

Report of the Director of Housing and Adult Social Services

Petition relating to the closure of Yearsley Bridge Day Centre

Summary

1. This report advises Members of the petition received relating to the Yearsley Bridge Day Centre closure, and an update of the progress of the closure plan.

Background

2. A petition was received on September 4th 07 at full Council. It is just short of 5000 signatures and relates to opposition against the closure of Yearsley Bridge Centre. It is an amalgam of a previous petition submitted in April 07 with new signatories added- the petition organiser advises there are 3553 new signatories.
 - 2.1 As outlined in a report to Members in June 07, in response to the last petition, Yearsley Bridge, which is a large day centre in the Huntington area of York, supports 69 different people with learning disabilities on Monday – Friday. Please note that this figure includes 4 people who use the centre and are counted in this number, but only use Yearsley if supported separately by additional support workers. In reality therefore the number is 65. This has altered from the 73 people reported in the June report to EMAP, and is as a result of people opting to move onto alternative supports already. Its closure is part of an on-going programme of modernisation and re-provision to more flexible and individualised support in line with up to date Governmental thinking. This re-provision programme obtained Council support in 2002, and began with the closure and replacement of Hebden Rise Centre in 2005, followed by the programme for Yearsley Bridge. The closure of Yearsley Bridge is due to be completed in 2008.
 - 2.2 The plans for the reconfiguration and modernisation of day services in York came initially as a response to the Government paper “Valuing People” published in 2001. This paper and subsequent guidance and support from the National Valuing People Support team (the Government Learning Disability advisory team), supported the Day Services Modernisation plan that York submitted for vetting. The programme of changes also received support from inspectors from the Commission for Social Care Inspection where they commented, “in modernising the day services, the Council was offering more

appropriate alternative options to the majority of people who had been using larger day centre services.”

Consultation

3. Consultation is focussing on the options for new supports to replace Yearsley Bridge Centre. This is being done through meetings for all users and families as well as a programme of individual consultation with each service user and their family/key supports. There has been, and continues to be, extensive information and opportunities for people to influence the outcomes for individuals who use the centre, in planning the future supports for customers that need ongoing support.
 - 3.1 Following on from the meetings in December 06 where families and carers were invited to hear about the plans for Yearsley Bridge customers, all customers have received an individual person centred review. This is the mechanism by which individual's views; aspirations and needs are captured to inform the commissioning of alternative supports for their future day provision. These were all completed by October 07. Through October and November 07, the commissioning assumptions based on these reviews are being checked back with customers and families, and will be amended as necessary. Commissioning will then start to put in place the supports needed for individuals to begin their programmes in the summer of 08. Some people may elect to move towards a more community based support solution before summer 08, should such a choice be identified as being available before that time.
 - 3.2 Work is continuing also to ensure re-provision of generic services that have been provided previously from the Yearsley centre, that we know will be required (e.g. non specific for one individual) such as Hydrotherapy supports/ light room/changing spaces (large disabled changing facilities) etc. This includes positive progress in the granting of planning permission for the hydrotherapy pool as part of the Oakland's complex. (Due for completion in Spring 09), and the agreement for 5 changing places facilities around the City. The University of York has agreed to usage of a light room and one will also be based within the City centre area of town.
 - 3.3 The officers of the Council will continue to offer support and opportunities for engagement with the family group who gathered the petition, as well as to other families who are not involved in this group, by sending out information, as and when it is available, relating to the progress of the re-provision. In addition since the last petition report, there has been two family meetings to update on progress, on the 15th August and 15th November 07.

Options

4. The petition is presented for Members comments and consideration.

Analysis

5. The move away from large day centres and replacing them with smaller, more individualised support services in the community is well established as national good practice. The re-provision of Yearsley Bridge is part of York's local response to this Governmental requirement as well as a wish to provide improved, more modern services for people with a learning disability. The "Valuing People" white paper refresh, expected from Government later in 07, is anticipated to be very clear in its direction of the closure of any remaining large day centres into more individualised supports.

Corporate Priorities

6. The strongest link is to the corporate priority to:
Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest."
And also "improving the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city"

Implications

7. Not applicable

Risk Management

8. Not applicable

Recommendations

9. That the Executive Member note the information in this report and consider if there needs to be any formal response to the petition.

Contact Details

Author:

Anne Bygrave
Head of Learning Disabilities
554045

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Bill Hodson
Director of Housing and Adult Social Services

Report Approved Date 15.11.07

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Specialist Implications Officer(s) *List information for all*

Implication ie Financial

Name

Title

Tel No.

Implication ie Legal

Name

Title

Tel No.

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report