

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ADULT CARE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 27 JUNE 2002 AT 10.30 A.M.**

JOINT INVESTMENT PLAN FOR LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES

Report of the Director of Adult Care Services

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with information on the Joint Investment Plan for Learning Disability Services, and to report progress.
- 1.2 To inform the full Scrutiny Committee of the views of services users as expressed at their meeting with some members of the Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 13 June 2002.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Department of Health first required local authorities to produce a Joint Investment Plan for Learning Disability Services in Spring 2001.
- 2.2 In March 2001, the Government published its White Paper “Valuing People, a New Strategy for Learning Disability Services”. This sets out its vision, based on the four key principles of rights, choice, independence and inclusion, and stresses the importance of putting people with learning disabilities at the centre of all our service planning and delivery. It sets out a challenging programme of action for improving services, under eleven objectives. It required each local authority to work in partnership with key stakeholders to revise its Joint Investment Plan in the light of Valuing People, and also to include in the plan bids against the Learning Disability Development Fund (both revenue and capital).
- 2.3 As required, Hertfordshire’s updated Joint Investment Plan, in the specified format, was submitted to the Department of Health by 31 January 2002.

3. SUMMARY OF PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK, AS SET OUT IN THE JOINT INVESTMENT PLAN (Full plan enclosed in Appendix A)

- 3.1 (Objective 1 relates to children, so is omitted).

3.2 Objective 2: Transition to Adult Life

Our work will focus on:

- Working with partners, including Connexions, to develop and implement person centred plans for young people in transition.
- Developing and implementing appropriate Pathway plans for disabled school leavers.

Objective 3: More choice and control

Main areas of development include:

- Strengthening self-advocacy services and independent person-work (a form of advocacy for the more disabled clients).
- Promoting direct payments.
- Developing person-centred planning.
- Increasing user involvement in decision making processes via the new user group, user conferences and representation on project groups.

3.4 Objective 4: Supporting Carers

Our work will focus on:

- Providing additional information for carers.
- Improving ease of entry into services now we have integrated health and social care teams.
- Increased respite services.
- Increased opportunities for carers to influence decision making, by representation on key groups, conferences, a new carers group, and through individual planning processes.

3.5 Objective 5: Good Health

Work will focus on:

- Enabling people with learning disabilities to access ordinary community health facilities, by providing training and support.
- Developing links into other national service frameworks, (e.g. Mental Health, Older People, Coronary Heart Disease).

3.6 Objective 6: Housing

We will continue to implement our accommodation strategy, which includes growth of 40 places a year. This will include:

- Reprovision of 2 hostels which do not meet registration standards.
- Additional residential care – Leavesden scheme (14 beds), Cole Green Lane (up to 6 beds).
- Additional supported living accommodation in Watford (8 flats).
- Reprovision of services at present at 305 Ware Road, Hailey, and Gombards, St Albans.

3.7 Objective 7: Fulfilling Lives

Our work will focus on:

- Developing and implementing plan to modernise day services.
- Developing college breaks schemes.
- Developing database of leisure services.
- Addressing transport issues, wherever possible.

3.8 Objective 8: Moving into Employment

Our work will focus on:

- Preparation for work courses.
- Expanding the work of Employment Direct.
- Developing an Employment Strategy.

3.9 Objective 9: Quality

Our work will include:

- Audit of quality assurance systems in place in organisations we contract with.
- Developing and implementing multi-agency quality assurance framework.

3.10 Objective 10: Workforce Training and Planning

Our work will focus on:

- Ensuring all organisations are equipped to meet the (new) requirements of the Learning Disability Awards Framework.
- Development of local workforce plan.

3.11 Objective 11: Partnership Working

We will

- Work to consolidate our new partnerships.
- Develop policies and procedures to support our relatively newly integrated structures.
- Review meeting structure to ensure this is comprehensive, robust and meeting the needs of all involved organisations.

4. FINANCE

- 4.1 The plan contains proposal on how we will spend our allocation of the Learning Disability Development Fund (revenue).

This is as follows:

Person-centred planning	£100,000
Modernising day services	£150,000
Supporting older carers	£60,000
Advocacy	£40,000
Developing leadership	£6,000
	<u>£356,000</u>

The plan also contains details of two bids for Learning Disability Development Fund capital, for housing projects.

5. RESPONSE OF SSI/DOH TO OUR JOINT INVESTMENT PLAN

- 5.1 Nationally all Joint Investment Plans have been evaluated against the defined objectives. (Full Evaluation report – Appendix B) We have fully or substantially met all objectives and recommendation has been given to release the development fund revenue for the purposes set out in the plan. A meeting with SSI and DoH in May 2002 also gave positive feedback. (Letter sent following this meeting - Appendix C).
- 5.2 We have not yet been informed of any decision on our bids for Learning Disability Development Fund capital. This is expected in the very near future.

6. PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING THE JOINT INVESTMENT PLAN

6.1 Objective 2: Transition to Adult Life

- 6.1.1 One Transitional Development worker is in post, and a second has been recruited. Information about young people in transition is being drawn together and analysed. Significant work is underway developing links and establishing networks with key organisations. Strategic planning day for key stakeholders set for 27 June 2002. Work on protocols, and processes for implementing person-centred plans is starting.

6.2 Objective 3: More Choice and Control

- 6.2.1 Additional funding has been made available to self-advocacy groups. Assistance is being given to setting up at least one new group. Person to lead on independent person work has been appointed (via POhWER)
- 6.2.2 Work to promote direct payments continues, with an information day for professionals held in May. Seven people with learning disabilities now

receive direct payments (an increase of six since submitting the Joint Investment Plan). Some work is being undertaken to identify the blocks to take up.

- 6.2.3 Sub group of the Learning Disability Steering Group has been set up to take forward the required work on person centred planning. Framework for person-centred planning developed, agreed by the Learning Disability Steering Group and submitted to the Department of Health by 30 April 2002, as required. Sub-group is now drawing up a detailed implementation plan, including how the £100,000 development monies will be used.
- 6.2.4 Focus for early schemes will be young people in transition, and people living on NHS sites (305 Ware Road, Hailey and Harperbury Specialist Residential Services).
- 6.2.5 Workshop (with external consultant) to discuss how to set up the proposed new user group has been held, and the way forward agreed. On target for being operational by Autumn 2002.
- 6.2.6 User conference, on Valuing People was held in May. 120 people attended. Plans now to be developed to run a series of smaller conferences in the quadrants of the County, each concentrating on an aspect of Valuing People. The aim is for these to give an increased number of people with learning disabilities an opportunity to contribute to the way services are developing and to influence priorities.
- 6.2.7 Users are now represented on all sub-groups of the Learning Disability Steering Group and on several other key working groups looking at specific aspects of learning disability services.

6.3 Objective 4: Supporting Carers

- 6.3.1 Work reviewing the role and function of the Community Learning Disability Teams is underway and this will include how people access services.
- 6.3.2 Work to set up new Carers group is progressing and on target for being operational by Autumn 2002.
- 6.3.3 Additional funding is available and being used flexibly to increase respite care, including for daytime and holiday time breaks.
- 6.3.4 Carers are now represented on most sub-groups of the Learning Disability Steering Group.

6.4 Objective 5: Good Health

- 6.4.1 Proposals on how to take forward the health agenda have been drawn up. These include setting up a sub group to focus on and be responsible for this work. In recognition of the importance of enabling people with learning

disabilities to access ordinary community health facilities a chief executive of a Primary Care Trust has agreed to set up and chair the group.

6.5 Objective 6: Housing

- 6.5.1 A service development manager is now in post, and taking work on the accommodation strategy forward.
- 6.5.2 We have obtained planning permission and secured housing corporation grant funding for The Orchards re-provision. We have also secured housing corporation grant funding for Cheshire Drive, completed the supported housing project and are well underway with the registered care home on that site. Tenders have been invited for the Lintons replacement projects. We have closed Roe Hill House and opened Golden Dell and Heronswood Road (supported living projects). Designs have been agreed for Chilwell Gardens and Sir John Newson School site.
- 6.5.3 Outline proposals to re-provide the services at 305 Ware Road (health trust resource) have received JCPB approval and work is now underway developing the agreed options for JCPB's further consideration.
- 6.5.4 Work on site at London Road, Welwyn has started This project will provide new accommodation to current standards for the residents at present living at Gombards, St Albans.
- 6.5.5 Basis for re-configuration of Walsingham's provision has been agreed.

6.6 Objective 7: Fulfilling Lives

- 6.6.1 Work is in progress to engage consultant support to develop a robust strategy for the development of day services, which will be subject to consultation with key stakeholders, including County Council members, users, carers and staff. Once the strategy is in place it is anticipated that a project manager will be appointed to take forward implementation. This work will also include employment strategy and targets.
- 6.6.2 College breaks schemes are being planning for all four quadrants of the County for Summer 2002.
- 6.6.3 Work drawing up a database of leisure services is well underway.
- 6.6.4 Membership of sub-group of the Learning Disability Steering Group on Transport agreed. First meeting of the group is being set up.

6.7 Objective 8: Moving into Employment

- 6.7.1 Additional European Social Fund money for Employment Direct successfully applied for. See also paragraph 6.6.1.

6.8 Objective 9: Quality

- 6.8.1 Subgroup of Learning Disability Steering Group established. Multi-agency quality assurance framework has been developed and submitted to the Department of Health, as required. Further work is now underway to define quality, audit systems in use in all agencies we contract with, and agree common assessment tool.

6.9 Objective 10: Workforce Training and Planning

- 6.9.1 An existing working group is being re-focussed as a subgroup of the Learning Disability Steering Group, and will prepare an initial social and health care workforce and training plan by the end of Summer 2002, as required.
- 6.9.2 Good progress has been made across Adult Care Services and Hertfordshire Partnership Trust on meeting the requirements of the new Learning Disability Awards Framework. The next step is to engage the private and voluntary sector providers more fully in this.

6.10 Objective 11: Partnership Working

- 6.10.1 The Learning Disability Steering Group is now well established and is meeting regularly. Membership is fully in line with the requirements of Valuing People, and includes users, carers, voluntary organisations (Mencap, Community Development), staff working in the learning disability field (Adult Care Services, Hertfordshire Partnership Trust, Private and Voluntary Sector) and non learning disability services (Primary Care Trusts, Housing, Employment and Leisure).
- 6.10.2 The new management structures within Adult Care Services and Hertfordshire Partnership Trust are now fully operational.
- 6.10.3 A review of the role and function of community learning disability teams is underway, with three workshops for key staff, with an external facilitator taking place within the next two weeks.

7. SUMMARY OF VIEWS OF SERVICE USERS, AS EXPRESSED AT THEIR MEETING WITH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2002

7.1 Advocacy

The self advocacy groups are good, especially as being a member of an advocacy group can be life changing as confidence grows. More groups are needed especially in villages and small towns. All groups need to be adequately funded so support can be provided.

7.2 Being Involved in Planning Services and the Learning Disability Steering Group

It is good that people with learning disabilities are now on groups that plan new services and other important things. Service users on the Learning Disability Steering Group said that they are helped by having extra meetings to discuss the work of the group so they can be full members and participate fully. Papers are received in good time. This is important because sometimes people with special needs cannot work at the same rate as other people. Steering Group membership is at a high level. It was queried whether there should be a 'hands on' worker on the group.

People are pleased that there will be a new user group, and that they have had help from a consultant on how to set up the group.

The conference for service users on Valuing People was helpful. People with learning disabilities want more opportunities like this.

7.3 Direct Payments

Direct payments are good because they give control, but some people living in supported housing cannot get direct payments because of the way the projects are funded.

7.4 Planning your Life and Making Decisions, including Relationships and Getting Support

Good help and information are very important for people who are gay. Sometimes staff are judgmental and not supportive, and rights are infringed.

Some people take control over their reviews and decide everything about them, but others they have to fit into the whole life review system. Usually people feel listened to, but not always. Blocks to being heard are not enough staff to help you (especially if you have high needs), staff with not enough training, or staff who do not know you well.

In some homes people are able to help choose staff. We need to encourage all homes to do this.

Information needs to be in accessible forms, including on tape. This includes information from Government Departments.

7.5 A Place to Live

People agreed that there is more choice now, and the service users present expressed satisfaction with their housing and support. However there is more to do to make sure that everyone has good housing and support. Often staff make the difference between what is good and what is not good. For some people problems arise because in some homes there is a high turnover of staff,

staff are not trained properly, or there is a lot of use of agency staff. Also in some teams there are not enough social workers.

7.6 Day Services and Colleges

Often people are able to do what they want to do, but sometimes activities are restricted, because there are not enough staff.

College courses can also be restrictive, and they are not good at helping people to mix with people with different abilities. Some people do not get the help they need in the classes. People with learning disabilities are told that if they want to keep their place they must attend every week and not take a day off. In some colleges people can only be on the same course for up to two years. Some people want to continue for longer.

7.7 Getting a Job and DSS Benefits

Employment Direct is a good service, but some people cannot afford to get a job because they will lose their benefits, including housing benefit, free prescriptions, free travel passes and council tax exemption. Getting a job that leaves a person better off is almost impossible.

7.8 Transport

This is a real issue for people with learning disabilities. More public transport is needed and people also need more money to pay for this and the taxis that they frequently have to rely on. At a Learning Disability Steering Group meeting service users asked for a group to be set up to look at transport. This is being done.