

**Meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee –
10th October, 2022**

Report of the Chair

**Feedback from the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee
Working Group**

Purpose of report

1. To provide feedback from the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Working Group meeting held on 29th September, 2022, on the work undertaken by the Council's Mental Health, Health and Safety and Corporate Landlord Teams on the Woodside Day Centre.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended:-
 - That the short-term capital required to ensure Woodside Day Centre is committed from the Adult Social Care capital budget and the proposed partial re-opening and use of the two portacabins on site, subject to remedial works, be noted and endorsed.
 - That the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, in conjunction with the Director of Adult Social Care, be recommended to seek a land valuation for the site and report back to a future meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Working Group with options for future provision of the service identified.

Background

3. The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Working Group held on 29th September, 2022, considered an update report on the work undertaken by the Council's Mental Health, Health and Safety and Corporate Landlord Teams on the Woodside Day Centre.

4. Detailed information in relation to the buildings condition survey, the key Health and Safety and Corporate Landlord issues identified at the site, as well as the support that had continued to be provided to attendees of the Centre, since the closure in March 2020, were outlined.
5. Members were advised that significant investment would be required to ensure the whole centre was fit for purpose and safe and that investment necessary was not affordable. However, whilst it was currently not safe to re-open the entirety of the Woodside building, to meet the objective of having on-site activities in the short-term, partial access to the main building, together with the use of two portacabins on site, which were previously occupied by Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, could be facilitated, subject to remedial works.
6. During the meeting Members made comments and asked questions and responses were provided accordingly. Action notes from the meeting will be circulated to Members of the Working Group in due course.
7. In light of deliberations at the meeting, it was apparent that the service and on-site activities in the short-term needed to be re-opened as soon as is safely possible. However, further evaluation in relation to the long-term feasibility of the whole site was necessary. Members were of the view that a modern, purpose fit mental health rehabilitation facility was very much needed within the Borough. The Director of Adult Social Care advised that the Council did not have the funding necessary to construct a new facility.
8. Following discussion, Members agreed the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 above. The Committee is asked to endorse these recommendations.

Finance

9. The costs of operating the scrutiny arrangements will be contained within existing budgetary allocations.

Law

10. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.

11. Working Groups are not Committees as defined by Section 101 of the Local Government Act, 1972 and can only make recommendations.

Risk Management

12. The Council is committed to adopting best practice in its management of risk. It aims to ensure risk is maintained at an acceptable level to maximise opportunities and demonstrate that it has given full consideration of the implications of risk to the delivery and achievement of its outcomes, strategic aims and priorities.

Equality Impact

13. Provision exists within the Council's scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny to be undertaken of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

14. The issues referred to in this report are administered within existing staffing resources.

Commercial/Procurement

15. This report has no impact on the Council's potential to commercially trade.

Environment/Climate Change

16. This report has no direct implications on the environment or the Council's work in addressing Climate Change and achieving Net Zero target by 2041.

Council Priorities and Projects

17. In order to deliver the aims and objectives of the Council Plan and contribute the wider borough vision it is imperative the authority has a sound and robust process in place to consult with its key stakeholders on activity across the authority.



Councillor M Rogers
Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

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List of Background Documents

The Council's Constitution
Action Notes of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Working
Group – 29th September, 2022