

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council : 28 September 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 whereby, following the closure of the Auchentoshan Centre in 2009, a building in Dalmuir was identified as a replacement. Due to a current internal investigation, this option is now unlikely to be progressed.
- 2.2 On 30th 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 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

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.

- 3.2 **Skypoint** – The capital costs for this option have been previously costed at circa £336,000 by WDC architects and quantity surveyor and could be delivered within 9 – 12 months from the date of approval. Whilst 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:

3.3 Aurora Buildings, Queen's Way, Clydebank - Following conflicting information about the suitability of this building for the purpose of a day centre, members of the Steering Group met recently with Clydebank Rebuilt senior management to view the premises and to gain greater clarity as to it's appropriateness for such a purpose.

Steering Group members' interest in exploring this option further was sufficient for them to ask Clydebank Rebuilt for further information regarding costings and structural implications of conversion to a day centre.

Clydebank Rebuilt has since provided LDS with preliminary plans for conversion of the premises to a day centre These are currently being evaluated by LDS staff. Clydebank Rebuilt has also provided outline costings for the rental and maintenance of the premises. These are as follows:

Annual rental per square foot: £13

Annual maintenance charge per square foot: £3

Total annual rent + maintenance cost: £70,500

The cost of converting the premises to a day centre will also have to be taken into account and this amount will be finalised once all parties have agreed on the specification required.

When the costs for the conversion are available, a further meeting of the Auchentoshan Steering Group will be convened to discuss the proposals in detail.

3.4 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.

Since the last report, Council Officers have again met with Directors of the Davie Cooper Charity to explore further the feasibility of a partnership.

Such an arrangement would entail adult day services having dedicated access to what has been designed as a facility for disabled children and young persons. Although discussions are at an early stage, the Directors appear keen to explore such an approach, providing compatibility between meeting the needs of these two distinct service user groupings can be achieved.

The Charity has been in informal discussions with a local care provider to provide the bulk of the support services for the complex. Timescales for the construction of the day care part of this development are dependent on the build cost of £1m – £1.5m being raised through fund raising. At this stage the total amount remains outstanding.

Further discussions with the Charity's Directors are planned pending approval of the Steering Group.

4. People Implications

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 LDS will continue its review of staffing compliments in light of a potential requirement to re-staff a Clydebank service

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The delay in reprovision will have no 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.

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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.

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 Learning Disabilities Services will continue to explore all available options for service redesign as directed by the Auchentoshan Steering Group. 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 contents of this report.

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Date: 14 September 2011

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Appendix: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All Wards