

The Future of Day Services in Buckinghamshire

Final Decision

March 2011

At Cabinet on 21 March Buckinghamshire County Council agreed the business plan for the future direction of day services.

The *Having a Good Day* consultation held between June and September last year provoked a high response and voiced the major concerns of service-users and carers as well as community groups and organisations involved in the service and their local communities.

During the consultation it was made clear that we could not leave Day Services unchanged, but the responses received have critically informed plans for the future to address the issues raised in the best possible way.

A major factor for change is the introduction of Self Directed Support, and the Personalisation of Social Care. This means all local authorities must promote choice and control for service users, usually through a Direct Payment, with which to purchase their services. However, by law, these cannot be spent on services provided by the County Council. Therefore the way in which Day Service are delivered must be changed.

By releasing the funding locked up in directly provided services the future plans will deliver significant ongoing savings and ensure value-for-money. They will establish a service that supports Personalisation and Self Directed Support with the increased focus on people taking their personal budgets as a Direct Payment and develop a wider range of services that people will want to buy.

Change is also driven by the predicated increase in the number of people with highly complex, long term disabilities with which they will require support over a number of years. This increase in the complexity of demand will take place within an aging population and Day Services provision must respond to the challenges posed.

The decision by Cabinet is as follows:

- 1. To provide six specialist Day Opportunities Centres to be located in: Aylesbury - Amersham/Chesham - Beaconsfield - Buckingham - Burnham – Wycombe**

These will support people with complex disabilities, as well as offering a wider community resource such as One Stop Shops and Centres for Independent Living.

We are looking into the potential use of current sites for the new centres at Hartwell Day Centre in Aylesbury, Orchard House in High Wycombe, Seeleys House in Beaconsfield and Amersham Library. In addition, we are actively exploring options for sites in Buckingham. While it is anticipated that some of the existing Day Centre sites will be used to develop the new centres, the final decision for all sites is yet to be made.

Additionally, the Council is working with community groups in Princes Risborough, Bourne End and Chesham, who have shown an interest in managing some elements of day service in their locality.

2. A network of Community Bases

These will be the default provision situated in local community centres, village halls, leisure facilities, etc. and be places where people can meet and/or use as starting points for other activities within the local community.

The Council has already agreed as part of its capital programme to fund up to £6.5million to support these plans, as well as the use of the proceeds from the sale of those buildings released.

The locations of the Day Opportunities Centres have been chosen to be close to areas of greatest demand. This will shorten journey lengths and times for most people who need a building-based provision. In many cases service-users currently travel longer distances than they should to reach a day centre.

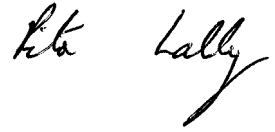
The programme for the redevelopment of day services and the Day Opportunities Centres will begin with immediate effect but will take three to four years to complete. It will take several weeks before a detailed work programme has been put in place and this will be made available.

The development programme will, importantly, include transition arrangements for those currently using Day Centres and we will keep service-users, carers, service providers and staff fully informed on what is happening and when. All service-users will be re-assessed so that the most appropriate service is identified and planned with and for them. We also want to make sure that service-users and carers are involved in helping us to develop the design of the new buildings and what the new services will provide.

The Cabinet Report provides more detail about the proposals and can be viewed on the internet using the following link:

[http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/moderngov/Published/C00000124/M00004530/AI00016208/\\$CabinetReport21stMach2011final.docA.ps.pdf](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/moderngov/Published/C00000124/M00004530/AI00016208/$CabinetReport21stMach2011final.docA.ps.pdf)

We believe that the new plans for day services, while representing a significant and radical change, are essential to ensure a modern, affordable, sustainable and quality service for our most vulnerable clients. I hope that you will embrace these changes and work with us to ensure the health and wellbeing of vulnerable adults in Buckinghamshire.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the first name 'Rita' and the last name 'Lally' written in a cursive style.

Rita Lally
Strategic Director
Adults & Family Wellbeing