

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

24 MAY 2018

**REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

**Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health –
Councillor Jim Beall**

AUTISM DAY OPPORTUNITIES AT WARE STREET, STOCKTON ON TEES

1. Summary

This report provides an overview of the service delivered to adults with autism and learning disability at Ware Street Resource Centre, and the plans being implemented to develop this service for the future.

2. Recommendations

For Cabinet to acknowledge the work completed to date and approve future development of services for people with autism.

3. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, in accordance with **paragraph 18** of the code, 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 and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code).

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AUTISM DAY OPPORTUNITIES AT WARE STREET, STOCKTON ON TEES

SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the service delivered to adult with autism and learning disability at Ware Street Resource Centre, and the plans being implemented to develop this service for the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For Cabinet to acknowledge the work completed to date and approve future development of services for people with autism.

DETAIL

1. In 2012, Stockton on Tees Borough Council (the Council) completed a programme of service reviews¹ with the aim of identifying financial savings, innovative ideas for service delivery and new ways of working to support adults with a learning disability. The final report included a recommendation to explore the commissioning of local autism provision within the Borough; this needed to take into account value for money and the review recommendations were approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 10 January 2013.
2. A day opportunities service² for adults with autism was established, utilising the existing Council building at Ware Street and commissioning a qualified and competent provider off the Tees-wide Autism Framework called Education and Services for People with Autism (ESPA, www.espa.org.uk/).
3. Ware Street was an unutilised two storey building with a day unit and two residential wings on the ground floor and two on the first floor (it was previously, a Council owned and run care home for adults with mental health issues).
4. ESPA was successful in supporting 5 clients with autism in the community through this local arrangement. Initially established as a temporary “pilot” to assess the potential of a local service to support young adults making the transition to adulthood (there was no local provision in Stockton on Tees at this time). It was agreed at that time to continue to extend the contract (31st March 2017) and allow additional market engagement and competitive dialogue to be undertaken by the Council and partners in health to review

¹ Adult Services and Health Select Committee undertook an Efficiency Improvement and Transformation (EIT) review of Learning Disability Services. EIT Reviews were the Councils cycle of service reviews across all departments, which aimed to ensure the right services were being delivered as effectively and efficiently as possible.

² Day services are unregulated provision that gives people the opportunity to learn or improve upon skills and hobbies, to socialise and travel out on field trips and take part in leisure activities.

opportunities for further locally commissioned services to be developed (day opportunities, short breaks and residential care).

5. This was within context of the wider community based day options delivered in-house through Allensway and Stockton Business Centre, respite through Lanark and additional specialist commissioned provision, including Tees Alive.
6. This resulted in the development of a model of day opportunities only (respite and residential was not progressed) for which the Council has commissioned ESPA to provide the service through a potential five year contract. Since this point, however, the Council has continued to look at the opportunities that the service at Ware Street could offer people with autism, and is currently exploring the opportunity to develop the top floor (day opportunities is only delivered in the ground floor) to support with respite care.
7. There are currently 11 people with autism receiving day opportunities services in Ware Street. This increase has taken place over 18 months, from the original 5 people with autism, and has exceeded expected demand.
8. In addition, 5 young adults have been identified by care managers who require this level of autism specific services and one adult placed out of area.

NEXT STEPS

9. The initial day service at Ware Street utilised the day service element of the site, along with an office and kitchen in the residential ground floor wing. This was increased to allow for the use of one of the bedrooms and bathrooms, as required, to support clients with personal care needs and a small lounge, to help accommodate the additional clients.
10. Overall, however, the building is in a relatively poor state of décor throughout and is not appropriate for clients with autism in its current configuration. Specifically, there is a lack of toilet facilities, access is unsuitable, the site has been subject to vandalism and there is a lack of appropriate quiet areas and areas to provide personal care.
11. As part of the review, in order to meet the identified demand (taking the capacity to approximately 20 clients) and developing the environment to offer flexible services at weekends and evenings, a refurbishment plan was developed and agreed to allow the Council to continue to work in partnership with a regulated provider to deliver the day opportunities provision.
12. The initial designs have been completed, and a Steering Group has been established to manage the implementation of the physical redevelopment of the Ware Street site and the relocation to and management of the service at the alternative site at Tithebarn House, High Newham Road, Hardwick for existing clients, whilst the building work is progressing.
13. The timeline for the development is set out in brief in table 1 below. Work is expected to commence in July and completed in January 2019.

Table 1		
Works	Action	Expected Timescale
External fencing	Planning application to be submitted	Feb-18
Additional car parking	Planning application to be submitted	Feb-18
External fencing	Beginning of main contract	July-18
Additional car parking	Part of main contract	TBC

Internal refurbishment works	External consultants to do detailed design spec liaise with both SBC and ESPA as required	Ongoing
	Out to tender	31-Mar-18
	Tender period	Apr-18
	Lead in period	May-18
	Commencement on site	July-18
	Contract period	Up to 6 months
	Expected Handover	Jan-19

14. Running concurrently with the development work, the Council has been communicating and supporting the transition of service users into the temporary accommodation. A development day has been arranged for 11 April 2018 which will be followed by individual meetings with service users and families to ensure their individual needs and expectations are met. ESPA have developed transitions plans with key professionals in the Council and health to ensure this process is person centred and is able to meet individual needs.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

15. Under the Equality Act 2010, public bodies must pay due regard to the 'equality duty' when planning, changing or commissioning services. It is up to public bodies how they implement the duty. However, they must be able to provide evidence that the duty was considered before a decision is made.
16. As the main purpose of the project is to promote the development of day opportunities for adults with autism, age and disability have been identified as high impact factors and the impacts are intended to be positive. All other factors have been identified as low or no impact.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

17. The original Project Initiation Document (PID) identified an overall total cost of £688k (funded from the Community Capacity Grant), broken down as follows:
18. £628k of capital costs to re-model and re-furbish the Ware Street building plus 2 elements of condition (light fittings and alarm system) that would be essential due to the re-modelling; and £60k for initial Set up (loose furniture, kitchen white goods, service set up costs).
19. There will be additional costs as a result of the requirement to install boundary fencing and additional car park works (which were not included in the original specification) plus the cost of temporary accommodation for the current 11 service users whilst the building work is in progress. The project team (which includes representation from finance) is working to establish accurate costs for these additional commitments and funding sources.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

20. There are no legal implications associated with this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

21. The decision to re develop the service at Ware Street is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

22. Delivering and commissioning services we want to achieve the best value and most cost effective way means of delivering high quality care; and
23. Working with providers of care we will constantly review adult's care arrangements to ensure their outcomes are being met in a cost effective way.
24. This development will contribute to the longer term viability of the service and provide greater capacity in the future.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

25. There are no implications for children and young adult as a result of the recommendations made in this report.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

26. There has been informal consultation to date with ward members in relation to this project, alongside briefings with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health.

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Education related?

No

Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

This service is not ward specific. However, the service is located in Stockton Town Centre Ward (Councillors Di Hewitt & Paul Kirton) and the temporary accommodation is located in Hardwick and Salters Lane (Councillors Nigel Cooke and Norma Stephenson OBE).

Property

Autism Day Service, 5 Ware Street, Tilery Estate, Stockton on Tees. TS20 2BA