

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....25th November 2010

1. Title of Item/Report

EIT Review of Adult Operational Services

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report relating to elements of the EIT Review of Adult Operational Services, namely Blenheim House Care Home and STEPs at Tithbarn service.

Members were reminded that Cabinet had agreed to authorise officers to enter consultation with staff, clients, carers and stakeholders regarding the re-provision of alternative services to current clients and potential cessation of the STEPs at Tithbarn element of the STEPs group of services with the aim of re-deploying existing employees as appropriate.

It was noted that STEPs at Tithbarn was able to provide up to 25 places per day. The service had been under utilised and had not reached its potential since its inception in 2004. Attendance had routinely averaged one third of anticipated capacity.

The first clients to attend the service formerly attended Alma Day Centre. These clients were identified as being receptive, and able, to undertake skills development to access further education or employment. Contrary to the initial plans for this service, whereby clients were anticipated to attend on a session basis at pre-determined times they actually accessed the service daily in line with their former attendance at Alma Day Centre.

This attendance pattern created a requirement for 2 buses through the Community Transport services at a cost of £80k per annum. This corresponded with an increasing under provision of buses for the adult and older person's Day Care Centres.

It was anticipated that the requirements of all clients could be met appropriately through access to existing services and/or individual directed support through a personal budget.

Consultation with clients, carers, staff and UNISON had been undertaken and the notes from those meetings were provided to members.

Cabinet had also authorised officers to enter consultation with staff, clients, carers, trades unions and stakeholders regarding the potential cessation of services at Blenheim House with the aim of re-deploying existing employees, as appropriate, in recognition of the ongoing re-provision of alternative services to long term clients, in line with their individual preferences to live more independently in a location of their choice. It was also in recognition of the low number of clients whose carers requested respite breaks at this facility.

The Care Home could accommodate up to 29 clients in single rooms with shared lounges, dining areas, bathrooms and toilets. An independent living flat above the main building did not have a lift for access so severely restricts the usage of this facility.

Client contributions for the services were dependent on an individual financial assessment.

The EIT Review of Adult Services recognised and acknowledged the potential impact of the corresponding Transport E.I.T. review, the FACS E.I.T. review and the roll out of self directed support through personalised budgets.

The E.I.T. Review of Blenheim House was influenced by the reducing long term resident population and the potential impact of funding sources being reduced or withdrawn by the Tees Unitary Authorities currently purchasing care from Stockton-on-Tees, at Blenheim House.

Of the remaining 15 long term care clients at Blenheim House, prior to the EIT reviews, 6 were funded by Middlesbrough, 2 were funded by Redcar/Cleveland, 1 was funded by Hartlepool and the remaining 6 were Stockton-on-Tees residents. Middlesbrough had previously expressed a wish to speak to the clients funded by that Authority with a view to offering repatriation where appropriate.

Following a quality assessment survey of long term clients in which 4 stated they would like to live differently, informal reviews of all 15 were undertaken, all expressed a wish to be more reliably informed about alternative care provision for people with assessed needs.

Since the start of the formal reviews, 8 clients have accepted alternative care provision. 4 of these clients were funded by Middlesbrough, 2 by Redcar/Cleveland and 2 by Stockton on Tees. The remaining 7 clients were waiting for placements of their choice. Two medium term clients had also returned to independent living in the community.

. Blenheim House had a staff group currently of 32. Consultation with staff and UNISON had been undertaken and the notes from those meetings were provided. Consultation with clients and carers was also undertaken and notes provided to Members.

Members were provided with financial implications associated with the re provision of services currently provided by Tithebarn and Blenheim House. It was estimated that, with regard to Tithebarn, annual savings of £113k could be achieved by 2011/12 and for Blenheim House annual savings of £181k could be achieved.

RESOLVED that:-

1. officers progress the cessation of the STEPs at Tithebarn element of the STEPs group of services and re-provide services to clients currently attending this facility in line with their assessed needs and eligibility for service provision. Furthermore to re-deploy existing employees as appropriate and return the building to the asset portfolio of Stockton Borough Council for re-use or disposal

2. officers progress the cessation of services at Blenheim House, in recognition of the ongoing re-provision of alternative services to long term clients, in line with their individual preferences to live more independently in a location of their choice and to re-deploy existing employees as appropriate. To return Blenheim House to the asset portfolio of Stockton Borough Council for re-use or disposal

3. support be provided to carers requiring respite breaks to enable them to continue their caring role by working with funding authorities in assisting them to identify appropriate alternative services.

### 3. Reasons for the Decision

The Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Reviews, (EIT) was three year programme across all the Council's activities and was in response to the slow down in the national economy and the impact this would have on the Borough's Medium Term Financial Plan, coupled with increased expectations and demand for services. The EIT programme's aim was to maintain high performance, continue to improve satisfaction and enable further improvement across the Borough.

Following implementation of the recommendations approved by Cabinet on 11 March 2010 and 30 September 2010 the outcomes had been assessed and the proposed future direction identified.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

By no later than midnight on Friday 3 December 2010.

Proper Officer  
29 November 2010