

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORTS OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE 18 NOVEMBER 1999

NOTE: A full copy of the report mentioned below are available from Peter Hull, Room 222, County Secretary's Department, County Hall, Hertford. (Telephone: 01992 555565)

COUNTY REVIEW OF DAY CARE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

In November 1997 the Social Services Committee agreed a learning disability day services policy statement which defined each category of who required the service, explained the key purposes of what activities should be provided, detailed when services should be available, where they should be located and give an indication of how much in terms of places required.

Significant progress has now been made by the Council Day Centres in providing learning disability services. A day services review, through consultation with staff, clients, other providers, colleges and advocacy groups, has examined the provision of all services and compared the provision in 1999 to the agreed policy statements of 1997. The Review has examined how far progress has been achieved in changing previous institutionalised care arrangements to realising true client potential within a community setting. In deciding the most appropriate form of day care for the future, work with colleges and employment services has been examined, quality of care studied and costs of provision taken into account in reaching conclusions.

Consultation exercises with client carer groups has lead to production of individual position statements. Whilst there are differences between client attendance at day centres the overall position in 1999 compared to expectations in the 1997 policy statements appears to be as follows:-

"Who" attends

Policy Statement View		Actual Client Attendance
30%	Potentially Independent	16%
30%	Mainstream User	33%
10%	Elderly Group	10%
15%	Special Care	14%
15%	Special Needs	27%

Whilst the elderly group has remained unchanged, potentially independent groups have reduced significantly and special care/special needs have increased. This change is due to successes in finding solutions for potentially independent clients in the community and completing the resettlement programme from Cell Barnes/Harperbury Hospitals.

“What” activities

All day services now meet the activities defined in the policy statement.

“When” services are available

All day services now operate 52 weeks per year, 5 days per week, other than the Christmas/New Year period when the policy statement recognised the reduced requirement. Opening times are also in accordance with the policy statement.

“Where” services are located

Buildings should, as far as possible be based in communities rather than industrial settings, as the main function of buildings is not to provide work, but to stimulate links for users into community activities. In most cases HCC services are within communities. However, the Balmoral Centre in Watford is in the middle of an industrial estate and totally isolated from the community. Despite a widespread search it has not been possible to re-locate the service although there is a tentative offer for the Balmoral site. The identification of a suitable alternative site is being pursued.

“How much” service is required

The policy statement assumed attendance of 3½ days per week. Average attendance overall is now 4 days per week, although individual centres vary:

Multi-Purpose Day Centres	Nightingale House, Hitchin	2.8 days per week.
	Borehamwood	2.5 days per week
	Northwick, South Oxhey	1.9 days per week
	Bishops House, Bishops Stortford	1.9 days per week
Learning Disability Day Centres	Leyden House, Stevenage	4.7 days per week
	Baldock	4.7 days per week
	Butterwick, St Albans	4.7 days per week
	Jarman, Hemel Hempstead	3.9 days per week
	Hornbeams, Welwyn Garden City	3.9 days per week
	Balmoral, North Watford	3.7 days per week
	Geddings, Hoddesdon	3.7 days per week
	Shepherd, Rickmansworth	3.4 days per week

The outcome of the review requires each day centre to develop a service and property plan with realistic, achievable targets, to ensure that the long term objectives are achieved. The plans will be progressed in consultation with staff, users, carers and interested bodies including the two Health Authorities, the NHS Trust and the Primary Care Groups.

A progress report will be made to the Social Services Committee in March 2000 on the outcome of this consultation process with costed plans for the development of each centre.

Julia Price
Chairman
County Hall, Hertford
18 November 1999