

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 22 January 2020
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Report title	Blakenhall Dementia Day Service	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Linda Leach Adults	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	David Watts, Director of Adult Services	
Originating service	Adult provision	
Accountable employee	Tom Denham Tel Email	Head of Adult Provision 01902 553337 Tom.denham@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Adult Leadership Team	26 November 2019

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the proposal to initiate an eight week consultation period to discuss a proposal to transfer the current Dementia Day Service operating within Blakenhall Resource Centre to Action for Independence, Albert Road.
2. Receive more detailed proposals after the consultation period.

Recommendation for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. That consultation will include full engagement with people using the service, their carers, support staff, Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust (BCPFT) and the Alzheimer's Society.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To request the permission of Cabinet for consultation to be undertaken regarding a proposal to transfer the Dementia Day Service currently delivered at Blakenhall Resource Centre to the Action for Independence venue at Albert Road.
- 1.2 This proposal has been developed as part of a review of current services by a joint health and social care working group set up to deliver on aims stated in the City's Dementia Strategy at appendix 1.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Blakenhall Community Day Centre was opened in 1997 to provide local access to Day Care Services for older people in Wolverhampton with Functional and/or Dementia Disorders. People potentially requiring the service are referred to Social workers within the Council's Adult Social Care teams.
- 2.2 The service budget is managed by Adult Social Care's Adult Provider service. From this budget support staff are provided, transport to and from the service where appropriate and all provisions required for the operation of the service. The building is part of the Council's corporate portfolio.
- 2.3 The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) currently commissions nursing input to the service, where required, from a team of Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust (BCPFT) nurses who are currently based at Blakenhall.
- 2.4 The Day Service currently has the capacity to provide 75 places per week to 32 older people with both dementia and/or functional mental illness. The service is operational for five days per week with staff presence onsite from 9am to 5pm.
- 2.5 The City Council works with a range of stakeholders including Wolverhampton CCG and BCPFT as part of the Better Care Fund Programme Dementia workstream. Over the last 12 months, joint working has led to the introduction of a Joint Dementia Strategy for the city for 2019 – 2024 – appendix 1.
- 2.6 The Joint Dementia Strategy states five main aims and one of those is 'Supporting Well' – appendix 1, page 13. A Dementia Declaration in this area of the strategy calls for 'Access to safe, high quality health and social care for people with dementia and carers' – appendix 1, page 17.
- 2.7 One of the actions required in the strategy to meet this aim/declaration is to 'Review respite and day support for people affected by dementia and develop a new model in line with modernised day services and incorporating new health community team input' – appendix 1, page 17.

3.0 Current situation and progress

- 3.1 A Joint Health and Social Care Day Services working group has been established and has, over the last six months, gained a detailed understanding of the needs of people currently supported in existing day services. The steering group have reviewed the client profile and needs at Blakenhall against the requirements for modern, sustainable, Community Mental Health Services that are in line with the City's Dementia Strategy.
- 3.2 The existing building used by the service, the Blakenhall Community Resource Centre, does not meet the expectations of an up to date, fully accessible and inclusive Day Service provision in terms of both the facilities and activities available to be undertaken there.
- 3.3 Current provision at the Blakenhall Community Resource Centre is within a building that is not fully accessible which can result in the inability to accept referrals of patients with significant mobility issues. Some external areas are currently difficult to access even by people who have lesser mobility issues.
- 3.4 The current Blakenhall service is situated within part of the Council's former Blakenhall Residential home which was closed in 2015. Around 90% of the building footprint is closed and is managed by the Council's Corporate Landlord Service. This vacant appearance may have led to recent vandalism and break-ins.

4.0 Alternative option for provision

- 4.1 An option to consult on is to utilise the current Adult Provision venue at Action for Independence, Albert Road. The facilities at Action for Independence are much more accessible than Blakenhall, the venue has undergone recent renovation, there is a large garden area, changing place toilet facilities, an IT suite, accessible rehabilitation kitchen and the venue is close to West Park and the city centre.
- 4.2 Another option is to remain at Blakenhall, but substantial capital investment would be required and the service would still be isolated from other community based services and city amenities.
- 4.3 Meals are currently provided at Blakenhall but the consultation will enable people to think about alternate meal options such as Meals on Wheels or food brought in from home as per current In House day services for people with a learning disability. Meals provided by the service have limited choice and can also limit independence in that travelling out of the venue may be cut short due to having to return at a set time for meals when people could be supported to have a meal whilst undertaking activities in the community.

5.0 Reasons for decision

- 5.1 The current Blakenhall venue is not equipped to support a modern support service for people with dementia. Consultation with service users, carers and other stakeholders is required due to a move of venue being a major change to the service.

5.2 The Action for Independence venue is equipped to support the service, there is capacity within the venue and day support is already provided there for people with other disabilities.

5.3 The action for Independence venue is well used by a number of council teams, partner organisations and the voluntary sector making it a well visited part of the city community. It is a more inclusive venue as opposed to the isolating effect of the current Blakenhall venue.

6.0 Financial implications

6.1 The approved 2019-2020 budget for Blakenhall Day service is £269,000. The financial implications related to the outcome of the consultation will be detailed in future reports to Cabinet.
[JB/05122019/X]

7.0 Legal implications

7.1 There have been no legal implications identified to date.
[JB/08012020/J]

8.0 Equalities implications

8.1 Initial equality analysis has been conducted for the start of the consultation. This will be refreshed during the consultation before a final equality analysis report is prepared at the end of the consultation.

9.0 Climate change and environmental implications

9.1 The use of the Action for Independence venue for the Dementia service will cut out the Blakenhall venue from the corporate transport routing. People already travel to Action for Independence for the learning disability day service so there may be some route optimisation that could cut down the amount of mileage and hence emissions for corporate transport.

10.0 Health and Wellbeing implications

10.1 It is intended that a move out of the Blakenhall venue and in to the Action for Independence venue would help the people who use the service to enjoy greater interaction with other members of the community.

10.2 The Action for Independence venue has a large garden area which will be able to be enjoyed by all. The current garden area at Blakenhall is not used due to accessibility issues.

10.3 West Park is near to the Action for Independence venue and the city centre is not far away which will help people using the venue to get outside more and feel a greater part of the community. The current Blakenhall venue is quite isolated and only people with dementia or support staff ever visit it.

11.0 Human resources implications

11.1 There are human resource implications associated with this report as proposals could potentially impact on Council employees, however this report is currently only recommending consultation.

12.0 Corporate landlord implications

12.1 Adult Social care currently have no ongoing requirement for the Blakenhall building if the Day service transferred out and so would arrange to transfer the remainder of the building to the Council's Corporate Landlord service.

12.2 Once the asset has been vacated and transferred to Corporate Landlord it will be managed as a void property which will incur standard holding costs until its future is determined.

12.3 Corporate Landlord will present the asset for disposal through the defined process with the appropriate recommendation being made following the outcome.

13.0 Schedule of background papers

13.1 No background papers

14.0 Appendices

14.1 Appendix 1 – Joint Dementia Strategy 2019 – 2024 – Improving the lives of people affected by dementia in the City of Wolverhampton.