

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

June 4<sup>th</sup> 2007

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 12<sup>th</sup> April 07 handed into Councillors at the Council meeting. It is just short of 2000 signatures and relates to opposition against the closure of Yearsley Bridge Centre. Yearsley Bridge is a large day centre in the Huntington area of York. It supports 73 different people with learning disabilities on Monday – Friday. 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. Details of the dates of committees and discussions relating to the day service modernisation programme can be found at Annex 1.
  - 2.1 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 services 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 services user

and their family/friends. There has been 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. Details of information sent can be seen in Annex 2.

- 3.1 Notably, meetings began in December 2006, with three sessions where all families and carers were invited to hear about the plans for Yearsley Bridge customers. The notes of these meetings were sent to every family and carer. Each family member was invited to advise the Council on the way in which they wanted to be kept informed of developments or how they wanted to be contacted i.e. newsletter/ meetings etc.
- 3.2 This information includes letters to people using the centre, family members and others that support them. This information has been sent directly to families and to the homes where people live and are supported (as over 50% live outside of the family home). In addition, each person has already undertaken (or dates are planned) for their 'person centred' review. This is the mechanism by which individual's views, aspirations and needs are captured to form the commissioning of alternative supports for their future day provision. The outcomes from these will be known in totality by September or October 07 and at that stage we can advise people of possible options for their future supports.
- 3.3 This opportunity to influence outcomes continues to be the case because the process of re-provision is on-going and these opportunities will continue until the Autumn of this year, when the commissioning plan will commence.
- 3.4 There is a full time project manager dedicated to supporting the re-provision of Yearsley Bridge, and part of his role is to continue to try and engage families in the positive outcomes that we expect for customers. It is entirely understandable that families have anxieties about a re-provision programme, as this signals a large change in the traditional way supports have been delivered previously. Some of the concerns expressed have been relating to the re-provision of generic services that have been provided previously from the Yearsley centre, and work is being done on establishment of alternative provisions that we already know will be required (e.g. non specific for one individual) such as Hydrotherapy supports/ light room/changing spaces etc.
- 3.5 The officers of the Council will continue to offer support and opportunities for engagement with the family group, as well as sending out information, as and when it is available, relating to the progress of the re-provision.

## **Options**

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

## **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. Remaining at Yearsley Bridge would run counter to this and leave the council with a building that is not fit for purpose.

## 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 healthy are the poorest.”

## Implications

7. There are no Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, IT, Crime and Disorder, Property or Other implications arising from this report.

## Risk Management

8. Sadly, Yearsley Bridge Centre is often attacked by vandals overnight as it is in a relatively isolated and vulnerable situation. The building is also not designed to meet modern standards of care and some of the facilities there (e.g. the hydrotherapy pool which is over 20 years old) are in need of replacement. If the services remain at Yearsley:
  - There will be significant financial implications in order to bring facilities there up to standard and to protect the building
  - There may be an impact on the performance rating of the council’s learning disability services as we will not be following best practice.

## Recommendations

9. That Members note the information in this report and consider the petition.

Reason: To inform the Executive Member

### Contact Details

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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Bill Hodson  
Director of Housing and Adult Social Services

Report Approved

Date 11<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

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

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers: None**

### Annexes

Annex 1 - Dates for Committee meetings and information relating to Day Service modernisation programme

Annex 2 – Information sent to families etc