

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

19 MAY 2022

**REPORT OF ADULT
SOCIAL CARE AND
HEALTH SELECT
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care – Cllr Ann McCoy

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

SUMMARY

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee's review of Day Opportunities for Adults.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) / DECISION(S)

This topic was included on the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021-2022. The review is now complete, and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommend that:

- 1) SBC and its relevant partners continue working with people accessing services and their families / carers to understand demand for both traditional building-based day service provision and community-based activities. This should include:
 - a) The creation of co-production groups that can support the future development of day opportunities.
 - b) Specific work with those who remain reluctant to return to building-based provision as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (engagement to learn of obstacles / changes in support requirements).
 - c) Considerations around preferences of those with particular needs (including potential for mixing between those with differing needs) and differing demographics (e.g. younger adults).
 - d) Continuing investigations into access to meaningful opportunities as part of a residential placement.

- e) Considerations around the potential for assisting with identified transportation needs (e.g. ensuring public / private transport options are accessible and respond to the needs of people who use day opportunities).
 - f) Changes to the existing budget for SBC in-house and commissioned services.
- 2) There is an assessment of the information provided around personal budgets and the options available to people, ensuring this is disseminated in a variety of formats (not just online).
 - 3) SBC Adults and Health and Children's Services directorates reinforce joint-working to identify and support opportunities that are most meaningful to younger people (including a reflection on any updated results from the Disabled Children's Team online survey), and strengthen the dissemination of information about existing services.
 - 4) SBC to follow-up with Catalyst regarding the views of the wider VCSE sector around future day opportunities involvement (e.g. promotion of / access to existing VCSE activity, potential funding streams, volunteering).
 - 5) SBC and its relevant health, social care and VCSE partners share and work towards an agreed vision for day opportunities across the Borough through the most appropriate mechanism (existing or new).
 - 6) All existing SBC in-house and commissioned day service providers ensure they have a mechanism for enabling the families / carers of people accessing services to regularly share their views with the provider, and each other, on existing and future service delivery.
 - 7) SBC ensures, as far as possible, that work experience undertaken by those individuals accessing day services is appropriately recognised.
 - 8) SBC strengthens links between existing day service providers through the creation of a new peer group to share good practice / resources (inc. volunteering opportunities as a gateway to employment).

DETAIL

1. Day opportunities for adults has its origins in legislation introduced under the National Assistance Act 1948 and was further developed under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and the National Health Service Act 1977 (now superseded in the 2014 Care Act).
2. Through Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's (SBC) duty to provide services to people with eligible and assessed needs, day opportunities services have constantly evolved to meet local requirements and meet national guidelines. This includes services provided by the Council, commissioned through the independent or voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, and those people who choose to purchase their own support through a Direct Payment.
3. Whilst the number of people directly impacted by this scrutiny topic is relatively low (less than 1,000) and is shared across a wide range of services offering different levels of support and engagement, the individuals affected are generally some of the Borough's most vulnerable residents and very often have families and carers whose own wellbeing is directly impacted. Day services are largely utilised by individuals affected by old age, mental ill health, learning disabilities, dementia and autism, conditions which drive some of the greatest inequalities.

4. However, the profound and continuing impact of COVID-19 has fundamentally changed the way the Council has been able to deliver this service during 2020-2021. In line with Government guidance, building-based day opportunities have been closed for extended periods throughout the pandemic, with building-based offers limited to individuals who have been prioritised by risk. As a result, the Council's day services have developed new remote approaches to support the wellbeing of individuals – this has included offering online groups, wellbeing calls and other initiatives designed to help people stay connected. These changes have caused the Council, people who access its services, and key stakeholders to reflect and review what, who and how day opportunities are offered in Stockton-on-Tees.
5. This review provided an opportunity to consider and identify options for the remodelling of Day Opportunities Services, primarily to move away from traditional building-based 'service-driven' provision to a 'needs-led' community-focused service which clearly articulates the role of the Council, independent / VCSE assets, stakeholders and volunteering in delivering this model. Critical in any future planning will be the need to ascertain the views of service-users and their families / carers, particularly in light of the considerable impact that the pandemic-related changes to day services will have had on informal carers.
6. The Committee received contributions from a range of key stakeholders including relevant Council officers from both the Adults and Health, and Children's Services, directorates, NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV), and Catalyst (incorporating a collective view from the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector). Virtual visits were also conducted with local day service providers which allowed the Committee to engage with management, staff and individuals accessing services at the time.

To further understand the voice of those using day services and their families / carers around this scrutiny topic, Council consultation responses were considered. Following-up on the virtual visits to local providers, the Committee also issued its own survey to families / carers of those who access the observed settings.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

7. As identified during the scoping process for this scrutiny topic, the individuals affected are generally some of Stockton-on-Tees' most vulnerable residents and very often have families and carers whose own wellbeing is directly impacted. The COVID pandemic has had an impact in terms of access to services and the way in which these have been provided, and the outcomes of this review, informed by the views of those accessing services and their families / carers, are intended to contribute to ensuring that some of the most vulnerable people within the Borough can continue to access life-enhancing activities which they and their families / carers deserve.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

8. Transitioning (younger people moving into Adult Services) was a feature of this review and one of the recommendations involves SBC Adults and Health and Children's Services directorates reinforcing joint-working to identify and support opportunities that are most meaningful to younger people, as well as strengthening the dissemination of information about existing services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. As identified in the recommendations, any changes to existing SBC in-house and commissioned day opportunities may have resource implications – these would need to be considered within the financial plans contained within the Council's MTFP.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no legal implications identified at this stage.

RISK ASSESSMENT

11. The review is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

12. The review involved services that cover the whole Borough, therefore was not Ward-specific.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

13. None.

Name of Contact Officer: Gary Woods

Post Title: Scrutiny Officer

Telephone No. 01642 526187

Email Address: gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk