**London Borough of Bromley**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report No.</th>
<th>DSSH04056</th>
<th>PART 1 - PUBLIC</th>
<th>Agenda Item No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Title:** PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S DISABILITY SERVICE WITH BROMLEY PCT

**Decision Maker:** Executive  
**Decision Date:** 06 Sep 2004  
**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent  
**Executive**  
**Non-Key**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** Within policy and budget

**Chief Officer:** Terry Rich, Director of Social Services and Housing

**Contact Officer:** Rory Patterson, Assistant Director Children and Families  
Tel: 020 8313 4062  
E-mail: rory.patterson@bromley.gov.uk

**Ward:** All
1. **SUMMARY**

1.1 This report outlines proposals to develop an integrated service for Children with Disabilities with Bromley Primary Care Trust.

1.2 The proposed project would consist of a one-stop shop approach to children with disabilities and their families known to social services and other agencies and be jointly run by health and social services. It would combine on a single site a range of health and social services activities including respite care, social work, and the development of on site facilities.

1.3 The report also sets out the consultation that will take place prior to plans being finalised and any changes being implemented.

1.4 The proposal sets out the vision for the future of services for children with disabilities and proposes consolidation of existing services at 143 Chislehurst Road.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS -**

   The Executive is asked to:

2.1 Approve the development of an integrated service with the Primary Care Trust for children with disabilities and their parents.

2.2 Agree, subject to feasibility, and consultation with service users and stakeholders, that the respite service currently operating at Sunrise be relocated along with the joint PCT/SS service at Saffron, and PCT service at Bird in Hand to the vacant premises at 143 Chislehurst Road, Orpington.

2.3 Note that the sum of £220k is included in the latest capital programme to be used as part of the Councils contribution towards the work at 143 Chislehurst Road.

2.4 Agree that a further sum of £455,000 is included in the capital programme for 2004/05 to make up the Councils total contribution of £675,000 towards the building works at 143 Chislehurst Road, which will be funded from the disposal of Sunrise.

2.5 Note that the sale of Sunrise is expected to generate a capital receipt of £750,000.

2.6 Note that the proposals contained in this report are expected to generate a net capital receipt of £295,000.

3. **COMMENTARY**

3.1 In 2003, Social Services and Bromley Primary Care Trust commissioned an independent review of residential short break respite services in Bromley. In summary, the report examined current provision in Bromley and made recommendations on how future services might be developed. These recommendations were based upon maximising the use of current combined health and local authority resources through the integration of services.

3.2 Bromley Primary Care Trust and Bromley Social Services currently provides a range of residential short-term break services in three units (up to 11 beds) across Bromley. These are:

- Bird in Hand Lane, for children with complex and continuing health care needs and is run by the PCT (3 beds)
- Saffron House, 125 Lovibonds Avenue, Orpington for children with autism, which is run by the PCT with staff seconded from social services (3 beds)

- Sunrise, 2 Betts Way Anerley SE20 is for children with severe learning difficulties and is run by social services (5 beds)

3.3 The PCT also provides short break services to children in their own homes through the Children’s Community Nursing Team (CCNT), based at the Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre. In addition, the Social Services, Children with Disabilities Team based at the Civic Centre offers a range of services to support community-based respite for children with disabilities. Access to these services is co-ordinated through a multi-agency resource panel. However, there is still some duplication and overlap of service provision and effectiveness could be improved through greater integration.

3.4 There are currently 88 children accessing the residential short-break service. There is no disabled children’s register in Bromley, but using the OPCS estimate, approximately 3% of the child population will have a ‘significant disability’, which will have a permanent effect on the child and their family. The 2001 census indicated that there were 2,134 disabled children in Bromley. While this is only an estimate, work is underway through the Disability Strategy Group to develop a more accurate method for establishing the level of need in the borough. The short-break service is a vital support to families, and has supported the Council’s strategy to prevent family breakdown and avoid the need for some children to be placed in high-cost out of borough provision.

3.5 There are a number of factors which support the need for fundamental change in how services are currently provided. These are:

- The National Care Standards Commission reported in December 2002 that the PCT owned properties were in need of significant refurbishment. Subsequently, remedial work has been undertaken at both properties, although it is recognised that neither units are conducive to meeting the needs of local children without significant additional investment.

- The independent review of the residential short-break service in 2003 identified that the building at Bird in Hand is not fit for purpose and suggested that any solution should consider merging existing services and integrating service provision.

- The service offered at Sunrise has been curtailed because of large cracks appearing in the building due to subsidence. The Council’s Executive has approved £220,000 capital expenditure to fund essential repairs. However, work has been delayed pending the outcome of this proposal.

- Both Sunrise and Bird in Hand units had to reduce the services available to children during 2003 due to revenue and staffing difficulties. There is no additional revenue available to provide a comprehensive service at Sunrise. The services do not use staff effectively during the day when children are at school. Furthermore, staff working in isolation is perceived to be a major drawback to recruitment.

- The number of children with complex medical needs has risen dramatically. It is anticipated that the demand for short-break services will rise in the coming years particularly as fewer children will be placed in out of borough boarding schools as a result of the Council’s Learning Together Strategy. In addition, the independent review highlighted the fact that there is no dedicated service for adolescents who have requested designated ‘teenager time’, to be with their peers.
• Early intervention: children with chronic physical illness are three times more likely to require mental health service intervention. This has a significant impact on families and their ability to cope with a child. An audit undertaken by Bromley MENCAP highlighted families’ needs for support and acknowledged the value of local short-break services.

• Integrating services will ease the burden around staffing, allow for joint working and training and the development of flexible working both in the residential and community setting. It is envisaged that during the daytime, staff would accompany children with disabilities into the school setting or be involved with daytime opportunities with pre-school children. The PCT and Bromley Social Services have jointly appointed a co-ordinator to oversee the management of the residential short-break services across the three units.

• To provide an holistic approach and truly integrate services, the vision is to provide a range of opportunities that encompass both residential and community short-break services. The intention is for a single point of entry with clear eligibility criteria covering the full spectrum. The intention is to bring together all staff within the residential and community setting and develop a centre of excellence, which will continue to attract high calibre staff.

• The Children’s Bill requires local agencies to integrate children’s services and establish children’s trusts by 2008. The vision for children’s services is to integrate key services within a single organisation. This proposal supports this vision and ensures that partner agencies will be well placed to drive forward the integration agenda.

• The inspection of children’s services in 2003 noted service developments but commented specifically on the level of short-term respite care and stated that, “many stakeholders were waiting to see whether there would be a better level of provision for the borough” It also noted that there was a need for better inter-agency co-operation.

4. The Proposal

4.1 The aim is to develop an integrated community resource centre for children with disabilities offering a comprehensive range of short-break services. 143 Chislehurst Road is a building previously used for older people’s services owned by Bromley PCT and operated by Mission Care. It has become vacant following successful re-tendering of services for older people with mental health needs. It is proposed to relocate the three respite services into this building together with other services for children with disabilities and their families. This would include the department’s Social Work team for children with disabilities and the Children’s Community Nursing Team. The property is large enough to accommodate the services currently provided at the three existing properties and provide flexibility and opportunity for the service to grow. Other similar sized properties within the PCT were considered but none were found to be suitable.

4.3 143 Chislehurst House is a two-storey building. It is proposed that residential short-break services will be located on the ground floor in two discrete areas. The first floor will accommodate the community home based nursing service and the social services disability team. The proposal also includes provision for a conference room, meeting room and a parents’ room.

There is also potential to improve links with local resources and schools, possibly developing a family support room and to cater for children not currently catered for like
those with Aspergers Syndrome, children with ADHD and children with chronic medical needs. Conference and meeting facilities are also proposed. The plans would include a sensory room for the children and soft play areas, a library and toy resource. Links will be established with other resources to develop programmes for holiday periods.

4.8 A project group has been established to oversee the scheme and create a business plan. Architects have visited the site along with representatives from social services and health and have costed the projected changes to its use.

**Consultations**

4.8 Consultation has already commenced with representatives of service user groups in the community but needs to be formalised and a three month consultation period is proposed. This would be conducted jointly with the PCT and would include meetings with parents, young people and staff to discuss the current plan and to get their views.

**5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Children & Young People Portfolio Plan indicates the need to develop a more integrated and strategic partnership with other agencies and service user groups to develop a range of services. It is envisaged that an integrated service would promote greater accessibility by all sections of the community through a raised service profile.

5.2 An integrated service is also consistent with the objectives of the Green Paper, Every Child Matters and with the challenges contained in the Children’s Bill currently before Parliament.

**6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no revenue implications directly arising out of this report at this stage, as the proposal is to relocate existing services and teams.

6.2 Substantial building works would need to be undertaken on the site at 143 Chislehurst Road to make it suitable for the provision of respite services and Architects have estimated the total cost of renovation at £1,200,000. In addition, refurbishment is estimated at £100,000 and the IT costs, £50,000. It is proposed that the PCT and the Council will jointly fund the cost of this capital work, resulting in a contribution from both Partners of £675,000.

6.3 A sum of £220,000 is already set aside in the capital programme for 143 Chislehurst Road. A further £455,000 will need to be included in the capital programme in 2004/05 to make up the Council’s contribution.

6.4 It is assumed that as 143 Chislehurst Road is a property of the PCT, the PCT will be responsible for the capital project.

6.5 The capital receipt anticipated from the sale of the Sunrise site has been estimated to be £750,000, of which £455,000 will be used to fund the capital works at 143 Chislehurst Road.

6.6 It is estimated that there will be a net capital receipt generated of £295,000 from the proposals in this report and the table below summarises the financial implications:-
£

Cost of Works
Estimated cost of Renovation Work  1,200,000
Refurbishment works  100,000
IT costs  50,000
Total  1,350,000

Funding
Provision in Capital Programme  -220,000
Estimated Capital Receipt- Sale of Sunrise  -750,000
PCT Contribution - 50% of capital work  -675,000
Total  -1,645,000

Net Capital Receipt  -295,000

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Council has responsibilities under the Children Act 1989 and related legislation to make appropriate provision for children with disabilities, and in Partnership with Bromley Primary Care Trust. Such integrated arrangements will assist the progress towards the proposed comprehensive Children’s Service detailed in the Green paper ‘Every Child Matters’ and the Children’s Bill now before Parliament.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The integrated service may have implications should staff transfer either from or to the PCT’s employment. Staff will also need to be consulted on plans to relocate to the site at Chislehurst Road. Detailed Personnel Implications would be provided at that point. Informal consultation with Children and Disabilities managers has already commenced and formal consultation with all staff members would be in accordance with normal procedures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Applicable Sections:</th>
<th>[List non-applicable sections here]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review of Residential Short Break Services For Disabled Children In The Borough Of Bromley-01 September 2003 Karen Castle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

v1.09-2003