

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

DAY SERVICES REMODEL

Following a series of consultation events with service users, carers and staff, the new day services were launched on Monday 4th April. This meant the permanent closure of Mill Hill Day Centre which temporarily relocated in August 2010, along with the closure of Tower View Day Centre and the service delivered from the Accrington Road Community Centre base. Services are now amalgamated and delivered from just two settings – Hopwood Court (William Hopwood Street, Blackburn) and Stansfeld Centre (Stansfeld Street, Blackburn).

In addition to preparation work with these stakeholders, some minor alterations to buildings and planning with our colleagues in transport has taken place in order to ensure a smooth transition.

Employees have been allocated to the new services according to their skills, training, knowledge of service users and contracted hours, to achieve a balance of full and part time staff required to meet the service's requirements. The majority of service users have moved together to retain friendships. A small number have gone to the other service with staff who know them to meet their particular needs.

Initially all timetabled activities will continue as normal but it is planned that after a settling in period, timetables will merge and people will have an extended range of activities to participate in, both in the centres and more so in the wider community.

Tower View Day Centre will remain available as a polling station for the forthcoming elections.

The transition has so far proven successful, and service users and their carers are satisfied with the new services.

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN LOCAL SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD, SAFEGUARDING ADULTS MULTI AGENCY POLICY (FEBRUARY 2011)

The Safeguarding Adults Board Members have agreed a new Safeguarding Adults Multi Agency Policy. The aim of this policy is to support organisations and staff working with, or in contact with, adults at risk of abuse and/or neglect in Blackburn with Darwen. It is vital that staff understand their role and responsibilities and work in ways that safeguard those adults, whilst assisting them to remain in control of their own decisions.

All partner organisations have agreed to play an active part in the Local Safeguarding Adults Board and to safeguard adults in Blackburn with Darwen by working to the following principles:

- People have the right to live free from abuse in all its forms, including discrimination on the grounds of age, gender, sexual orientation, religious persuasion, racial origin, ethnic group, cultural and linguistic heritage.
- People have the right to decide how they live and the risks they take in their lives without outside intervention, provided they do not harm others and provided there is no evidence to suggest that they are the victim of a criminal offence or are putting themselves in danger because they do not have the mental capacity to make that decision.
- People who are at risk, with or without decision making mental capacity, have the right to be offered, and where necessary receive prompt and skilled intervention to safeguard them from abuse.

The policy defines adults at risk as those who:

- (a) are unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests,
- (b) are at risk of harm, and
- (c) because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

Following case review activity in Blackburn with Darwen the policy also covers situations in which eligible individuals self neglect.

REABLEMENT SERVICE – NORTH WEST JOINT IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP (NW JIP) REPORT – MARCH 2011

The North West Joint Improvement Partnership (NW JIP) has produced a positive report on the Council's Reablement service. The report follows on from NW JIP's initial visit in November 2009. The key points from the report state that Blackburn with Darwen's Reablement team:

- Have set up a single, clear point of access into the service.
- Have implemented a service expectation where virtually all referrals are given the opportunity to access the Reablement service prior to receiving a full assessment for other services.
- Have ensured all staff groups are appropriately trained in the delivery of Reablement.
- Have explored the links with telecare/telehealth/community alarms by working with another Care Services Efficiencies Delivery consultant.
- Have seen an increased performance in volume and effectiveness of Reablement.
- The Council has a well thought out approach to promoting Reablement based on partnership working and the engagement of local people and communities.
- The team have ensured that the service operates as efficiently as possible, and provides value for money.

PERSONALISATION AND PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

Personalisation requires the Council to:

- Provide sufficient information, advice and support for all those seeking help to remain independent in the community, including self funders.
- Enable all people who are assessed as eligible for support from social care services to have access to a personal budget so that they can, if they wish, take greater control of and manage their own care and support arrangements.

There are three main actions needed to enable the Council to meet the needs identified by end users and their families and to safeguard the Council.

- The need for alternative accredited services that both end users can trust and the Council can be confident in funding.
- The need for information, advice and guidance on the services available from an independent and trusted source.
- An allocation of resources that accurately reflects individual needs.

The current programme of work to establish a Centre for Independent Living through a partnership arrangement with the voluntary sector, that can accredit and support new providers and provide information, advice and support to end users is progressing.

The Self Directed Support (SDS) team in conjunction with the Council's legal and procurement services has issued an expression of interest for providers of personal assistants. Thirteen organisations have submitted their proposals and the selection and accreditation of those who meet the criteria will be completed in early May. It is anticipated that a range of providers offering very different services and specialisms will be accredited in the borough.

Having now implemented the first accreditation of this type, it is hoped that the SDS team will expand into the Centre for Independent Living, in partnership with the voluntary sector, to carry out the accreditation of support brokers and individual personal assistants during the summer and ensure that the information needed to keep the 'Your support, your choice' website up to date is collected and validated.

The Resource Allocation System (RAS) is coming close to completion and a report for decision will go to Executive Board in June, which means that customers in the borough seeking help and support will be able to access information, advice and support to a new range of services with their personal budgets through a more robust formal resource allocation system in the summer.