

Report for Resolution

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Report to	Executive 18 November 2009
Report of	Councillor Brenda Arthur - Executive member for housing and adult services
Subject	Norfolk County Council's proposed decision to de-commission the day centre services currently provided at The Essex Rooms and the Silver Rooms day centres

Purpose

To outline to the Executive Norfolk County Council's proposals to de-commission the day centre services currently provided at The Essex Rooms and The Silver Rooms day centres.

Recommendations

1. To note the report and agree for further research on the county council's proposals to be carried out and the findings reported to the full council meeting on 24 November 2009 and Executive on 25 November 2009.
2. To submit a considered response to the county council's proposals by the end of the consultation period (13 January 2010).

Financial Consequences

The cost of any further research and report writing will come from existing resources.

Risk Assessment

Although Norwich City Council is not the statutory provider of local adult social care it recognises that the way care is provided directly impacts on the health and well being of its residents. It is therefore important for the authority to consider any major proposed changes to the provision of adult care and respond to formal consultations accordingly.

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report links to the strategic priority "Opportunities for all – communities to be able to access the wide range of services in the city".

Executive Member: Councillor Brenda Arthur – Executive member for housing and adult services

Ward: All

Contact Officers

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Background Documents

Nil

Report

Norfolk County Council's proposed decision to de-commission the day centre services currently provided at The Essex Rooms and the Silver Rooms day centres

Background

1. Norfolk County Council social services department has recently completed a comprehensive review of all community care day services. The review was undertaken as part of their 'Making your day' project and has formed part of the department's transformation project, and the introduction of greater 'personalisation' as part of the national programme 'Putting People First'.
2. The aim of the review was to decide on future commissioning and funding arrangements for all day services provision in the independent, voluntary and in-house sectors.
3. Part of the review has involved a public consultation entitled 'More Choices, Better Choices' which with additional research has led to a new proposed model for delivery of in house day services and the production of five locality option appraisals, one of the localities being Norwich.
4. The locality options appraisals along with a covering report (Appendix A) were presented to the county council's Adult Social Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 3 November 2009. The options appraisals have also been published for consultation which ends on 13 January 2010.
5. Norfolk County Council's response to the Green paper "Shaping the future of care together was presented to its cabinet on 8th November 2009. One comment in the report was that "Prevention needs a higher profile and is underplayed in the current vision."
6. Activists campaigning against the closure of the centres held a meeting on 6th November. This meeting was chaired by Dr Ian Gibson President of the Carers Forum and the Director of Adult Social Services, Harold Bodmer, attended to answer questions.

The current provision of in-house day services

5. The county council currently provides 1,364 day places weekly in 15 centres across Norfolk. This is made up of 836 places for older people, 408 places for people with dementia and 120 places for people with physical and sensory impairment.
6. Four of the day centres are in Norwich. These are located at The Vauxhall Centre, Essex Rooms, Silver Rooms and Mousehold Day Centre.
7. The Vauxhall Centre has evolved into a community resource centre which offers 120 places per week for younger people with physical and/or sensory impairment and older people with mental health needs. The occupancy level is 75%.
8. The Mousehold Day Centre is a specialist dementia centre which operates 6

days per week. It offers 102 places per week and the occupancy level is 80%.

9. The Essex Rooms and Silver Rooms provide high quality traditional day service for physically and mentally frail older people. This type of service has been shown to enable individuals to remain living independently in their own homes for longer and to provide valuable much needed respite for carers. Both services offer 150 places each per week. The occupancy rates are 75% and 50% respectively.
10. 38% of the in-house day service places available Norfolk are located at centres within Norwich.

The proposed model for in-house services

11. The proposal is to move away from providing traditional day services and provide two main services:
 - Older people with dementia – all localities have identified the need for additional dementia provision due to increasing numbers of older people, increased incidence of dementia, and the need to support people longer in their own homes. Re-assigning some current in-house day provision will help make more appropriate use of a scarce resource.
 - Re-ablement day services for older people with social care needs. A re-ablement day service would provide a centre or community based opportunity for people to learn or relearn skills to enable them to become as independent as possible and for them to achieve a sense of well being. This is the part of the model that provides prevention by enabling people to become independent.

The options appraisal for day services in the Norwich locality

The outline for chosen options and rationales are as follows:

12. The Vauxhall Centre – to add re-ablement to the wide range of other community services already being offered at the centre. The centre is strategically placed but not suitable to provide dementia care due to lack of security.
13. Mousehold Day Centre – to continue with the provision of dementia care with possible relocation with health partners at a later stage. The centre is not suitable for the re-ablement service as it shares communal space with the Heathfields Care Home.
14. The Essex Rooms – de-commission the centre as the premises are not suitable for provision of the dementia or re-ablement services. The building is a disused chapel with no garden, storage space or parking. There is public access around the perimeter of the building, which excludes the potential for upgrading the building.
15. The Silver Rooms – de-commission the centre as there is £46,000 expenditure needed on the kitchen facilities to meet regulations. The building is a disused church with limited outside space for activities and parking. In addition

occupancy of the service is only 50%, and is therefore not cost effective.

16. The report suggests that people effected by the closure of the Essex and Silver Rooms can be re-located, after consultation and with help, to alternative third sector provision at St Luke's Luncheon Club, Ashwell Court Day Centre, Jessop Road Luncheon Club, William Booth Day centre and Marion Road Day Centre.

The impact of the chosen options

17. The closure of the Essex and Silver Room centres will reduce the number of day services places by 300. Given the current occupancy rate this will displace up to 188 people from their current day service provision.
18. The suggested alternative providers do not provide the same type of day services and it is not known if the people involved will want to receive those types of service.
19. It is not known if the suggested alternative providers have the capacity to provide a service to the people being displaced.
20. The 'market place' of organisations providing day services is already relatively small in Norwich. The report proposes the removal of two options for day services which means there will be fewer options available. The capacity of the "market place" will need to be developed so that increasing numbers of people with individual budgets have a real choice in the services they can buy.
21. The social networks and sense of familiarity of those being displaced many of who have attended the centres for a number of years will be damaged which will have an impact on peoples' well being.
22. The Independent Commission for Older People Living in and Around Norwich found that isolation is one of the main challenges associated with living independently. If the proposed options are implemented then a check will need to be kept of the 188 people that are displaced to make sure that they are enabled to take up new provision and don't become isolated.
23. The meeting held on 6th November 2009 heard from the Director of Adult Social Services. He said that the people attending the centres will all be consulted about how their needs which are currently met can be met if the centres are closed. However there appears to be no opportunity for people who may wish to attend in the future to influence the decisions. There was also little clarity about how preventative services will be provided through the third sector in the years ahead. This is especially relevant in the light of the Local Area Agreement targets to increase the number of individual budgets significantly over the next two years.