

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council : 30 November 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 24 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
- 3.2 The Steering Group met on Oct 25th 2011 to consider the options before them, as described in the previous report to Council, plus another option, as described in 3.4 below.
- 3.3 **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.

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

To facilitate this, at its meeting on October 26th 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 will be invited to attend.

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 view 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.

New plans, showing potential use of the overall space at Skypoint, will be made available to those attending the consultation meeting, for their consideration.

Costings will also be produced which will include utilisation of the additional space recently made available at Skypoint.

- 3.4** Two further sites for the new centre; firstly office space within the Jobcentre Plus offices in Kilbowie Road and secondly in the Department for Work and Pensions offices in the Clydebank Business Park, were also discussed by the Steering Group.

The meeting noted that it would take some time to investigate and develop these sites with no guarantee that the premises would be suitable, affordable or even made available to the Council.

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

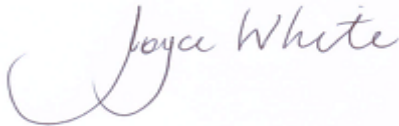
- 7.1 No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this particular report, which is an update report only.

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** Council is asked to note that the decisions made at the October 2011 Council meeting have been put in place and the outcome of the consultation event will be reported to the December meeting of the Council.



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Joyce White
Chief Executive
Date: 10 November 2011

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Appendix: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All Wards