

AT A MEETING

- of the -

**HEALTH AND SOCIAL
CARE MODERNISING
SERVICES WORKING**

GROUP held at the Council
House, Walsall on **Tuesday 7**
February 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Ault
Councillor Walker

John Greensill
Karen Garbutt
Julie Metcalf
Roy Cadman
Stuart Bentley

APOLOGIES

Apologies for non attendance were submitted on behalf of Trish Skitt.

CHAIR

In the absence of Councillor Oliver, Councillor Walker chaired this meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest or party whip identified at this meeting.

LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES – PROGRESS UPDATE

John Greensill introduced Karen Garbutt (Day Services Modernisation – project manager) to the group. He then took members through the previously circulated report entitled “Modernisation of Day Services for People with Learning Disabilities in Walsall” and gave brief highlights.

(annexed)

Councillor Ault welcomed the community inclusion aspects of the proposed service delivery programme.

Karen Garbutt then gave Members an overview of a new easy read CD / webpage that will be used as a consultation tool for service users.

(annexed)

She highlighted partnership working within the new framework and cited the Ethnic Advocacy Project as an example.

Councillor Walker asked if the Ethnic Advocacy Project was open to all minority groups.

Karen Garbutt replied that it wasn't but that the proposed 'person centred' approach to service delivery would be much more inclusive with respects to minority issues.

Councillor Ault asked what provision was being made to support service users after their carers were unable to provide.

John Greensill replied that John Staples was working with older carers to assess future needs and that, currently, 40 cases a year were being assessed. It was hoped to increase this number in the future.

Councillor Walker asked when the webpage would be launched.

John Greensill replied that the Website would be launched on 21 February 2006 and would be live by the end of March.

Councillor Walker thanked the officers for their presentation and their hard work over the preceding months. She stated that she understood that there was likely to be some opposition to the proposed changes and that change was never easy. She was, however, confident that officers had been and were listening to all views and addressing concerns in the most practicable manner possible.

INTERIM INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE – PROGRESS UPDATE

Roy Cadman updated the Members on the progress of the ILC as shown in the previously circulated document dated 19 January 2006 adding, where appropriate, comments around progress made since 19 January 2006.

(annexed)

Councillor Ault, with reference to employment opportunities, recommended that officers approach the owner of Pertemps directly to support employment. He then asked, with reference to sustainability funding opportunities, if officers had spoken to the MEP to help lobby for European funding.

Roy Cadman replied that the latter may be an opportunity when the ILC is open and services are being delivered.

Julie Metcalf stated that there was a financial need to open the ILC before the end of the financial year, so it was likely that there would be a phased opening, beginning in March, in order to meet this criterion, with an official launch later in the year when the facility was fully functional.

Councillor Walker thanked the officers for their feedback, and the work they had done to date, and recommended that a further, written, update be presented at the next meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

RESOLVED:

- That the Modernising Services Working Group recommend to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel that the working group be reconstituted, in the 2006/7 municipal year, in order to view the final plan for the Modernisation of Day Services for People with Learning Disabilities in Walsall.
- That an update report on the progress of the Independent Living Centre be presented at the next meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7:45 p.m.