

***Meeting of the Executive Members for
Housing and Adult Social Services and
Advisory Panel***

2 June 2008

Report of the Head of Adult Services

***Strategy for the commissioning of support to people with a
physical and/or sensory impairment***

Summary

1. This report outlines the work undertaken to date to develop a Physical & Sensory Impairment Strategy for adult social care in York.

Members are requested to:

- 1.1 Note the attached draft of the first chapters of the strategy
- 1.2 Approve completion of the strategy following further consultation
- 1.3 Endorse the proposal for a Partnership Board framework for considering further developments that support people with a physical and/or a sensory impairment within York

Background

2. During the last three years the Government has published a range of initiatives that endorsed improvements to the support arrangements for people with a physical and/or a sensory impairment living independently in the community. These are listed in the draft strategy.
3. In order to translate these initiatives into a set of requirements within York, consultation was launched in November 2007 with the people concerned and the agencies working with them. This has focussed primarily on social care, but has included other council services, with involvement from those Directorates concerned.
4. Subsequent to the launch of the local consultation the government has recently embarked on consultation aimed at the creation of a national independent living strategy. This will have particular significance for the final Physical & Sensory Impairment Strategy for adult social care to be adopted within York.
5. In parallel to the consultation described above, the council Equalities section has been working, through the Social Inclusion Group, to improve the representation of people with a physical and/or a sensory impairment in York. This entailed a

large event 'Disabled People Together' during which, amongst other things, those present endorsed by a ratio of 5:1 the need for a single group to represent the views of people with a disability in the city.

6. One requirement on the council is to put in place a user led Centre for Independent Living (CIL) by 2010. For this to be achieved there is a need for strong partnership working between the Council and the community with physical and/or a sensory impairment.
7. The consultation has revealed a strong interest amongst people with a physical and/or a sensory impairment for further dialogue in developing the strategy. In order to finalise a strategy for the social care support to people with a disability a more formalised working arrangement between the council and the community of people with a disability would therefore be beneficial. This could operate in a similar way to partnership arrangements that currently exist to support the development and coordination of services to:
 - people with mental health problems
 - older people
 - people with a learning disability
8. It is therefore recommended that the creation of a Partnership Board involving the council and representatives from the community of people with a disability is established in order to move the strategy forward and support the development of a Centre for Independent Living.
9. It is further recommended that the Partnership Board once created is formally linked to the Local Strategic Partnership and Local area Agreement by reporting to the Healthy City Board, given the strong links between the developing strategy and the Healthy City Top Level Objective 'To be a city where residents enjoy long, healthy and independent lives through the promotion of healthy living and easy access to responsive health and social care services.'

Consultation

10. In developing the Physical & Sensory Impairment Strategy for adult social care there has, to date been one large consultation event and three focus groups held and through this the issues described in the attached draft strategy have been raised.
11. Consultation to date has involved current & prospective customers, agencies involved providing services and support and CYC members of staff. The main outcomes from the consultation has been:
 - Access to information
 - Access to support
 - Access to leisure & employment
 - Choice and control
 - Mobility & transport
 - Economic well being

There has been strong involvement in consultation from members of the sensory impairment community.

- 12 The consultation has underlines the need expressed by many of those involved that there needs to be more formalised structures put in place in future in order to undertake detailed planning and monitoring of both a broad based strategy and to support the the specific development of the Centre for Independent Living.

Options & Analysis

- 13 Option 1
To continue the strategy work without a Partnership Board. This would diminish the opportunity for a final strategy to be widely disseminated and considered in detail, before implementation.
- 14 Option 2
To develop both the strategy for People with a Physical and/or Sensory Impairment and support the development of a Centre for Independent Living and with a strengthened partnership between all agencies and the community with a disability through a Partnership Board.

This Board should be created to mirror other Partnership arrangements with the objective of a crosscutting membership of statutory and voluntary agencies alongside representatives from the community of people with a disability.

This Partnership structure would create the appropriate linkage across statutory and voluntary agencies with people affected by service provision to create better outcomes through a stronger partnership development.

Corporate Priorities

15. This proposal will support the improvement in partnerships to create better outcomes for residents of York.
16. The development of the strategy towards a linkage with broader corporate and partnership outcomes would imply that any follow up to this report and specifically as the development of the Centre for Independent Living takes place there will be a need to report to Healthy City Board and Members as required. Future reports would be written in conjunction with the Equalities Officer.

Implications

17. **Financial** - There are some financial implications linked to the development of the physical and/or a sensory impairment Strategy and further consultations, this will be no more than £2000 and can be met from within current budgets. Once the strategy document is complete and the action plan begins to develop there will likely be some financial implications linked to developing and changing service provision which will need to feed into the usual budget cycle.

18. **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no implications to this report
19. **Equalities** – A link with the Equalities Officer and the corporate equalities agenda has already been established as part of this piece of work. As the strategy and the action plan develop further there will be a need to conduct an Equalities Impact Assessment.
20. **Legal** – There are no implications to this report
21. **Crime and Disorder** – There are no implications to this report
22. **Information Technology (IT)** – There are no implications to this report
23. **Property** – There are no implications to this report
24. **Other** – There are no implications to this report

Risk Management

25. The risks associated with the proposals in this report are low and score less than 16.
When it is agreed that a strategy should be implemented any financial risks resulting from required service development will be considered as and when specific proposals are made.

Recommendations

26. It is recommended that Members endorse the proposals in this report.

Reason: to establish a Partnership Board framework to continue with the development of the physical and/or a sensory impairment Strategy and support the development of a Centre for Independent Living.

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Report Approved Date 19th May 2008

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Report Approved Date 19th May 2008

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Finance

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

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None