



REPORT TO THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM

REVIEW OF THE BUCKS DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTRE

Background

At the last meeting of the Forum a brief report was presented which gave members an update on the independent appraisal of the Bucks Disability resource Centre (BDRC). The consultant's final report was received and discussed at the Partnership Development Fund Steering Group meeting on 4th January. The BDRC represents a significant capital investment from the Fund (formerly joint finance) and there have been long-standing questions about this investment. The Partnership Forum commissioned the review on 19/7/00 to provide objective expert opinion as to whether the service provided by the BDRC is:

- Consistent with national and local strategies
- Capable of being managed by an identified user group
- Viable and sustainable from a practical and financial point of view
- Meeting the needs of disabled people
- Meeting the objectives for which finance was allocated
- Meeting the needs of the county as a whole
- Based on good practice

The Executive Summary of the 47 page report is appended to this report **(Appendix A)**.

Conclusions of the Partnership Development Fund Steering Group

The PDFSG (formerly the Joint Finance Steering Group) received the report directly from Nigel King, the Consultant employed to undertake this work. The review had been overseen by Bucks Community Action (BCA) through a project group chaired by the Chief Executive of BCA. Throughout, there had been particular emphasis on the rigour and independent quality of the review, so that whatever the outcome, all stakeholders could be assured the process

had been fair and objective. To this end, BCA has produced a Community Governance Report (**Appendix B**).

After detailed discussion to ensure the Partnership Development Fund group fully understood the report's conclusions and recommendations, the PDFSG proposed the following:

1. The consultant's report should be circulated to tenants and stakeholders, in particular those who were involved in contributing to the review.
2. That the Forum communicates to the current tenants and stakeholders its clear commitment to sustain the concept of a resource service with their input and close involvement.
3. To establish the resource centre as a company limited by guarantee with facilitation from BCA.
4. To establish a steering group, drawn from the existing Project Group, with representation from the tenant group and service users.
5. To recruit an independent centre manager for a 2 year period in the first instance, to develop the strategy and business case, with a work programme principally based on the recommendations described in the review report as Option 3.
6. That funding for the above is identified from the residual uncommitted funding from the original allocation.

Although the Forum has no statutory responsibility for the Partnership Development Fund, given the unusual history of this project, the importance of close partnership working in the success of the BDRC, and the part that it will play in the development of a county-wide joint strategy for people with physical disabilities, the Forum is asked to confirm its support for these recommendations.

JPR Spargo
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Appendix A: Executive Summary of the Appraisal of the BDRC

Appendix B: Community Governance Report