

## Day Services Bulletin

October 2011

Issue 1

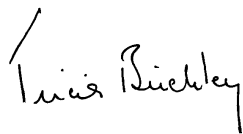


Welcome to the first of a regular bulletin to keep you up to date with the plans for the future of Day Services.

We are now six months into the three year programme. In addition to the planning of the new and improved facilities for the Day Opportunities Centre buildings we are also working with organisations to make sure that there will be a wide range of community-based activities and services for people who no longer require a building-based service.

You will find more information about this work in the Bulletin and I want to reassure everyone that the Council is showing its commitment to making sure that we meet the needs of all adults in the county who are eligible for care by investing an additional £6.5 million capital for the Day Opportunities Centre buildings.

Patricia Birchley



Cabinet Member  
Health & Wellbeing  
Buckinghamshire County Council

## **Better choice of Day Services in the community**

So that people's wishes, as well as their needs, can be met in the future we need to make sure there are organisations who can offer a range of activities and support services.

We have been talking to many organisations to explore what they will be able to offer which includes an exciting range of activities centred on the person's skills, interests and hobbies.

More people will want to have a Direct Payment (an allocation of money to an individual to meet his/her care needs) from the Council so that they can purchase the type of day service they want. Organisations are beginning to put information together so that people can know what is on offer and how much it will cost.

In November/ December we will be having a number of events for people to talk to the different organisations who provide Day Opportunities and hear about what they can offer.

We will let people know where these are going to be, and when, nearer the time.

Every other month we will also be holding meetings with organisations. These will be to make sure they have the information they need to provide services that will be what people want.

## **Reviewing clients' needs and supporting them to explore alternatives**

### **Reviews**

We have started to review the care needs of all service users and this is expected to be ongoing over the next six months. Every person will be reviewed. These reviews will include those people who receive day services from the voluntary sector (but funded by the County Council) as well as directly from the County Council.

**Transitions**

Following the reviews we know that many people will continue to need a building-based service. This will still be provided. However, while the new Day Opportunities Centres are being developed it will mean that some people may have to move to a different building for a limited period of time.

We know that this will cause disruption to people but it is the only way we can start to build the new Day Opportunities Centres. The transition arrangements will be supported by very detailed plans setting out how this will be managed. This will be finalised once everyone has had a review. Unfortunately, until this happens we will not be able to tell people what this means for specific individuals as things may change.

We are doing everything we can to minimise disruption. We shall ensure that people will be able to move to a new centre as close to where they live as possible so that journey times are kept to a minimum and where we can we will try and move people with people they know.

Some people who do not need a buildings based services will be supported to find things to do in the community.

**Support to find alternative day services**

We have recently developed a Support Brokerage Service. What this means is that there will be a number of people (called 'support brokers') who can help you with deciding how you would like to meet your care needs and help you find the people to deliver the care.

The Support Brokers will also work with groups of people who have common interests or friendships who may want to do something together. Support Brokers will work with people to find community organisations to help them do what they would like to do in the community.

## Getting the Day Opportunities Centres right

We announced in March that we would have six Day Opportunities Centres. The sites for the Day Opportunities Centres are:

- Aylesbury - Hartwell Day Centre
- Amersham/Chesham - Site to be finalised
- Beaconsfield - Seeleys House
- Buckingham - Site to be finalised
- Burnham - Burnham Resource Centre
- High Wycombe - Orchard House, Cressex

Next year (2012) we will appoint a building contractor(s) to take on the work for the Day Opportunities Centres. The contractor(s) will be responsible for the programme of works on each site.

The money for the new Day Opportunities Centres has come from the Council agreeing to invest £6.5 million capital to add to the monies that will be gained from selling some of the existing Day Centres. All of this will be used to fund the new building programme.

This means that if an existing Day Centre is not one of the six new centres then over the three year programme it will close. Through this Bulletin we will let people know when a centre is due to close.

(Material from 'Meet the Architect' sessions, September 2011)



Features and facilities you have suggested for the centres

Buckinghamshire County Council\_Day Opportunities Buildings\_Public Engagement September 2011



flexible spaces that can adapt to suit individual needs

a resource for the wider community



### Suggestions for Activities

- o Flexible spaces for multi-purpose use
- o Lockable storage for equipment
- o Different sized rooms for different group sizes
- o Space to wander freely - circular routes
- o Types of activity - flexible rooms:
  - o Arts and crafts
  - o Movement and exercise
  - o Films and TV
  - o Computers/IT
  - o Games
  - o Music - needs acoustic separation from other areas
- o Specialist spaces:
  - o Sensory rooms - with tracking hoists
  - o Soft play - space to get out of wheelchairs
  - o Cooking - assisted learning kitchen, wheelchair accessible with adjustable height equipment
  - o Trampoline/Rebound - needs high ceiling and permanent set-up for equipment

### Suggestions for Gardens/External Space

- o Secure boundary fencing
- o Gardening as an activity
  - o Raised beds for wheelchair access
  - o Space for home grown fruit and vegetables
  - o Wheelchair accessible green house/polytunnel
  - o Sheds for storage of outdoor equipment
- o Space to wander freely - circular routes
- o Wide paths to accommodate wheelchairs and people walking with support
- o Good visual connection to inside
- o Sensory area
- o Places to sit and be quiet
- o Places to sit with others
- o Places to eat and drink
- o Covered seating area shaded from sun
- o Easy to access from inside
- o Public/private separation
- o Smoking area

### Suggestions for Food and Eating

- o Variety of places to eat and drink to suit different needs
- o Full kitchen to support prepared hot meals in dining area
- o Informal snacks and drinks (cafe area)
- o Fridges for home prepared food
- o Eating as a social activity
- o Opportunities for inclusion and privacy to suit individual needs
- o Appropriate spaces for inclusion of tube feeding or other specialist needs
- o Eating/cooking as training - activities of daily living kitchen
- o Tea/coffee stations



flexible spaces that can adapt to suit changing needs over time

a simple building with clear wayfinding and signage

### Community interest in Day Centres

Following the consultation last year on the future of Day Services, the Council gave a commitment that any community organisations who said they wanted to run day opportunities from an existing building would be given first refusal on the use of their existing Day Centre building.

As a result of the strong local community interest in keeping the Princes Risborough Day Centre building a business case was developed by community representatives.

Last month the Council agreed that the Princes Risborough building could be taken over by a Social Enterprise company who will run services from the building for the whole community. The Council will lease the building for a very low rent to the Social Enterprise company for up to two years so that the company has time to raise the funds to purchase it. This is a very good example of 'Big Society' in action.



*(Princes Risborough gets the go ahead at Cabinet, 19<sup>th</sup> September)*

### **Buckingham and Amersham/Chesham Day Opportunities Centres**

We are working very hard to identify the chosen sites in both Buckingham and Amersham / Chesham so we can let people know about what is happening in those areas as soon as possible.

In Buckingham, we are exploring the best option around the use of the current Day Opportunity estate which includes the Well Street Centre, the Learning Centre and the Red Cross Centre. We expect to refine our needs analysis over the coming weeks and will be entering into discussions with the Town Council about the next steps.

In Chesham and Amersham the preferred option is to develop a new Day Opportunities Centre including a Library and Youth Centre on the existing Amersham Library site. This site is owned by Chiltern District Council, with the County Council having a long lease, and we are currently in discussion around how we can make this happen. If this does not happen then we have a potential alternative site in Chesham.

People are asking what this means for the Endeavour site in Chesham.

We are still working to finalise the plan but our intention is:-

- Develop a new 60 bedded Care Home for older people and people with Dementia commissioned by the Council for Chesham and the surrounding area. This is still subject to a final agreement and planning.
- When the Care Home is built it will replace Cameron House and the Garden Centre
- People living in Cameron House will move to a range of purpose built learning disability accommodation, including a new service at Maple Court in Chesham, which will open in the summer 2012.
- A new Skills Centre is to be developed using the existing Day Centre Building by Children and Young People Services and will include a garden service.
- The Day Centre building will close and will be replaced by a new quality Day Centre in Amersham. Interim arrangements will be made for those who continue to need building based services.

- Endeavour Outreach – people to be re-provided for from a range of community options

The architects who are designing all of the Day Opportunities Centres have talked to carer and client groups as well as existing day centre staff.

### **Finding out more information**

If you have any comments or questions you can contact us by phone or email, or check our website for latest information.

By phone: 01296 387177

By Email: [asccomms@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:asccomms@buckscc.gov.uk)

Or check our website at [www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter directly from our website

An Easy Read version of this newsletter will be made available at day centres. Please ask a member of staff if you would like an Easy Read copy.

**Programme for the future of the Buildings-based Day Opportunities Centres in Buckinghamshire**

<b>Day Centre</b>	<b>Future plans</b>
Site in Buckingham	We are exploring the best option around the use of the current Day Opportunity estate which includes the Well Street Centre, the Learning Centre and the Red Cross Centre. We expect to refine our needs analysis over the coming weeks and will be entering into discussions with the Town Council about the next steps.
Hartwell, Aylesbury	We will redevelop this site and expand to accommodate the identified needs. This is progressing with construction commencing in 2012.
Burnham Resource Centre	We will redevelop this site and expand to accommodate the identified needs. We are not able to give a commitment at this stage around when the construction will take place as we are exploring whether the site will be used as an interim until the new Day Opportunities Centres are in place.
Seeleys House, Beaconsfield	This is a building which is in good condition and we do not envisage that it will need significant construction work. This will be one of our new Day Opportunities Centres.
Site in Amersham / Chesham	<p>The preferred option is to develop a new Day Opportunities Centre including a Library and Youth Centre on the existing Amersham Library site. This site is owned by Chiltern District Council, with the County Council having a long lease, and we are currently in discussion around how we can make this happen. If this does not happen then we have a potential alternative site in Chesham.</p> <p>People are asking what this means for the Endeavour site in Chesham. We are still working to finalise the plan but our intention is:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a new 60 bedded Care Home for older people and people with Dementia commissioned by the Council for Chesham and the surrounding area. This is still subject to a final agreement and planning.</li> <li>• When the Care Home is built it will replace Cameron House and the Garden Centre</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People living in Cameron House will move to a range of purpose built learning disability accommodation, including a new service in Chesham which will open in the Summer 2012.</li><li>• A new Skills Centre is to be developed using the existing Day Centre Building by Children and Young People Services and will include a garden service.</li><li>• The Day Centre building will close and will be replaced by a new quality Day Centre in Amersham. Interim arrangements will be made for those who continue to need building based services.</li><li>• Endeavour Outreach – people to be re-provided for from a range of community options.</li></ul>
Orchard House, High Wycombe	We plan to redevelop on this site and are in discussions with the present occupier around freeing up the site so work can progress as soon a possible in 2012.