

## South Gloucestershire Council Re-provision Proposals for Learning Difficulties Day Services at Kingswood and Blackhorse RACs and the Chipping Sodbury Day Service

### New Service Model

#### Background

During the 3 month period of formal consultation from 5 May to 31 July 2008 responses were received from a wide group of stakeholders. These responses have been analysed and Option C was the favoured option. A recommendation was submitted to Cabinet for consideration on 6 October 2008. Following agreement work is now underway to plan the implementation with closure of Kingswood RAC by April 2009 and Blackhorse RAC at the end of 2010. By 2010 The Chipping Sodbury Memorial Hospital will no longer be required, as service users requiring a building base will move to the new building.

A copy of the Cabinet report and supporting papers can be found on the South Gloucestershire Council web site [www.southglos.gov.uk](http://www.southglos.gov.uk) (under 'Learning Difficulties' in the A-Z menu, click into Learning Difficulties Day Services Re-provision, under the section 'Read More' click on Re-Provision Proposals Cabinet Report).

#### Day services are currently provided for:

- 144 service users at Kingswood and Blackhorse RACs
  - 14 at Chipping Sodbury Day Service
- of these 158 service users :
- 24 are funded by other authorities
  - 63 live in Residential Care Homes
  - 71 will be re-provided for by the Council's learning difficulty service

#### Recommended Option

**Option C was recommended to Cabinet** as being the most appropriate model and was agreed by Cabinet on 6 October 2008. This will mean:

- The Council will close Kingwood and Blackhorse RACs.
- The Council will run services in the new building.
- Chipping Sodbury Memorial Hospital will no longer be required.
- There will be a team to support community-based services.
- A specialist team will support service users with complex needs.

- Service users who live in residential care homes will have their day services arranged by the independent provider running the care home.
- Service users whose service is paid for by another authority will in future have those services arranged by the paying authority.

## **The New Service Model (Option C)**

The new service model will include:

### ○ **New building**

The anticipated completion of the build is forecast to be October 2010. The building will:

- be located on the Fiveways site at Kingswood.
- have physical space for up to 45 service users to attend per day, but with an anticipated average daily attendance of 35 service users using the facility.
- be staffed by Council employees. Job Descriptions have been developed and a process for appointment to these posts is being formulated by the Workforce project for agreement with the Unions.

#### Building Services Eligibility Criteria

- Personal Care needs cannot currently be met in the Community (ie requiring access to manual handling equipment such as a changing bed and/or a hoist).
- Health needs cannot currently be met in the Community (ie requiring specialist equipment, facilities, regular medical interventions, or space to 'rest' on a regular basis).
- Assessed psychological and emotional needs that necessitate the routine and familiarity of a building base.
- Behaviour which challenges services such that needs cannot be safely met in the Community.
- Anyone living in a Residential Care home will have their day services arranged by their home and will therefore not be eligible for a building placement.

### ○ **Future Teams**

Most of the staff will be the same.

#### New Building Team

There will be a team who will be based in the new centre, their role will also be to develop activities in the community and support people in these activities

#### Community Team

There will be a team who will continue to develop a range of community work. Current activities will be supported, and more new activities will be developed.

#### Challenging Behaviour Service

Staff from Chipping Sodbury will continue to work as a community service with people who have complex needs.

### Supporting Independence Team

The supporting Independence team will continue to help people develop skills in the community on their own.

### Employment support team

The employment support team will continue to help people who want to get a job.

#### ○ **Independent Providers**

Residential Care homes will organise day time activities for those in their care. They will either run the activities themselves or will arrange and commission activities and support from other providers.

Service users living in residential homes will not be eligible to access the new centre.

Individual or group activities will be organised with independent providers where service users have been assessed as able to have their needs met in the community

#### ○ **Other paying Authorities**

For those whose service is paid for by another Local Authority, communication is taking place with those authorities to develop plans for service users attending the centres to have alternative arrangements made for them. Future activities will be the responsibility of the paying authority to arrange.

## **Transport**

- The Council is currently undertaking a Transport Review.
- Transport to the new building will be organised for those assessed as needing it. The service will operate a mini bus and smaller vehicles. Vehicles with Wheelchair access will be used where required.
- Independent travel will be encouraged where service users are able to complete travel independence training, as transport to non-building based services cannot be guaranteed to be made available by the Council. Those who would like to explore traveling more independently would be supported to do so through training and might benefit from a new travel buddy scheme that is being developed.
- A Learning Difficulties Transport Project Group has been set up to address some of the transport issues that are known to exist, including supporting service users if transport provision changes or fails.

## Implementation

- Expansion of the community teams will relate to the phased reduction of services at the RACs.
- In order to provide a level of reassurance each service user will receive the following:
  - a comprehensive assessment of social care needs
  - a full care plan
  - a risk assessment which identified risks and how these would be managed, these would include for example service failure and road safety risks
  - access to a building based service where the need is clearly identified
  - continuity of access to the range and volume of community-based activities that are already in place
  - development of additional community-based alternative services appropriate to the assessed needs of the service user
  - development of travel plans
  - a contingency plan covering the event of service failure
  - a review 6-8 weeks after starting the new service
- Carers and support providers will be involved in this process and parent/carer assessments will be offered and are encouraged.
- Two social workers have been appointed to undertake the assessments which commenced in August 2008. Initially, assessments will be prioritised for people attending Kingswood RAC to ensure completion by the planned closure date.
- Assessments for Blackhorse RAC service users and those supported by the Challenging Behaviour Service at Chipping Sodbury will follow.
- A review of services will take place 6-8 weeks following any new service provision.
- Direct Payments or Personal Budgets will be available as an option and can be supported by a brokerage service.

Provisional timescales for implementation are :

Implementation of new services begins	October 2008
Kingswood RAC closes	March 2009
Transition for some service users into Blackhorse RAC	March 2009
New building opens (anticipated)	October 2010
Blackhorse RAC closes	October 2010
Service Users from Chipping Sodbury Day Service who require a building base will move to the new building.	October 2010
Change fully implemented	March 2011

October 2008