



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF: Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Adult Services & Prevention

DATE: Insert

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Health and Adult Social Care

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT: St Aiden's Short Break Service – Building Remodelling.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

St Aiden's is a Short Break Service for Adults who have a Learning Disability and Autism. The resource comprises of six bedrooms and an apartment. The current facilities do not accommodate safely the needs of more complex people with behavioural issues for which there is a growing demand for support.

As such, commissioners are needing to purchase expensive out of borough services when, with some investment people could be accommodated and appropriately cared for within St Aiden's.

This proposal presents a redesign of the apartment in line with Best Practice and will provide an appropriate environment for crisis and planned short break care for people with very complex challenging needs.

This proposal is supported by a further report. This will be presented for a decision by the Executive Member for Health & Adult Social Care in March 2019. This report will outline an aligned plan to review and enhance the current staffing available at St Aiden's to reduce the reliance on expensive, external commissions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

- 1) Approves the Extension and redesign of St Aiden's.
- 2) Supports the expenditure from DFG Capital Grant.

3. BACKGROUND

St Aiden's is a residential short term break service that provides care to adults with learning disabilities and autism. St Aiden's existing layout is 'L-shaped' with 6 bedrooms with en-suite (1 bedroom with bath facilities), one apartment, communal kitchen, 2 lounges, visitor/communal WC, laundry and store, staff accommodation and office.

All bedrooms are located along the external wall to maximise natural light in to the rooms. The existing apartment is located to the far end of the 'L-shaped', building with separate double door access point. Currently service users enter to the main entrance of the building.

Over the last six months, the team at St Aiden's has worked hard to increase occupancy figures for short breaks as the building was only averaging 65% use. This was hard to understand given the assessed needs of

service users in the Borough and the distribution of Respite Vouchers.

The under occupancy is related to two areas, the physical layout of the estate to appropriately accommodate crisis and planned respite for service users that require behavioural interventions to be managed safely and also current staffing levels (the latter will be addressed in a separate report).

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The demand for services for people with complex needs is increasing and commissioners are often having to resort to commissioning high cost, out of Borough, or one to one packages with specialist providers. This is due to the current in house offer not being fit for purpose.

Preventing admissions to long term care and hospital is a key component to the directorates demand management strategy and it is important for complex people living within families to be able to access regular breaks from demanding caring roles.

As part of the Boroughs strategic vision, we are striving to provide services as close to people's home and community.

Best practice in managing service users with learning disability and autism, has highlighted that need for people to be cared for in environments that are conducive to managing their behaviour safely. This relates to providing –

- low stimulus design schemes.
- Robust build and furniture that is resistant to damage.
- Ensuring that the space where people are cared for have two exits.
- Areas where staff can break out and where service users can be safely left to de-escalate any behaviours whilst being observed.
- Floor space areas that facilitate any physical intervention that is required.
- Separate entrance with own staffing facilities but with access to additional staffing as required.
- Outside space to offer opportunities to exercise and relax.

In recognition of the limitations of what St Aiden's can currently offer, a small project group including specialist input from the Learning Disability Health Team, have worked with the Council's Architects to re design the current apartment to accommodate the best practice standards described above.

The Strategic Commissioning Team have been tracking demand for specialist respite environments and care to support the need for the service and to support the business decision to provide these services in-house to ensure there is a responsive, safe quality service. The proposal ensures that the council has a safety net to provide emergency and planned care for some of its most vulnerable people.

This remodelling proposal will be accompanied by a proposal to enhance the staffing structure at St Aiden's as currently externally commissioned staff from private agencies are needed to supplement the staffing for individual service users who are safe to accommodate within the existing apartment.

The re design would comprise of a modest 3m extension to the existing apartment, internal reconfiguration of space and the creation of a separate entrance and parking space from the adjacent road.

The design creates a flexible space that can still be linked and used as part of the main buildings as required.

Planning permission has been submitted and the current schedule would look for completion of the works July/August 19.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The provision of emergency and short break service within the Borough is consistent with our demand management policies and supports families of young people transitioning into adulthood as per SEND strategy.

The provision would seek to address the needs of people currently included in the Transforming Care National strategy and the future Integrated Care System Commissioning Strategy.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Capital funding is earmarked from within the total Disabled Facilities Grant allocation to support the build and the design requirements up to the value of £240k.

Remodelling of the staffing is being evaluated against current spend with external providers to create Best Value.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Appropriate Planning Applications are in place and are being managed by the Growth and Development Department.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The current project group will oversee the development with the support of appropriate council officers from the Growth and Development portfolio.

The DFG work will be carried out internally by BwD CBT Team.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 ☒ Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 ☐ In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 ☐ In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

As part of the Planning Application, normal consultation will be carried out.
Ward Councillors consulted as part of the process.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Suzanne Kinder
DATE:	30 th January 2019
BACKGROUND PAPER:	