

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

25 NOVEMBER 2010

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

Adult Services and Health - Councillor Jim Beall

EIT REVIEW OF ADULT OPERATIONAL SERVICES-CHILDREN, EDUCATION & SOCIAL CARE UPDATE

1. Summary

The overall objectives/aims of the EIT review were to identify options for future strategy, policy, and/or service provision that would sustain or improve quality outcomes for Stockton Borough clients and their carers within the Adult Operational Services of CESC and deliver efficiency savings. As a gateway EIT review a report was initially presented to the Arts Leisure and Culture Select Committee on 17 February 2010. Updated information on the EIT Review was presented to the Committee on 10 November 2010. Specifically to understand the results of the consultation carried out ahead of their return to Cabinet on 25 November 2010.

A Cabinet Paper was submitted on 11 March 2010 with a number of recommendations for Cabinet approval pertaining to the directions that officers felt they needed to go in order to progress the EIT reviews. **This can be located in e-genda**

A second Cabinet Paper was submitted on 30 September 2010 with further recommendations pertaining to two elements of the EIT, namely Blenheim House Care Home and STEPs at Tithebarn service. **This can be located in e-genda**

Those recommendations have been implemented, or are continuing, and this report is both an update of developments, and further recommendations that are now considered to be relevant, to progress the outcomes of these two services identified in the EIT

2. Recommendations

STEPs at Tithebarn Service

1. That Cabinet authorise officers to 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

Blenheim House

2. That Cabinet authorise officers to 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. Also to support 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 Recommendations

The Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Reviews, (EIT) are a three year programme across all the Council's activities and are in response to the slow down in the national economy and the impact this will have on the Borough's Medium Term Financial Plan, coupled with increased expectations and demand for services. The EIT programme's aim is 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 have been assessed and the proposed future direction identified.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in

the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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Blenheim House

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DETAIL

STEPS AT TITHEBARN

1. On 11 March 2010 Cabinet agreed the specific recommendation for STEPs at Tithebarn to authorise officers to enter consultation regarding the direction of travel of services provided to current clients in order to address more appropriately each clients assessed needs. On 30 September 2010 Cabinet agreed further recommendations 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 Tithebarn element of the STEPs group of services with the aim of re-deploying existing employees as appropriate.
2. STEPs at Tithebarn is able to provide up to 25 places per day. The service has been under utilised and has not reached its potential since its inception in 2004. Attendance has routinely averaged one third of anticipated capacity.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. It is anticipated that the requirements of all current clients can be met appropriately through access to existing services and/or individual directed support through a personal budget.
7. Referrals to this service have been appropriate to the culture and current client mix but have lost sight of the initial aims and objectives of the service.
8. STEPs at Tithebarn has an employee group comprising 6 personnel
9. Consultation with staff consisted of group and one to one meetings in order to collate their views on the future of the service. These consultation meetings began on 1 October 2010 and concluded on 31 October 2010. The notes from these meetings are contained in **Appendix 1 and 2**
10. Consultation with clients and carers was undertaken on both a group and individual basis. This consultation was informed by initial assessments of current clients and individual meetings which began in June 2010. Formal consultation was announced on 1 October

2010 and ends on 14 November 2010. Notes from group meetings and individual comments are contained in **Appendix 3**

11. Unison was the single Union representing employees of this service and attendance at all group meetings was facilitated.
12. Alternative modes of registering views during the consultation period were made available. These were telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and postal addresses.
13. At the end of the consultation period 1 e-mail had been received, no telephone views were lodged and no postal views were received. Unison similarly reported no views or concerns raised either individually or collectively. Information was provided as required.

BLLENHEIM HOUSE

14. On 11 March 2010 two recommendations for Blenheim House were agreed by Cabinet. They were to authorise officers to enter consultation regarding the most appropriate future services for current long term clients and to review the provision of services for adults with physical disabilities who require medium term or respite care services. On 30 September Cabinet 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 employee's, 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 is also in recognition of the low number of clients whose carers request respite breaks at this facility.
15. Stockton Borough Council supports In-House Care Home Services for Adults with Physical Disabilities at Blenheim House at Thornaby.
16. Blenheim Care Home provides 24 hour care, respite for carers and short term care. Placement at this Care Home will have been determined following an assessment of need initially identifying this mode of service delivery as appropriate for the client. Although the Council has a statutory duty to provide services to address assessed needs, provision of those services does not have to be by the Council.
17. The decision not to accept long term placements at Blenheim House was taken in 1996 when it was recognised that institutionalised care was inappropriate for adults with physical disabilities and that alternative community based services were being developed in extra care schemes and adapted properties.
18. Blenheim House has, however, continued to provide short term and respite care to clients from Stockton and Middlesbrough.
19. The Care Home can accommodate up to 29 clients in single rooms with shared lounges, dining areas, bathrooms and toilets. An independent living flat above the main building does not have a lift for access so severely restricts the usage of this facility.
20. Client contributions for the services are dependent on an individual financial assessment.
21. 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.
22. 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.

- 23 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.
- 24 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.
- 25 Formal reviews followed, and in line with specific client/carer wishes, 12 of the 15 were supported to view Extra Care and alternative facilities in areas of their choice. All elected to apply for a placement in their area of choice, often to be closer to remaining family. Of the remaining 3 clients, 1 had requested to return to her former home with her family prior to the EIT reviews and is anticipated to move in late November or early December 2010 after living at Blenheim House for 26 years. One gentleman had spent most weekends with friends and after discussions decided to share a property with his friend when a suitably adapted alternative became available. The last remaining client has spent up to 5 days each week for many months with friends and moved into an independent flat in October 2010.
- 26 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 are waiting for placements of their choice.
- 27 Two medium term clients have also returned to independent living in the community.
28. As residents funded by other Tees Valley Unitary Authorities move to independent living, there is a loss of income to the service. **See financial implications.**
- 29 Respite placements average three beds per week at Blenheim House. These clients are predominantly funded by Middlesbrough or Stockton on Tees.
30. Blenheim House has a staff group currently of 32. Consultation with staff consisted of group and one to one meetings in order to collate their views on the future of the service. These consultation meetings began on 1 October 2010 and concluded on 31 October 2010. The notes from these meetings are contained in **Appendix 4 and 5**
- 31 Consultation with clients and carers was undertaken on both a group and individual basis. This consultation was informed by initial reviews of current clients on an individual basis which began in July 2010. Formal consultation was announced on 1 October 2010 and ends on 14 November 2010. Notes from group meetings and individual comments are contained in **Appendix 6**
32. Unison was the single Union representing employees of this service and attendance at all group meetings was facilitated.
33. Alternative modes of registering views during the consultation period were made available. These were telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and postal addresses.
- 34 At the end of the consultation period 1 e-mail had been received, 1 telephone call recorded and no postal views were received.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

STEPS AT TITHEBARN

- 35 The re-provision of alternative services to current clients and the potential cessation of services of STEPS at Tithebarn from 1st January 2011 would mean an estimated net cost to the Council of £39k in the current financial year. This figure allows for redundancy costs for staff employed at STEPs but work is currently being undertaken with HR to look at redeployment opportunities for staff so these costs could be lower. From 2011/12 it is estimated that annual savings of £113k could be achieved subject to clients using in-house day services and direct payments as alternative provision. The exact savings would not be known until decisions have been made by all individual clients as to the alternative services they choose to meet their needs. The following is the financial breakdown :

	2010/11	2011/12
	£000	£000
STEPS Budget	132	133
Less:-		
Costs to December	(85)	
Redundancy Costs	(85)	
Direct Payments		(61)
Add:-		
Transport Savings		41
NET (COST) / SAVINGS	(39)	113

BLLENHEIM HOUSE

- 36 Income was being generated from the other Local Authority placements in Blenheim House. As these clients are moved during the course of this financial year it is expected to result in a net loss of income of £107k. It is assumed that SBC clients will continue to be at Blenheim House until 31st March 2011 and respite clients are still being admitted so it is assumed for financial projections that current staffing will still be needed to this date.

The potential cessation of services at Blenheim House from April 2011 would mean an estimated cost to the Council in 2011/12 of £43k above that currently anticipated. This figure allows for redundancy costs for staff employed at Blenheim but work is currently being undertaken with HR to look at redeployment opportunities for staff so these costs will be lower. From 2011/12 it is estimated that annual savings of £181k could be achieved whilst making reasonable assumptions about the costs relating to the alternative provision provided for the six SBC clients. The exact savings would not be known until decisions have been made by all individual clients as to the alternative services they choose to meet their needs. The following is the financial breakdown:-

	2011/12	2012/13
	£000	£000
Blenheim Net Budget	341	352
Less:-		
Costs of Alternative	(137)	(140)

Services for six clients		
Costs of Alternative Services for respite clients	(31)	(31)
Redundancy Costs	(206)	
Building security etc	(10)	
NET (COST) / SAVINGS	(43)	181

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

STEPS AT TITHEBARN

37. That re-provided services continue to meet client assessed needs

BLLENHEIM HOUSE

38. A joint arrangement was agreed with the funding Authorities who accessed Blenheim House initially in 1998 to come into force retrospectively from April 1st 1996. The latest draft of September 24th 2006 stated that the permanent Home is for as long as the responsible Council desires, in respect of their resident. The final draft also has a withdrawal provision included for all other than Hartlepool who withdrew from the joint agreement in 1997. The clause states that the parties may serve one year's notice to expire at the end of March and the arrangements would then be wound up. If any of the Authorities wanted to continue with a joint arrangement from that point they would need to enter a new joint arrangement.
39. Since it has been the wish of individual clients to live more independently, the withdrawal clause was wavered in respect to their wishes. This has enabled client to access their preferred choice of accommodation in as timely a fashion as could be arranged. Each contributing Authority has agreed a termination of the joint agreement verbally and this was finalised in writing through the Legal Department in September 2010.

RISK ASSESSMENT

40. This report is categorised as low risk. Existing management systems are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

41. Adults/Older People – Borough's adults with physical disabilities grow older with dignity and maintain a high quality and independent lifestyle.
42. Health & Wellbeing - A healthier Borough where all residents are able to take control of their own physical and mental health and wellbeing, though living healthy and active lifestyles.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Due regard must be given to equality duties and in particular the disability equality duty

STEPS at Tithebarn

43. This report has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment and has been judged to have a positive impact. An action plan for further improvements has been developed and this will be reported more fully to Cabinet through the full EIA document.

Blenheim House

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CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

45. Consultation has taken place with Trades Unions in order to keep them abreast of developments.
46. All employee groups from the services identified in this report have attended briefing sessions from a member of the EIT project group and presentation by Head of Service.
- 47 Employee briefing meetings have taken place ahead of the Cabinet Report of 30 September 2010 being made public in order to advise of the content to minimise the potential of being informed by a third party
- 48 Consultation with clients and informal carers of the two services has continued informally since Officers were given approval by Cabinet on 11 March 2010.
- 49 Consultation with employees of both services commenced formally on 1 October 2010 following the Cabinet approval of 30 September 2010.
- 50 Formal consultation began with clients, carers, union and stakeholders for both services through group and individual meetings, e-mail, telephone and postal options for lodging views. This consultation ends on 14 November 2010. Councillor Noble attended the STEPs at Tithebarn meeting
- 51 Members of the Over 50's Assembly, as a recognised consultative group for the Stockton Borough were provided with the details of the recommendations approved by Cabinet and information regarding how to lodge views or opinions.

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Background Papers

Report to Cabinet regarding Re-provision of Alma Centre Services to Halcyon site 27 July 2009
Report to Arts Leisure and Culture Select Committee Baseline Reports 15 July 2009
Report to Arts Leisure and Culture Select Committee Gateway Review 17 February 2010
Cabinet Report 11 March 2010
Report to Arts Leisure and Culture Select Committee Gateway Review 19 March 2010
Cabinet Report 30 September 2010

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

STEPs at Tithebarn

Councillors Mr W Noble and Mrs E Nesbitt

Blenheim House

Councillors Mrs S Walmsley and Mrs E Craggs

This report is a continuation of the initial EIT Review of Adult Services which began in 2009. The developments and outcomes of which have been discussed extensively with the Arts Culture and Leisure Select Committee under the Chairmanship of Councillor Mrs J O'Donnell.

Property :

STEPS occupies part of the ground floor accommodation within Tithebarn House, adjacent to the medical centre. It comprises 2 activity rooms, an office, kitchen and toilets, comprising approximately 200m².

Blenheim House is a detached property on Trenchard Avenue, Thornaby. Generally single storey with one block of two storey construction, a site area of 4,694m² and GIA (Gross internal area) of 1, 993m². It is situated near the town Centre and has off road parking to the front and rear.

Both Blenheim House site and the STEPS accommodation will return to the Councils asset portfolio for re-use or disposal.