

Review Title: Short Breaks for Adults with Learning Difficulties in Bath & North East Somerset
Overview & Scrutiny Panel: Health & Social Services
Panel Chairman: Cllr. Gerry Curran
Overview & Scrutiny Project Manager: Anna Burgess
Supporting Service Officers: Jane Ashman, Strategic Director Social and Housing Services Nick Harris, Head of Adult Care and Commissioning Service

Process for Tracking O&S Recommendations - Guidance note for Executive Members

The enclosed table lists all the recommendations arising from the above Overview & Scrutiny Review. Individual recommendations are referred to the relevant named Executive Members (or whole Executive in the case of a whole Executive referral) as listed in the '**Exec Member**' column of the table. In order to provide the O&S Panel with an Executive response on each recommendation, the named Executive member (or whole Executive) is asked to complete the last 3 columns of the table as follows:

Decision Response

The Executive has the following options:

- **Accept** the Panel's recommendation
- **Reject** the Panel's recommendation
- **Defer** a decision on the recommendation because a response cannot be given at this time. This could be because the recommendation needs to be considered in light of a future Executive decision, imminent legislation, relevant strategy development or budget considerations, etc.

Implementation Date

- For 'Accept' decision responses, give the date that the recommendation will be implemented.
- For 'Defer' decision responses, give the date that the recommendation will be reconsidered.
- For 'Reject' decisions this is not applicable so write n/a

Rationale

Use this space to explain the rationale for your decision response and implementation date. For accepted recommendations, please give details of how they will be implemented.

Short Breaks for Adults with Learning Difficulties: Recommendations

The Health & Social Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel have conducted an investigation into the provision of short breaks for adults with learning difficulties in Bath & North East Somerset. **The Panel ask the Executive Member for Social Services to consider the following recommendations** to help improve

Recommendation	Exec Member	Decision Response	Implementation Date	Rationale
<p>6.1. Transition</p> <p>The Panel have heard how the cross over from Children to Adult Services can be sometimes disjointed and distressing for the young adult concerned. Whilst recognising the pressure on Social Services to provide a full service whilst under-staffed the Panel make the following recommendations.</p> <p>6.1.1. That the Adult Disabilities team contact people who are waiting to be allocated a Social Worker, to reassure them and so maintain contact and communication</p>	Francine Haeberling	Accept	April 2005	Adult Disabilities team will institute an administrative procedure to ensure that parents are kept updated. This will be monitored by the Transitions Operations group
<p>6.1.2. That the current initiative for joint training between the adult services team and the children services team are continued on a more regular basis to encourage knowledge sharing and a streamlining of service cross-over.</p>	Francine Haeberling	Accept	April 2005	<p>Joint training initiatives continue within the ACPC structure and the Child Care Training Strategy workshops that are open to both service areas. GSCC registration has put a new emphasis on this and increased awareness of the benefits of training</p> <p>There has been an improvement in transition planning with operational group and strategic groups meeting regularly.</p>
<p>6.1.3. That Social Services encourage and provide opportunity for networking amongst other</p>	Francine Haeberling	Accept	April 2005	Progressing of strategic planning for the delivery of services in the transition years

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<p>organisations involved in transition particularly,</p> <p>a) between Beamonds, a respite facility for children with learning difficulties, and Tanners Walk a dedicated provider of short breaks for adults with learning difficulties.</p> <p>b) between local Special Educational Schools and Adult Day Services</p>				<p>will include closer dialogue between the respite residential providers. Beamonds tends to take on the more complex and needy children who are less easily managed within our family link service.</p> <p>Improve the strategic approach to better integration between educational and training services for this age group. This focus has been picked up by the strategic planning group. In particular this group will monitor the quality of transition planning at age 14 years.</p> <p>Ensure that children's services share information at the appropriate time with adult care colleagues, and collaborate more in sharing the expertise each service has in meeting a diverse range of needs.</p>
<p>6.1.4. Social Services, along with other providers, look at whether a short breaks service specifically for 18-30 year olds would be a viable option and perhaps a way of easing some of the transition difficulties.</p>	Francine Haeberling	Accept	April 2005	<p>Joint Commissioning Manager to consider options for developing short break service as recommended, as part of Commissioning Strategy. To work with members of the Strategic Transitions group.</p> <p>Option appraisal will include consideration of available resources and will also look into the success of similar services nationally.</p>

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<p>6.2. Information / Communication</p> <p>The Panel believe that through better communication of all services to people with learning difficulties, it is hoped that this would address unmet needs and empower people to access services themselves, relieving some of the pressure on the provision of dedicated short breaks. Therefore the Panel make the following recommendations to the Executive Members for Communication and Social Services.</p> <p>6.2.1. That a Directory is produced for adults with learning difficulties and their Carers, giving comprehensive and accessible information of the following;</p> <p>a) All available short break services in the area including voluntary organisations and clubs. This should contain information of what kind of short breaks they provide, how to access these services and who to contact.</p> <p>b) Everyday Services like hairdressers, dentists, leisure facilities, cinemas, libraries etc</p> <p>This directory should be a corporate initiative.</p>	<p>Cllr Francine Haerberling And Cllr Paul Crossley</p>	<p>Reject</p>		<p>Extensive information is already available via Dissbase and Purple Pages public helpline- which can be accessed by the Care Network and other voluntary organisations. There are information leaflets in libraries and other public sites and a link on the Council's website. An advertisement for Purple Pages is appearing on the year planner which is going to all Council Tax payers in March 2005.</p> <p>A paper booklet is difficult to keep up to date and costly to produce. Information can be made available from the Council website.</p> <p>The Purple Pages was only just being introduced when the Overview & Scrutiny panel was sitting and they were not aware of this.</p>
<p>6.2.2. Suggest that annual reviews conducted by Social Workers could also check that the individual client's Directory of Services is up</p>	<p>Cllr Francine Haerberling</p>			<p>Social Workers and reviewing officers will ensure that individual clients have the range of information required</p>

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to date.				
6.2.3. The Panel would also like progress to be made towards creating an accessible website of this directory.	Cllr Francine Haeberling And Cllr Paul Crossley	Defer		<p>The new Dissbase will be web based from June 2005, and will be placed on the Council's website.</p> <p>The local Partnership Board for learning difficulties will work with i2i (an information and advocacy service for people with learning difficulties) and the Care Network to determine the most appropriate ways to bring this information to people's attention</p>
6.2.4. Also, that the Council actively encourages other organisations who provide services to the community to think about ways they can make their information more accessible to people with learning difficulties.	Cllr Francine Haeberling And Cllr Paul Crossley	Accept	June 2005	<p>The new Partnership Board for people with learning difficulties will address this issue. The Partnership Board wishes to strengthen links with the Local Strategic Partnership and the Community Strategy</p>

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<p>6.3. Challenging Behaviour</p> <p>The Panel recognise that the provision of Short Breaks for adults with learning difficulties and challenging behaviour is an area for major development over next year and is becoming more of an issue for those who commission and those who provide short break services.</p> <p>In light of the shortage of appropriate providers of short breaks for adults with severe learning difficulties and complex needs the Panel recommend:</p> <p>6.3.1. that proposals to develop appropriate short break services, which might include a facility linked to a current provider, should be brought forward.</p>	Cllr Francine Haeberling	Accept	June 2005	A Commissioning Strategy for adults with learning difficulties has been developed which includes proposals for developing short break services. This strategy is currently in draft form, and is expected to be agreed by the Joint Commissioning Board by June 2005. The new Joint Services Manager will establish a framework for implementing the Commissioning Strategy and delivering its Action plan
6.3.2. That the Adult Disabilities Team endeavours that where ever possible, support for adults with challenging behaviour is provided within Bath & North East Somerset. To this end the panel would like to see a reduction in the expense and distress caused to individuals when they need to go out of authority for	Cllr Francine Haeberling	Accept	April 2005	Options to provide services within Bath and North East Somerset will always be pursued in the first instance. The range of available services is increasing due to a number of providers opening new services within BANES.

Short Breaks Review (HSS O&S Panel): Executive Response Table

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<p>care. However, the Panel also recognise that occasionally it will be more appropriate for individuals to cross authority boundaries to receive a suitable short break.</p>				<p>The local community learning difficulties team has established an Intensive Support service to support individuals with challenging behaviours and their carers/support staff.</p> <p>Transitions work will identify those children reaching adulthood who have complex needs and challenging behaviour Emphasis will be placed on developing appropriate services within BANES where needed</p>

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<p>6.4. Emergency Planning</p> <p>It is important to have clear processes and appropriate provision for short break services that are needed in an emergency. The Panel Recommend:</p> <p>6.4.1. that a plan for what would happen in an emergency is included as a standard item in the client's annual review with their Social Worker. This should include an assessment of the likelihood of an emergency situation occurring.</p>	Cllr Francine Haeberling	Accept	May 2005	<p>Adult Disabilities Team Manager will ensure that emergency plans are included in care plans. This will be monitored by the commissioning and placements panel, chaired by the Joint Commissioning Manager.</p> <p>Emergency plans will include an assessment of the likelihood of an emergency situation occurring, and also the capacity of the family or carers to provide input in such situations</p> <p>If the client has needs identified for a service in emergency situation, they will be introduced to a service that can provide such a service (tea visits etc) so that they are known to that service before the emergency arises.</p>
<p>6.4.2. that specific work with individual providers is continued to plan towards ensuring that all client needs are able to be met in these circumstances.</p>	Cllr Francine Haeberling	Accept	April 2005	<p>A range of strategies will be progressed including:</p> <p>The development of Adult family Link. A review of the use of Tanners Walk. A review of in house services such as Maple Grove.</p>

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<p>6.4.3. that in recognition of the difficulties surrounding providing short term care in an emergency, Social Services explore the possibilities of employing a team of Paid Carers, Casual Carers or bank staff to be on call, and paid at a higher wage when needed at short notice.</p>	<p>Cllr Francine Haeberling</p>	<p>Defer</p>		<p>The need for a range of carers and bank staff will be more clearly identified through the implementation of the Commissioning Strategy for adults with learning difficulties. Further work needs to be undertaken on developing the strategy for a range of short break services. The Intensive Support service, working with commissioners and the Adult Disabilities Team can commission and oversee the use of paid staff in an emergency</p>

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<p>6.5. Person Centred Planning and Direct Payments</p> <p>The Panel acknowledge the work that is already being done in the move towards Person Centred Planning and Direct Payments. They recommend:</p> <p>6.5.1. that Social Services undertake further work to encourage an increase in the take up of Direct Payments especially for people with learning difficulties.</p>	Cllr Francine Haerberling	Accept	April 1 st 2005	<p>Work to increase greater take up of Direct Payments is already underway, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular workshops being held at Day centres ▪ A project to develop a learning programme about direct payments which is available to all people with learning difficulties ▪ A film group based at a day centre are making a video about Direct Payments ▪ Direct Payments training arranged for Person Centred Planning facilitators ▪ Commissioning and Placements panel to monitor the offer of direct payments for all new services ▪ Joint Commissioning manager to explore opportunities to shift resources within Pooled Fund to support uptake of Direct payments
<p>6.5.2. that In particular they make efforts to increase the awareness of the use of Direct Payments amongst adults who currently use the short break facilities.</p>	Cllr Francine Haerberling	Accept	May 1 st 2005	<p>The Direct Payments Officer to send out an information flyer to all those currently receiving short break services with a reply slip indicating whether they would wish to explore direct payments as an alternative option.</p>

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				<p>Follow up visits by Direct Payments Officer and care manager to progress initial interest with a view to implementing direct payments.</p> <p>Direct Payments officer to set up information giving days to parents/carers of people with learning difficulties with an emphasis on short breaks.</p>

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<p>6.6. Forum</p> <p>During their investigation the Panel have consulted with a wide variety of organisations and individuals that contribute to improving the quality of life for adults with learning difficulties and their carers. The Panel recommend:</p> <p>6.6.1. that an Annual Forum for Providers, Commissioners, Parent Carers and Paid Carers is held as an extension of joint training initiatives. Social Services should look to initiate joined up events for this wider community of stakeholder to encourage joined-up thinking, sharing experiences, networking, breaking down of animosity and team working.</p>	Cllr Francine Haeberling	Accept	June 2005	<p>In November 2004 a conference was held with the aim of establishing revised a Partnership Board to oversee services for people with learning difficulties. The new Board, which will have its first meeting in June 2005, will include increased and direct representation from people with learning difficulties, families and carers and representatives of all key stakeholders. The Board is to be co-chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council and a person with learning difficulties in line with National expectations.</p> <p>Partnership Board meetings will be open to the public, and will be held three times a year.</p> <p>To support the Partnership Board, local network forums are to be established across B&NES, meeting bi-monthly. Each network will seek to engage with its local community, and will look to improve the inclusion of people with learning difficulties, in particular through the Local Strategic Partnership</p>
6.6.2. that these Away Days should include presentations of topical issues, discussions	Cllr Francine	Accept	June 2005	Each Partnership Board meeting will consider the most relevant and topical

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and question and answer sessions.	Haeberling			issues, and will monitor local initiatives to increase social inclusion and improve the lives of people with learning difficulties
<p>6.7. Black and Ethnic Minorities</p> <p>Due to the under representation of Black & Ethnic Minority Groups in the use of short break services the Panel recommend:</p> <p>6.7.1. that progress be made in the recruitment of black and ethnic minority family link workers</p> <p>6.7.2. that the Adult Disabilities Team be more proactive in raising the awareness of their services within Black & Ethnic Minority Communities.</p>	Cllr Francine Haeberling	Accept	April 2005	<p>Team Manager to discuss options for targeted recruitment campaign within Black and Ethnic Minority community</p> <p>Adult Disabilities Team Manager will:</p> <p>Ensure that team info is circulated within Black and Ethnic Minority communities</p> <p>Ensure that services link into transition planning and feed info into school/colleges</p> <p>Set up an information fair within BEMG settings.</p> <p>Circulate team leaflet to specialist service providers who BANES could commission a service from for BMEG (Sari, Black Orchid, women's groups)</p> <p>Joint Commissioning Manager will link with READ</p>
6.7.3. that organisations representing minority groups in Bath & North East Somerset are included in the suggested Forum outlined in recommendation 6.6.1.	Cllr Francine Haeberling	Accept	June 2005	<p>Arrangements for membership of the Partnership Board, and local networks will seek to ensure representation from minority groups.</p> <p>Attendance at public events will be open to</p>

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