

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 19 MAY 2015**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER (SOCIAL SERVICES)**

SUBJECT: **MELROSE CONSULTATION**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide an overview of the outcome of the consultation in order for Cabinet to make the final decision regarding the future provision of day care services, previously provided at the Melrose Centre.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The agreed budget for the Council for 2015/16 included the need to rationalise day care for older people reducing to a smaller number of sites, and to target specialist provision, e.g. supporting people living with dementia. This informed the recent budget report and confirmed the proposal to consult on the possible re-provision of the services provided at the Melrose day centre in Shotton.

2.02 Day services for older people are provided 5 days per week in four main centres, The Melrose Centre, Marleyfield House Day Centre, Croes Atti Day Centre and The Old Brewery. Services run in the main Monday -Friday from 9am – 5pm.

2.03 The service provides both dementia and generic day care across all of the centres on discreet/dedicated day. Day services are very much a part of the strategy to keep people at home for as long as possible. It meets the needs for respite care provided to support carers as well as the cared for. The average age of people attending day services is 85.

2.04 Over the past 12 months occupancy levels for in house day care have dropped. This could be for a number of reasons, including change in transport arrangements, increase of direct payments, the establishments of community based activities/support and more use of alternative provision such as The Windmill an independent sector day centre in Buckley. The trend indicates a reduction in the number of people requiring generic support with consistency in the number of people with dementia.

2.05 Given that the Melrose Centre supports mostly generic day care and the building is in need of significant capital funding, it is timely to review service provision and the location of such provision and

reconsider the needs of those currently attending the Melrose centre and where appropriate offer alternative support. This could be in another placement, a direct payment or support to access community based services.

- 2.06 The attached consultation document details the four consultation options and options summaries.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

CONSULTATION - KEY POINTS

- 3.01 The formal consultation began with two consultation events held on 3rd and 4th February 2015. Attendance at both events was good with over 70% of service users and their families attending the consultation events.

- 3.02 In addition to the group consultations, face to face consultations also took place, we have also received a number of letters and emails from service users and families.

- 3.03 The 4 options considered are set out below. Although there are very strong reasons for wanting to review the future of the Melrose Centre it is nevertheless good practice to consult on retaining the status quo as one option.

- Invest in the refurbishment of the Melrose Centre and continue as is.
- Transfer the day services to a new organisation that is which is independent from the Council.
- Transfer current day service users to other day services in Flintshire.
- Actively support individuals to arrange their own day services through the use of Direct Payments and Managed Accounts.

- 3.04 More detailed information about the 4 options can be found in Appendix 1

There was opportunity for individuals and their families to hear from the voluntary sector. The information provided by Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC) and the North East Wales Carer information Service (NEWCIS) about other groups and opportunities within Flintshire was considered helpful to individuals and their families.

Consultation outcomes in summary

- 3.05 Over 75% of Melrose service users and their families took part of the consultation process.

- 3.06 Option one was the most popular option with 100% of those consulted, maintaining that the Melrose Centre should be kept open as a day centre and that the Council should invest in the building making it fit for purpose, that services should remain as they are, and the Council should find other efficiencies to meet the funding gap.
- 3.07 Option two was strongly the second favoured option. A requirement for the service users and their families, was that this option would need to accommodate all service users within any new premises.
- 3.08 Option three was supported by some people.
- 3.09 Option four is not an option that individuals want to pursue however, some families took information away with them to consider for the future.
- 3.10 Alternative sustainable models the future will be explored with service users with the support of the voluntary sector.
- 3.11 Option 2 was strongly the second favoured option. A requirement for the service users and their families, was that this option would need to accommodate all service users within any new premises.
- 3.12 The strong conclusion from this consultation is that Option 2 is the only feasible option to take forward. Although Option 1 was clearly popular from the consultation support that it received, it is not possible to take forward this option due to capital and revenue funding constrains. Therefore this report is strongly recommending that Option 2 is the most favoured option that is also financial sustainable. There will also be some people that prefer to utilise Option 3 in accessing local authority day-care in one of our remaining day centres. The clear conclusion of this consultation is that the taking forward of Option 2 with some elements of Option 3 provides a very good service which compares very well with the current service and is financially sustainable

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Cabinet is asked to approve the recommended Option 2, the transfer of the service to a new organisation, for the future provision of day care services, previously provided by the Melrose Centre.
- 4.02 Cabinet approve that where it is people's choice that Option 3, the transfer of day care to another Local Authority day centre, is made available to day care service users.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 The proposed change to day care services will achieve £130k efficiency already planned in the council's annual budget.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 There is no significant input.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 A report has been presented to the Asset Management Group regarding the Melrose Centre being surplus to Social Service requirements.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 An initial scoping exercise has been undertaken, and the assessment confirmed that there would be minimal impact to service users, this is because a service will be maintained, operating from a building which is fit for purpose.

8.02 The consultation has offered choices for individuals and this meets with the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being Act.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 There are 5 staff, on variety of contract hours, to consider as part of the proposed closure. Meetings have been held and formal Individual Consultation meetings are being progressed.

9.02 T.U.P.E forms part of the negotiations for any service transfer. However, it is envisaged that these staff will choose to be redeployed into vacant posts within other service areas.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 To consult with key stakeholders, staff, service users, and with Social and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Full consultation with key stakeholders, staff, and service users has been undertaken.

11.02 This report was considered by Social and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 14th May. The outcome of the meeting was fully supportive of the recommended option, the recommendation being "having due regard to the outcome of the consultation, the committee endorses the intention to proceed with option 2 "(the recommended option)

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Melrose consultation – summary of actions

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

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