

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council : 29 February 2012

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. The Council previously noted that, due to a number of factors, the Dalmuir development would not be proceeding.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 Over the past 18 months officers 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
- 3.2 The premises being considered need to be assessed against their suitability to meet the need of complex and challenging learning and physical disabilities including those on the Autistic Spectrum and those with complex disabilities remaining the priority for the redevelopment of services.
- 3.3 The Steering Group met on 25 October 2011 to consider the options before them, as described in the previous report to Council.
- 3.4 **Skypoint** – The capital costs for this option, thus far, have been previously costed at circa £336,000 by WDC architects and quantity surveyors, and could be delivered within 9 – 12 months from the date of approval.

Skypoint in Faifley is owned by the Council and the Steering Group noted that additional space, adjacent to the premises currently under consideration, is now available for use as part of any new Learning Disabilities campus.

Plans have been drawn up to include the ex-nursery premises in the day centre facilities at an additional cost of £135,000.

Carers on the Steering Group are reluctant to make further decisions without a wider consultation of carers and service users.

3.5 To facilitate this, at its meeting on 26 October 2011, Council instructed officers to arrange a consultation meeting in a suitable Clydebank venue. All West Dunbartonshire Adults with Learning Disabilities clients, carers and staff were to be invited to attend.

3.6 The re-arranged consultation took place on 1 February 2012 attended by carers, elected members and council officers. Service users' views were represented by independent advocacy services.

Throughout the event a number of powerful contributions were made by carers and by Ms Joan Fraser from Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service on behalf of service users. It became apparent that the majority of service users were clear in their desire to remain at the Dumbarton Centre. Ms Fraser was able to support this view through the evidence of a number of consultation events that had taken place with service users.

The majority view of all stakeholders was that consideration of the quality, nature and range of service provision was more important than the question of the geographical location of any building based service.

The meeting felt, in the main, that existing resources should be devoted to the development of current services and that the service users were settled in their current resource. Carers spoke of the original aims of the redesign agenda but concluded that the current arrangements were satisfactory

The carers also expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the services currently offered by the day centre in Dumbarton, and felt that these should be expanded and developed.

The meeting also discussed the need to develop services in order to meet the increasingly complex health and social care needs of service users being catered for, now and in the future, particularly if West Dunbartonshire Learning Disability Services is to fulfil its intention of offering more locally based supports, with less recourse to resources out with this authority.

3.7 The Steering Group met immediately following the above consultation and endorsed the views of the wider group, that the available resources should be used to develop facilities in the current day centre; develop community based services throughout West Dunbartonshire and that service users

would remain at the Dumbarton centre. There was an acknowledgement of the additional space available in the Dumbarton centre and the opportunity to further develop this.

The Steering Group also decided to constitute a consultative forum with the purpose of influencing such service development, rather than concentrating solely on the acquisition of a Clydebank, building based, centre.

4. People Implications

4.1 There are no people implications arising from this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 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. Equalities Impact

7.1 No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this particular report, which is an update report only.

8. Strategic Assessment

8.1 The report is for information only and as such there are no strategic assessment issues which require to be addressed at the stage. Once a firm decision has been taken, a future report will consider the strategic assessment implications in full.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

9.1 The Council is asked to note the views of both service users and carers and recommend that the capital monies earmarked for the replacement of the Auchentoshan Centre be redirected towards the development of Learning Disability Services throughout West Dunbartonshire, including the development of services based at the Dunbarton Centre.

- 9.2** The Council is asked to support the formation of a consultative group within Learning Disability services to advise upon the ongoing redesign of services, in order to reflect the wishes of carers and service users, as described above.

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Joyce White
Chief Executive
Date: 7 February 2012

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Appendix:
1 Consultation Event Programme
2 Steering Group Minutes Feb 1st 2012
3 Service user consultation summary

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All Wards

Auchentoshan Consultation 1st Feb 2012

Dalmuir Community Education Centre

Programme

Purpose of Consultation - "The purpose of the consultation will be to inform all those present of the progress made to date and discuss what services people would like to see delivered across West Dunbartonshire. This will include potential new services and activities that the Steering Group have seen during their working visits to Centres in other Council areas."

The consultation will also be an opportunity for carers and clients to give a steer as to whether the Council should proceed with plans for the redesign of Skypoint. The other option would be to continue looking for alternative accommodation. (Taken from Full Council Motion 26/10/11)

First Session - Service Priorities

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| 9.30 am | Arrival & Registration |
| 9.45 am | Introduction by Councillor J. McColl |
| 9.55 am | Update by David Elliott, General Manager, Learning Disability Services |
| 10.05am | Update on Work of Steering Group |
| 10.15 am | First Small Group Exercise – Priorities for Learning Disability Services in West Dunbartonshire |
| 10.45 am | Comfort Break |

Second Session - Clydebank Day Services

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| 11.00 am | Introduction |
| 11.15 am | Second Small Group Exercise – Opportunities at Skypoint |
| 11.45 am | Feedback from both sessions |
| 12.05 pm | Large Group Discussion |
| 11.20 pm | Concluding Remarks |
| 12.30 pm | Finish |