

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 10 March 2016

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People & Economy

PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Community Day Services

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform Executive Board of the proposals for Adult Community Day Services to increase the numbers of work experience placements available in the Borough.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- 1) Agree the development of a new Community Day Service for adults with learning disabilities and mental health issues as set out below; and**
- 2) In the exceptional circumstances set out below, for the purpose of standing order 1.8.3 procurement standing orders 4.1 – 4.2 be waived on this occasion on the basis that compliance would result in a clear financial or commercial detriment to the Council as outlined below.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 There is a need to provide people with disabilities with opportunities to gain and experience work. Currently Community Day Services provide 383 work experience placements per week across a range of small 'businesses', to adults with disabilities. The development of these businesses have transformed the way day care is delivered focusing on providing people with work skills. This approach is a fundamental change from the traditional 'rehabilitative' or 'clinical' model of care associated with day centres. This model moves away from the segregation of people with disabilities and towards supporting independence in ordinary community settings. This is consistent with the aspirations of service users themselves.
- 3.2 There is an opportunity to broaden the range of small business opportunities in the Borough, in partnership with a working farm. This will enable the Community Day Service to maintain a small milk producing goat herd, to produce goats cheese and milk. A number of

options were considered, to identify a local farmer to work with us, this was unsuccessful. A local farmer in Frodsham has expressed an interest in working with us on this development. As there have been no other expressions of interest, this provides the primary rationale for not undertaking a tender process to secure a suitable farm.

3.3 An added factor is that the location needs to be as near to Halton as possible and the potential location in Frodsham meets this objective.

3.4 The CCG have also expressed an interest in this innovative approach, and agreed to fund any start-up costs, which are estimated as £15k.

3.5 **Progress to date**

3.5.1 The team has done preliminary exploratory work, including:

- Meeting with Environmental Health officers from both Halton and Cheshire West & Chester Council, to establish standards and compliance requirements.
- Identifying opportunities for husbandry and cheese making courses
- Identifying a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and related processes.
- A draft contract with the farmer has been drawn up by the Council's Legal Department.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 This proposal supports the national guidance "Valuing People 2001" and the 2008 "Valuing People Now", which requires Councils and their partners to provide job opportunities for people with learning disabilities. The more recent Transforming Care (2016-2019) programme similarly emphasises the need for varied and meaningful day time activities for people with learning disabilities.

4.2 Through this innovative development we will be able to increase the number and range of work experience placements available to people with a range of disabilities by a further 35 places per week

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Since January 2010 the 'businesses' have been able to demonstrate financial viability, covering all overheads and able to contribute £120,000 towards the overall cost of the Day Service. It is proposed that the goat dairy will follow a similar model.

5.2 This development will be delivered within existing resources.

5.3 The service will work within a business model, to secure additional income, which will offset the cost of maintaining the business.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

This will assist in opening up places for younger people with disabilities experiencing work.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

This will significantly add to the Council's portfolio of providing work experience to some of the most disadvantaged sections of our community.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

There is a substantial body of research which confirms the importance of meaningful activity with well-being, both physical and psychological. This project therefore supports health improvement for both people with learning disabilities and those with mental health problems.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There is a risk that the business does not generate the predicted revenues, this will be carefully monitored in the first year of operation, and corrective action taken as necessary.

7.2 Detailed risk assessments will be undertaken on all people who are working on the farm. Service users and staff will be covered through all necessary and appropriate insurances including that of public liability held by the farmer.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 This proposal will enhance the opportunities of people with disabilities to gain employment.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Valuing People 2001	Runcorn Town Hall 2 nd Floor	Paul McWade Operational Director

		Complex care
Valuing People Now 2008	Runcorn Town Hall 2 nd Floor	Paul McWade Operational Director Complex care