

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health

Social Work and Health Improvement Committee

18 November 2009

Subject: Progress Report on Reprovision of Auchentoshan Day Centre

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

- 2.1** On 18th February 2009 a report on the redesign of Auchentoshan Day Centre was considered by the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee. The decision of the Committee was as follows:

“Committee agrees the recommendations at 8.1 and 8.2 of the report of 18th February 2009; further to this it is the view of the Committee that carer and service user involvement will be key to the success of this development, both in terms of giving people a sense of ownership of the new Centre and developing a facility that fits the needs of service users not only today but for generations to come.

To this end, Committee agrees that an Auchentoshan Steering Group will be established to oversee the process; it will be responsible for ensuring relevant consultation takes place with carers and services users at each stage in the creation of the new Clydebanks Centre and will make recommendations to the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee as appropriate; and it will comprise of 6 carers, the Social Work and Health Improvement Convener, the Shadow Social Work and Health spokesman and one Councillor, and will have relevant officer and committee administration support.”

- 2.2** This report provides specific details of the current issues and updates members on the progress to date.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Following the Committee decisions of 18th February 2009 the Auchentoshan Steering Group has now been established. The Group consists of elected members, carers, council officers, service users are represented by Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service and staff have Union representation.
- 3.2** Since the 18th of February the Steering Group has met regularly. The focus of the Group has been to update members of the Group on the progress of the development of the building at Dunn Street in Dalmeir, consider models of service delivery and plan collaborative and partnership working opportunities

within the new service. The Group have had the opportunity to visit existing establishments recognised by the Care Commission as being examples of good practice, including the Dumbarton Centre. This has allowed them to make informed choices/suggestions for the new project development. Further visits are planned.

- 3.3** Consultation with service users has been led by Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service. The General Manager for Learning Disability Services and the Dumbarton Centre Manager were invited to and attended a Question and Answer session. Service users took part in a consultation day and produced a document of their findings (see Appendix 1). Service users also presented their findings to the steering group in their own Drama production.
- 3.4** In addition to the above, all Carers have had the opportunity to meet on an individual basis with management staff at the Dumbarton Centre to discuss the initial transition. Of the 28 people involved in the transfer to Dumbarton Centre 5 people chose to meet and all reported that they felt positive about the change and the process. 5 other carers chose not to meet but phoned the service to state their general satisfaction with the changes. 18 people did not respond. The Centre Manager will continue to liaise with all carers. The Steering Group is committed to meeting with the larger Carers group. A planned series of consultation meetings will be initiated following this Committee.
- 3.5** Throughout this process other interested parties such as the Care Commission, Health, Estates and Transport have also been consulted in order to achieve the best outcome for the new service.
- 3.6** A key area of discussion within the Steering Group has been around the Model of Service. Having a two campus Authority wide service will further compliment the existing high quality support on offer within the Dumbarton Centre. The new resource can be used to provide a base for adults with a learning disability from both the Clydebank and Dumbarton area.
- 3.7** In order to meet the specific needs of the people who will use the new resource the building will be:
- Open flexibly throughout the week;
 - Barrier free and fully adapted and will offer specialist facilities such as physiotherapy areas, specialist toilet and changing areas; and
 - The space is being planned to ensure the option of multi-usage so that resources are available to the wider community in Dalmuir/Clydebank. This is a model of community involvement and ownership which currently works well within the Dumbarton Centre.
- 3.8** This Model provides an exciting opportunity to develop specialist services and facilities which will enable service users who currently need to leave the Authority to receive a service from their local area. This will include those with complex disabilities and those on the Autistic Spectrum.

3.9 The Steering Group has considered the model of service for food preparation and meals. We are working with Dietetic colleagues to ensure that those service users who have specific dietary requirements will have their needs met. The central location of the project will allow us to fulfil our strong commitment to support local businesses.

3.10 In addition, the Project will provide further opportunities to explore partnership working with CHP Health colleagues and Carer Services, both of whom have expressed an interest in locating services within the Dalmuir Centre. This would have the added benefit of enhanced access to these services for people with a learning disability and their carers.

4. Personnel Implications

4.1 There is staff representation on the Steering Group from the Trade Unions. In addition, Learning Disability Service Management has met the staff team at Dumbarton Centre on a regular basis to ensure that they are updated about the progress of the project. It is expected that existing staff from Learning Disability Day Services will have the opportunity to transfer to the new service in Dalmuir.

4.2 In line with the new service model this presents an opportunity for the Learning Disability Service to review the existing management and support arrangements to ensure the most efficient and effective use of the staffing resource to ensure the best outcomes for people using the service.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Staffing costs will be met within existing Learning Disability Services staff levels. Pay modernisation may impact on cost depending on the model of service i.e. extended opening hours may require staff to be paid an unsociable hours allowance.

5.2 Due to the specialist nature of the service, the lease costs indicated in the Special Report presented to Committee on 18th February 2009 have now been amended. The current estimate for these costs is in the region of £90,000 per year. It is understood that once an agreement has been reached with the developer the Project could be completed within a 9 month period. Any timescales will be subject to appropriate planning processes.

5.3 The opportunity for shared services as detailed in 3.10 will provide a more effective use of available resources, and shared costs may provide a potential income stream from other users.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 As stated within the recent SWIA Report existing Learning Disability Services have a reputation for providing good high quality personalised services. Failure to develop this Project in line with national standards may compromise the Service's effectiveness which would lead to unfavourable criticism of the council from external inspection.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** The Steering Group has worked effectively in realising the ambitions of service users and carers in securing a base in the Clydebank area for Learning Disability Services.
- 7.2** Consultation has taken place between carers, service user groups and Learning Disability Service staff.
- 7.3** The Steering group will continue to have a key role in the development of the Project.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** The Committee is asked to note the content of this report.

Stephen West
Interim Director of Social Work and Health

Person to Contact:	David Elliott, General Manager, Learning Disability Services, Beardmore Business Centre, 9 Beardmore Street, Dalmuir, Clydebank, G81 4HA.
Appendices:	1. Lomond and Argyll Service User Consultation Paper 2. Plan of the new building 3. Minute from the Steering Group (to follow)
Background Papers:	Social Work and Health Improvement Committee 18 February 2009.
Wards Affected:	All