

| OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD | AGENDA ITEM: 7 |
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| <p>DATE OF MEETING: 10TH JUNE 2010</p> <p>REPORT AUTHOR: REBECCA MAY AND ALAMIN MUKITH, PROJECT LEADS</p> <p>SUBJECT: FINAL REPORT OF THE DAYCARE OPPORTUNITIES SCRUTINY TASK & FINISH GROUP</p> | |

PURPOSE:

1. To present the final recommendations of the Day Care Opportunities Task and Finish Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

2. The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to approve the Day Care Opportunities Task and Finish Final report at Annex A and consider and agree the twenty one recommendations below, for submission to the Executive. The final report includes an outline of the review methodology used, background information and a summary of the evidence gathered. For reference, the conclusion and recommendations are at, Annex A, on pages 15-30.

The recommendations:

3. Before implementation of any changes to any day care centre, a specific and detailed Equalities Impact Assessment should be conducted.
4. The Council should conduct an investigation of uptake amongst particular groups who are not currently using Council services as much as they are entitled.
5. Further consideration is needed before bringing different diverse groups together from different backgrounds or type of disability. Any development should be in response to need of present and future customers and the introduction of change should be gradual allowing people time to adjust. Change should respond to the needs and preferences of the customers and not to other pressures.
6. In any change that is proposed, current friendship groups in existing day centres should be maintained and customer choice observed.

7. Safeguarding standards are fundamental in provision of day care opportunities. The choice agenda should allow for quiet and private space for day care customers as well as adequate staff supervision to protect them at all times.
8. Transport is a key component in access to services. A review of all sources of transport provision should be conducted to reduce the time customers spend on buses and aim for more customer service and choice. This should consider a better resourced service level agreement with a third sector organisation to support customers attending activities, or an agreement with a local taxi, private hire or bus company to provide affordable and appropriate service to customers out of peak hours.
9. Where possible relationships between staff carers and customers should be sustained and proposed changes should be prepared well in advance.
10. Luton Borough Council should continue to work closely in partnership with NHS Luton to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to deal with expected future rises in the number of people with dementia.
11. Luton Borough Council's Adult Social Care Department should make clear their processes for reviewing individuals' needs prior to any changes so that families and carers can be assured that customers continue to be cared for in a safe environment.
12. The focus on activities should be maintained and a full timetable of activities should be available for all customers at the facilities they attend (including optional outings at affordable prices) by working with local community groups, schools and local partners. There should also be reasonable provision for those whose preference is simply to socialise with friends.
13. The excellent work currently being undertaken in d4 with supported employment should be continued, and customers on this programme with the qualifications who wish, should be given support and opportunity to apply for any new job opportunities created in future projects.
14. The Council should ensure regular access to swimming and water aerobics for all day care customers in addition to those with learning disabilities, who wish and are able to attend at a local facility.
15. Families, carers and friends should also be offered the opportunity of swimming or attending other activities with the customer on payment of a small fee.
16. The Future Choices project should continue to expand its work with Active Luton, making local leisure facilities available and accessible to older people and those with physical and learning disabilities. Appropriate physical activities should be timetabled regularly throughout Luton and customers should be encouraged and supported to take part in these.
17. The language and cultural needs of customers should be considered and met in respect of staffing, language, social requirements and food provision. The opportunity to learn English should be offered.

18. All stakeholders - front line staff as well as carers and customers, should be involved during the planning process. Formal democratic consultation should take place before any changes to services. The findings should shape the project plans and reassure stakeholders that their views have been taken into account.
19. Luton Borough Council and NHS Luton should map which third sector organisations they both use, and work together to provide complementary grants and support in a strategic manner. The Council should consider creative provision and help in kind to further support the excellent work being done in the third sector in Luton.
20. A review should be undertaken into joint working to widen opportunities for day care with Council services and third sector organisations in the wider geographical areas of North Hertfordshire and Central Bedfordshire.
21. In situations where shared provision is offered to paying customers as well as those sponsored by the Local Authority, council customers with severe and critical needs who wish to use services should have priority.
22. The views of customers and those officers very familiar with the care group should be taken into account when designing facilities. Existing equipment designed for use by a group of customers should be installed in any new provision, except where better equipment is being offered.
23. The service should not plan to schedule activities for customers with severe and critical needs in buildings that do not have essential services which they require. Any new service provision should offer opportunities at least commensurate with those in previous accommodation.

REPORT:

24. The final report of the Day Care Opportunities Scrutiny Task and Finish Group is attached at Annex A, with a detailed summary of all the evidence in the Appendix, marked A to that report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

25. There are no legal implications within this report. This was agreed with Mary Cormack in Legal Services on 1st June 2010.