

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health**

**Social Work and Health Improvement Committee: 19 May 2010**

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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 members with an update on the re-provision of Auchentoshan Day Services.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** On 18 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Clydebank 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.
- 2.3** Following the Committee decisions of 18 February 2009 the Auchentoshan Steering Group was 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.

**2.4** The focus of the Group has been to:

- Update members of the Group on the progress of the planned development of the building at Dunn Street in Dalmuir as a reprovision of the provision formerly located at Auchentoshan; and
- 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.

**2.5** 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 will be used to provide a resource for adults with a learning disability from both the Clydebank and Dumbarton area.

**2.6** 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.

**2.7** 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 Main Issues**

**3.1** The Steering Group arranged the first of a number of Consultation Events on 20 April 2010 at Clydebank Town Hall for Carers of people who currently use Dumbarton Centre and have an interest in the new development in Dalmuir.

This was a key opportunity to update Carers on progress and to seek their views in relation to their priorities for the new Service.

**3.2** Of the possible Carers representing the 58 people who use the Dumbarton Centre, 9 people attended the Consultation representing 8 service users. Carer's views were sought on the plans for the service model and the initial plans for the building itself. They were each asked to identify what they saw as their 5 main priorities as Carers. The analysis from the day will be detailed at the next Steering Group Meeting.

**3.3** Negotiations have been ongoing in order to secure the site for the development of the new Centre. These have involved West Dunbartonshire Council, The Co-operative Group and the Developer, known as Freeland Developments. The negotiations have been complex due to the three way nature of the lease and ownership arrangements.

**3.4** A broad timescale has been agreed by the General Manager of the Learning Disability Service, The Section Head of Estates and Freeland Developments in relation to the development of the new building. It is anticipated that the timetable for development of plans would progress as follows:

- (i) May-June 2010  
Expected Timescale for finalising the layout and specifications of the new Day Centre and the lease agreement between the Council and Freeland Developments.
- (ii) May – July 2010  
Expected timeframe for conclusion of legal missives and submission of detailed planning application for new Day Centre.
- (iii) October/November 2010 onwards  
It is anticipated that building work will commence in October/November 2010 with an approximate completion date by the end of March 2011.

**3.5** All minutes from the meeting of the Steering Group are distributed to Councillors, Council Officers and the Carers of 58 people who now attend Dumbarton Centre.

#### **4. People 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** The current estimate for the lease costs is in the region of £90,000 per year. The opportunity for shared services as detailed in **2.7** will provide a more effective use of available resources, and shared costs may provide a potential income stream from other users.

**5.2** The Learning Disability Service is undertaking an analysis of people who have to access services outwith West Dunbartonshire because of their specialist nature. This will include the potential transfer of funding streams currently committed to externally commissioned services and transport arrangements.

**5.3** Therefore, overall it is expected that the reprovision will be met within the existing Learning Disability budget.

## **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. Equalities Impact**

**7.1** The provision of a new service in Clydebank for people with Learning Disabilities is expected to have positive outcomes for those people who use our services. The anticipated effect will require to be monitored over time as the service is developed and becomes operational.

## **8. Conclusions and Recommendations**

**8.1** 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.

**8.2** Consultation has taken place between carers, service user groups and Learning Disability Service staff. Further consultation events are planned as the new Service at Dalmuir develops.

**8.3** The Steering group will continue to have a key role in the development of the Project.

**8.4** Committee is asked to note the content of this report, the planned timeline for the development of the reprovision and that a further report on progress will be provided to the August 2010 Committee.

Stephen West,  
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**Appendix:** None

**Background papers:** (1) Reports to Social Work and Health Improvement Committee on 3 December 2008, 18 February 2009 and 18 November 2009.

(2) Impact Assessment

**Wards Affected:** All