complex needs.

- (iii) Comment on proposals for a greater range of services for people in Reigate and Banstead in their local communities. This will result in the building based services at Colebrook and Bentley being replaced by a range of community based activities.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Proposals to improve learning disability day services

Surrey County Council has been working for over ten years to change the way day services are offered to people with learning disabilities. This has seen services increasingly offered away from the main day centre buildings and throughout local communities.

In 2007, as part of the Council Transformation programme, a project team was formed to look at proposals for further improvements to services. These proposals for change and improvement are consistent with Surrey County Council's move towards greater personalisation and choice in the delivery of social care services. The proposals aim to meet the government's desire for improvements to the lives of people with learning disabilities as detailed in the White Paper *Valuing People* (2001) and consultation document *Valuing People Now* (2007).

1.2 What are the proposals?

The proposals are for:

- **Community Activities:** The development of more services in local communities so people have more choice about how to spend their time.
- **Centres of Excellence:** The development of four buildings with specialist facilities and improved services for people with profound and multiple complex needs. We are proposing that four of the current day services are developed as Centres of Excellence. These are Bentley in Banstead, the Harbour in Milford, Fernleigh in Walton on Thames and Cranstock in Woking.

2 ANALYSIS

2.1 Why are we making these proposals?

Although services have changed significantly over recent years, we are currently faced with a number of challenges:

- **More people** will need services in the future as people with learning disabilities are generally living longer.

- The **buildings** services are offered from are segregated from other parts of the community. Some of the buildings are in need of renovation and don't always fully meet the needs of the people who use them.
- Some buildings have limited specialist facilities and resources for people with **multiple complex needs**.
- Currently people have limited choices to become **active citizens** within their communities.
- Services are reliant on **expensive and segregated transport** networks and there is limited opportunity for people to travel on public transport with or without supporting staff.
- **Staffing and management structures** need to be reviewed to meet future challenges.

2.2 Day services for people with learning disabilities in Reigate and Banstead

Approximately 850 people receive a service in Surrey County Council run day services. Of these, around 150 are resident in Reigate and Banstead, concentrated in Banstead, Reigate, Redhill and Horley. People who live in Banstead mainly use services provided by Bentley day service and people who live in Reigate, Redhill and Horley mainly use services provided by Colebrook day services.

Over recent years, services have started to be developed to meet the needs of people in their local communities.

- **Banstead:** A range of local activities is coordinated from the Banstead site. A high emphasis is placed on developing opportunities for work and volunteering and these include The Horseshoe Café, T3 [a training project working with local groups and Surrey County Council departments] and a furniture restoration and transport service. Horticulture teams are based in Banstead and support local residents. Links have been established with several local charities and service users have provided a range of support for these from fundraising to working in offices and shops.

Leisure and wellbeing is supported and extensive use is made of Banstead Leisure Centre for swimming activities.

There is close partnership working with East Surrey College Adult Community Learning department and a range of courses are about to start in community venues in the Banstead area as well as ongoing access to courses at NESCOL.

A wide range of creative and performing arts are provided including performances at Epsom Playhouse.

- **Redhill/Reigate** Acting as a hub for the coordination of services across the area, and working in partnership with a range of organisations including East Surrey College/Adult Community Learning, Colebrook facilitates and/or directly supports people to access a range of community based activities including Drama and Cinema (Harlequin Theatre, Snooker (Frames), Golf (Redhill Golf Centre), Allotment (Wiggie Lane/Frenches Lodge), Hydrotherapy and Gym (RNIB), Art (Oakley Centre), Walking Group. It is also the base for the Garden Centre and its thriving stall in Redhill Market as well as Firestone Rock Band (FRB) that is, in addition to its performance work, developing a broad repertoire of tailor made 'music making' workshops in collaboration with schools throughout Surrey including The Warwick, Redhill. Currently in excess of 70 people supported by Colebrook attend courses provided by, and planned in collaboration with ESC/ACL
- **Horley**, Taking a community development to partnership working, and with East Surrey College in particular, we are now supporting people to access Pottery (Mudpie), Drama (Archway Theatre), Sugarcraft (Inspired Creations/SeeAbility), Work Awareness (Horley Library), Gentle Fitness (The Keyes) and Gym and Swimming (Anderson Centre)
- **Outside Reigate and Banstead:** There are also other community activities that people resident in Reigate and Banstead use. For example, people use the activities run by Colebrook Day Services as part of their Caterham Locality Service, and at the Mulberry Centre located in Dorking Mole Valley

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The following consultation events listed below are taking place in the Reigate and Banstead area. Feedback from the consultation events held in all of the local areas will be passed onto the central project team who will incorporate the information in the final report to the Surrey County Council Executive and Adults and Community Care Select Committee.

Consultation events:

- Parents and carers meeting management at the day services
- Regular meetings for service users facilitated by independent advocates to discuss the proposals
- Regular briefings for the staff team at the dayservices
- One to one sessions for Carers' with the Day Service Manager on request
- Local Valuing People Group meetings

www.surreycc.gov.uk/reigateandbanstead

- Local meetings of Mencap groups
- Other representative groups as requested

We have also arranged 'Come and Try it' events for services users from day services to try different events in other parts of Surrey. For example, people from Reigate and Banstead who use the Colebrook services are aiming to try the 'Snoezelen' Room at Cranstock, Woking, meet up with the Starstruck Drama Company at Fairways, Staines, try their hand at Printmaking at Lockwood, Guildford, or working in the Horseshoe Café at Bentley.

In return Colebrook will be hosting days sharing the joys of allotment holding with the Garden Centre, music making with FRB, and creativity through Sugarcraft.

There will also be roadshows events across the county for people to hear about the proposals and to feedback their views. At these events there will be stands, presentations and workshops and a chance to ask staff and managers more about the proposals. The events will be on:

- Friday 5 September at Guildford Spectrum 13.00 to 18.00
- Thursday 25 September at Staines Spelthorne Leisure Centre 13.00 to 18.00
- Tuesday 30 September at Redhill Harlequin Theatre 13.00 to 18.00
- Friday 17 October at Chertsey Runnymede Centre 11.00 to 15.00
- Thursday 23 October at Woking Leisure Centre 13.00 to 18.00

In addition to the roadshows there will be a Travel Challenge day on 4 September where people from all of the day services will try to travel by means other than normal day service transport from their homes to Leatherhead Leisure Centre. The aim of the event is to introduce people to travel independently and also encourage people to take up the concessionary bus pass offered by District and Borough Councils. Lunch will be provided for all who arrive at Leatherhead Leisure Centre.

4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Proposals for the delivery of future services are to remain within existing budgets. Further proposals will be supported by a detailed business case when presented to the Surrey County Council Executive after the consultation.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 People with learning disabilities often do not receive the same choices and opportunities in life as everyone else. Our proposals are aimed at ensuring that the people we serve are treated fairly and receive greater choice and opportunity. We are looking to develop services that reflect the ethnic mix of people in Surrey

We have ensured that all consultation material is easily accessible and distributed to all people affected by the proposals. We have set up a dedicated consultation web site with accessible and easy to understand material at www.aboutus.org.uk and we have also put easy to understand information on the main Surrey County Council website.

We have ensured that service users can have their say about the proposals with the support of independent advocacy services and staff that they know within the dayservices.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Although people with learning disabilities do not present any significant crime and disorder implications, they may be subject to hate crime because of their disability. *Valuing People Now* (2007, page 71-73) notes that many people do not feel safe in their local communities due to hate crime, which can vary from being called a name to serious physical assault.

The Learning Disability Partnership Board in Surrey has commissioned a piece of work to develop a 'Hate Crime Training Pack' in cooperation with Surrey Police. The Partnership Board is working to ensure that Hate Crime awareness is promoted and that people with learning disabilities who use our services know what to do to report it to the Police.

7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Members are asked to comment on the proposals as detailed in the consultation document Choice, independence, rights and control.
- 7.2 Members are asked to comment on proposals for Bentley in Banstead to become a 'Centre of Excellence' for people with multiple and complex support needs.
- 7.3 Members are asked to comment on proposals for a greater range of community activities, building on work already started. This will result in the building based services at Colebrook and Bentley being replaced by a range of community based activities.

8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The recommendations support efforts to give people with learning disabilities greater choice in how they spend their time and a better level of care for those with complex and multiple support needs.

9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 The consultation will continue until 14 November. We are presenting our proposals and seeking feedback from all eleven Surrey County

Council local committees during the consultation period, starting with Waverley on 12 September and ending with Woking on 20 October. We will also update the Surrey County Council Adults and Community care Select Committee at their meeting at County Hall on 3 September.

After the consultation, we will review all of the feedback and present further proposals to the Surrey County Council Executive in 2009.

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- BACKGROUND PAPERS:**
- Choice, Independence, Rights and Control (July 2008) Dayservices Consultation document
 - Day Services Consultation Newsletter 1 (July 2008)
 - Surrey County Council Officer report to Executive dated June 24 2008
 - Surrey County Council Adults and Community Care Select Committee report dated May 29 2008
 - Surrey County Council Adults and Community Care Select Committee report dated 2 April
 - Valuing People Now (2007)
 - Valuing People (2001)
- FOR MORE INFORMATION**
- www.aboutus.org.uk (Select 'Your Say, What Way Consultation')
 - www.surreypb.org.uk (Select 'Dayservices Consultation' from the main menu)
 - www.surreycc.gov.uk (Choose About Your Council/Consultations/Improvements to Learning Disability day Services)
 - E-mail feedback to socialcare.dayservices@surreycc.gov.uk or leave a message on 0845 24 66 226