



CONSULTATION ON THE MODERNISATION OF LEARNING DISABILITY DAY AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES – OPTIONS APPRAISAL FOR THE KNOLL RESIDENTIAL HOME

SUMMARY

- 1.1 On 1 August 2006, Council Cabinet agreed to progress to Stage 2 of the Project Plan, which involves the Project Team: -
- Identifying and costing alternative community daytime activities and work based opportunities.
 - Costing improvements to Wetherby Day Centre.
 - Assessing people who use Humbleton View and Wetherby Day Centre to look at alternatives to traditional day services
 - Undertaking an options appraisal and feasibility study on alternatives to the closure of The Knoll Residential Home.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to give feedback on the Options Appraisal for The Knoll Residential Home. Work on the day service re-configuration is ongoing with Project Workers due to start work in October 2006. A report on day services will be brought to Cabinet in the New Year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve a consultation on the closure of The Knoll Residential Home.
- 2.2 To ask for a report to be produced in due course evaluating the operational and financial feasibility of constructing a facility for people with learning disabilities using prudential borrowing.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Options Appraisal, (Appendix 2) shows that the closure of The Knoll Residential Home is the preferred option if we are to improve environmental and care standards, meet the Commission for Social Care Inspection standards and regulations, minimise any disruption to residents and achieve the best use of the Council's resources.



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET **3 October 2006**

Report of the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 On 14 March 2006, Council Cabinet agreed to commence consultation with stakeholders on the Modernisation of Day and Residential Services for people with learning disabilities.
- 1.2 On 1 August 2006, the findings from the consultation were presented to Council Cabinet along with the recommendations for further work outlined in point 1.1 in the Summary Report. These recommendations were accepted by Cabinet.
- 1.3 During the consultation period a number of carers voiced their opposition to the proposal to close The Knoll Residential Home. The report to Council Cabinet dated 1 August 2006, recommended that an Options Appraisal be undertaken on the alternatives to closure. This report outlines the Options Appraisal and conclusions drawn from it.
- 1.4 The Options Appraisal details the possible options, which are: -
 - Do nothing
 - Refurbish The Knoll
 - Rebuild a replacement for The Knoll on the same site
 - Support residents to move into the independent sector, close The Knoll and give consideration to the sale of the site.
- 1.5 The Options Appraisal considers the costs, issues and risks associated with each option (see Appendix 2).
- 1.6 The Knoll does not currently meet the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) standards in relation to room sizes and bathroom facilities. Good practice indicates that we should meet these standards and the Government White Paper; Valuing People indicates that it is no longer acceptable for people with learning disabilities to live in large style hostel type buildings, such as The Knoll, without the facilities that should be expected from 21st Century Services.
- 1.7 In addition, we expect to be required to meet the CSCI regulation that states people should not live in groups of larger than 10 people, by April 2007.

- 1.8 We are aware that any work to bring The Knoll up to standard will require residents to be accommodated elsewhere for a minimum period of 6 months. It is unlikely that we would be able to find placements in the independent sector for such a temporary period. In addition, it would be necessary to temporarily second staff to other service areas, which could affect absence levels, performance and morale. We are also aware that it would be unacceptable to expect residents to move twice as this could cause significant disruption and have an impact on the health and safety of a vulnerable group of people.
- 1.9 The conclusion reached, therefore, is that we support the current residents to move into opportunities that are available locally within the independent sector, leading to the closure of the building. As there are a number of opportunities available locally and preliminary assessment work has been carried out, it is estimated that this could be achievable within a 6-month time scale.
- 1.10 In view of these circumstances it is proposed that we undertake consultation on the closure of The Knoll Residential Home as soon as possible.
- 1.11 It is possible that The Knoll site could be used for developing a new service for people with learning disabilities as part of the modernisation programme. This will be considered as the programme moves forward and a detailed report on the options will be produced in due course.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Options Appraisal details the options considered which are: -
- Do nothing
 - Refurbish The Knoll
 - Support residents to move into the independent sector, close The Knoll and give consideration to the sale of the site.

IMPLICATIONS

FINANCIAL

- 1.1 The preferred option is to close The Knoll and support residents to move into the independent sector homes currently available locally. Costings for each option are given in Appendix 3.
- 1.2 The estimated revenue saving from closing The Knoll is £12,242. This is not releasable until 1 April 2007 and is only releasable at that point if the Knoll is completely closed by then.
- 1.3 The proposal therefore in order to achieve the preferred option, is to close The Knoll by March 2007. This will result in a funding requirement of £84,268 in 2006/07 as people start to move out. The proposal is that this cost will be met from within the learning disability services budget with no adverse effect on the projected year-end position for that budget.
- 1.4 If this option is not selected and The Knoll remains open it will be necessary to undertake essential fire precaution works at a cost of £50,000 for 2006/07.
- 1.5 Should The Knoll site be deemed surplus to requirements in the future it is requested that Cabinet re-invests any capital receipts from the sale of this site back into the learning disability service to support the remainder of the day and residential modernisation programme.

LEGAL

- 2.1 The Council has a legal duty to consult on the closure of The Knoll. This has been established by case law prior to the Human Rights Act coming into force. There is also a duty to act fairly. As the Act deals with the right to respect for a person's home, which will include residential accommodation, this duty will have become more onerous as a result of it. Therefore the implications of the Act will need to be considered carefully should this option be pursued.

PERSONNEL

- 3.1 A Human Resources strategy is currently in place for The Knoll staff. This will be utilized as staff are affected by the proposals.
- 3.2 A significant amount of support is being offered to staff by the Human Resources Team. Issues arising for staff are being managed on an individual basis to achieve the required changes.
- 3.3 Regular consultation with the Unions is well underway.

- 3.4 The Human Resources Department are confident that all staff from The Knoll can be re-deployed into vacancies within Learning Disability Services and the wider Department.

EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 4.1 We need to ensure that our assessments are person centred and identify the needs, wishes and aspirations of each person with a learning disability that we work with.
- 4.2 The Modernisation Programme is committed to providing and supporting opportunities for participation in the ordinary life of our community for a vulnerable and marginalized group of people.

CORPORATE AND PRIORITIES FOR CHANGE

- 5.1 This modernisation programme supports the Council's objectives of healthy, safe and independent communities and furthers the priority of modernising social care, including adult home care.

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Options Appraisal Appendix 3 - Costings