

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council: 25 May 2011

Subject: Progress Report on the Reprovision of Auchentoshan Day Centre

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the re-provision of Auchentoshan Day Services.

2. Background

- 2.1** Elected members will be aware of the background to the current situation that, following the closure of the Auchentoshan Centre in 2009, a building in Dalmuir was identified as a replacement. However, due to current internal difficulties, this option is now unlikely to be progressed.
- 2.2** On 30 March 2011, an emergency motion was passed at the Full Council meeting requesting monthly updates on the reprovision of Auchentoshan Learning Disability Day Centre.
- 2.3** In addition to providing these monthly reports, Learning Disability Services (LDS) has been tasked with exploring suitable reprovision sites and reporting back to the Auchentoshan Steering Group chaired by Councillor Jonathan McColl.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Over the past 18 months, LDS have revisited the previous options explored prior to the Committee report of 18 February 2009. It has also taken the opportunity to explore any additional options. In particular, the needs of those on the Autistic Spectrum and those with complex disabilities remain the priority for the redevelopment of services.
- 3.2** Since the last Council meeting, the following developments have taken place:
- 3.3 Skypoint** - Arrangements were made for carers from the Steering Group to view the space recently made available at Skypoint Community Centre, Faifley.

- 3.4** Following a generally favourable response from the carers, meetings and further viewings of the premises have taken place involving LDS, Architectural Services, quantity surveyors and engineers, with a view to developing plans for the conversion of the premises to a Day Centre, in line with a list of requirements drawn up by Learning Disability staff and the Steering Group.

At this time, subject to the full evaluation of the architectural scheme, the estimated capital costs to develop the accommodation at Skypoint are c £300,000. This sum excludes certain other costs such as professional costs and fees and any decant/removal costs. This would need to be met by an appropriate allocation in the Capital Plan for 11/12 which is due to be considered by Council on 29th June 2011.

- 3.5** A timetable has been agreed to report back on the progress of this work to all stakeholders, starting with presentation of the plans to a meeting of the Auchentoshan Steering Group on May 31st 2011. Also included will be feedback on the suitability of any other options explored.
- 3.6** Learning Disability Services have been assured that outline plans for the conversion of the Skypoint facility will be ready for May 20th 2011 and LDS intend to consult with the wider carers' group once these plans are available.
- 3.7** In addition to the drawing up of plans for the conversion of the Skypoint premises, LDS are assessing the staffing implications of developing an additional facility in the Clydebank area
- 3.8** In view of the current interest in developing Skypoint for use as a venue, LDS, in collaboration with relevant other Council departments, hope to be in a position to present the June Council meeting with outline costings of the project.
- 3.9** In addition and at the behest of the Steering Group, a manager from Learning Disabilities Services visited currently vacant office premises at Aurora Buildings, Queen's Way, Clydebank, to assess its suitability as a replacement for the Auchentoshan Centre. In summary, although the premises had some advantages, such as ample car parking and being adjacent to other key facilities such as Clydebank College, its lack of accessible personal care facilities and lack of specialist dietary catering were major disadvantages.

4. Consultation

- 4.1** Throughout the Auchentoshan redesign process, consultation has been recognised as a key feature. The Auchentoshan Steering Group, comprising of Elected Members, Carers, Staff, Service User representation, Trade Unions and Officers, continues to meet on a regular basis. Service user consultation is ongoing and is supported by Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service through the Service User Network (SUN) group. The steering group has met twice this year so far, and continues to explore possible alternative venues in Clydebank. Its last meeting, on 29 March, heard reports on the outcome of officers' investigation of several more options, as described above.
- 4.2** Given the recent developments involving Skypoint as a potential alternative day centre venue, consultation with service users and carers, will be focussed towards such a possibility.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** As outlined in the report to Committee of 15 December 2010, there are no immediate effects on Council employees as a result of delay in reprovision, other than those employees who were previously located within Auchentoshan and who are now currently elsewhere within the Learning Disability service, will remain redeployed.
- 5.2** As previously stated, LDS will carry out a full review of the implications for the staffing of any new centre in Clydebank, based on the needs of those service users who are likely to transfer to the new facility.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** The delay in reprovision will have no significant effect on the revenue budget for 2011/12.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** As outlined in the report to Committee of 15 December 2010, the service is currently provided within the Dumbarton Centre and at locality services in the Clydebank area. The service users remain settled within these services where their needs are met and therefore any risks are low.
- 7.2** There is a risk of increased anxiety on the part of families and carers as a result of the uncertainty surrounding this project. It is hoped, however, that regular reports to Council, will serve to mitigate this risk and keep all stakeholders informed of progress on the issues involved.

- 7.3 Ensuring the safety and security of all stakeholders is of prime importance in developing any new day service provision and will be thoroughly assessed in relation to all venues under consideration.

8. Equalities, Health & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1 No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this particular report which is an update report only. Prior to any decision, a full EIA will require to be conducted.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.1 As set out above a detailed proposal to develop accommodation at Skypoint is to be presented to the Auchentoshan Steering Group at a meeting on 31st May 2011. This will include information on costs, timescales and the range, scope and scale of the service that could be provided from the Skypoint location.
- 9.2 Should these proposals be supported by the Steering Group then it would be expected the report presented to the June Council meeting would include recommendations in respect of both the required Capital Funding and information on the recurring revenue budget that would be required for the redeveloped service.

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Date: 19 May 2011

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Appendix: Cost estimate

Background Papers: Report to Council 27th April 2011.

Wards Affected: All Wards