

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Report by the Chief Executive**

**Council : 29 June 2011**

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**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 whereby, following the closure of the Auchentoshan Centre in 2009, a building in Dalmuir was identified as a replacement whereupon, due to a current internal investigation, this option is now unable 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.

### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** Over the past 18 months LDS have re-visited the previous options explored prior to the Committee Report of 18 February 2009. It has also taken the opportunity to explore any additional options.

The premises being considered need to be assessed against their suitability to meet the needs of complex and challenging learning and physical disabilities including with those on the Autistic Spectrum and those with complex disabilities remaining the priority for the redevelopment of services.

- 3.2** Since the last Council meeting, therefore, the following developments have taken place:

- 3.3 Skypoint** – The May report to Council estimated capital costs, to develop the accommodation at Skypoint, at circa £300,000, This has recently been updated by Architectural Services to circa £336,000, including preliminary works (15%) plus contingencies (5%). 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 2011/12 which is due to be considered by Council on 29 June 2011.

This development could be delivered within a 9 to 12 month period from the date of approval.

- 3.4** The Auchentoshan Steering Group, comprising elected members, carers, officers and Independent Advocacy, met on May 31<sup>st</sup> to consider the plans for Skypoint, along with other possible venues.
- 3.5** While it was recognised that a new centre could be developed within Skypoint, The Steering Group was not of the view that it should be adopted as the preferred option at this time without further exploration of the following premises:
- 3.6 Aurora Buildings, Queen's Way, Clydebank** – There has been a variety of conflicting information about the suitability of this building for the purpose of a day centre. Members of the Steering Group are going to meet with Clydebank Rebuilt to gain clarity on the possibilities and limitations of this option.
- 3.7 Davie Cooper Centre, Clydebank** – Planning permission for this facility was granted last November and, the Steering Group instructed LDS to make inquiries as to its suitability and its timescale for availability.
- 3.8** In addition to the above, officers were asked to re-visit the Dunn Street, Dalmuir development, possibly in partnership with the local housing associations.

Members should be aware that there are ongoing title and audit investigations surrounding the Dunn Street property, the former is unlikely to be categorically resolved within a short timescale and accordingly the Steering Group should be advised that Dunn Street cannot be pursued as an option within any foreseeable future.

#### **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 Council 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 three times this year so far and continues to explore possible alternative venues in Clydebank. Its last meeting, on May 31<sup>st</sup>, heard reports on the outcome of officers' investigation of several more options, as described above.

- 4.2** Wider consultation and information sharing with the various stakeholder groups involved, including service users, carers and staff, continues and will become more focused when a decision is made about which option to pursue. Information sharing meetings will be held with staff and service users in early June.

## **5. People Implications**

- 5.1** There are no immediate effects on Council employees as a result of delay in re-provision, 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** For service users, the delay encountered as a result of the issues highlighted above will mean they will remain at the current locations for day services.
- 5.3** LDS will continue its review of staffing compliments in light of a potential requirement to re-staff a Clydebank service.

## **6. Financial Implications**

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

Based on the estimates to develop the Skypoint facility a provisional allowance has been included in the Capital Plan for the current year.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

- 7.1** As previously reported, 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 involved in developing any new day service provision is of prime importance and will be thoroughly assessed in relation to all venues under consideration.

## **8. Equalities Impact**

**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** Learning Disabilities Services will continue to explore all available options for service redesign as directed by the Steering Group and elected members. We will work with colleagues across all Council departments to draw up plans and costings for any appropriate potential venues and provide monthly reports to Council.

**9.2** Council is asked to note the present position and to confirm that the Dunn Street, Dalmuir development cannot be pursued as an option for the re-provision of Auchentoshan.

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**David McMillan**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Date: 15 June 2011**

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**Appendix:** None

**Background Papers:**      None

**Wards Affected:**          All Wards