

Decision Maker: **Adults Care and Health Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **23 November 2021**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive

Title: **INCREASING DAY ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

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Chief Officer: Kim Carey, Interim Director for Adult Services

Ward: ALL

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 In the period leading up to the pandemic lockdown and subsequently there has been a marked decline in demand for attending day centres from those older people and carers supported by the Council's social care services and self-funding older people.
- 1.2 This report sets out plans to increase day activity opportunities for older people with a focus on those older people supported by the Council's Adult Care Service and those older residents who self-fund their own care and support.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That the Committee notes that actions being undertaken by the Council to increase day activity opportunities for older people.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The proposals seek to increase opportunities for frail and vulnerable older people to access day support.
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Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable:
 2. BBB Priority: Supporting Independence Healthy Bromley: Further Details
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Assessment and Care Management
 4. Total current budget for this head: £335k (Council commissioned) + Direct Payments (Day Activities element not separately identifiable)
 5. Source of funding: Existing 2021/22 revenue budget
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement Non-Statutory - Government Guidance None: Further Details
 2. Call-in: Applicable Not Applicable: Further Details
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 Background

3.2 Day activities for older people typically involve planned activities to support them with aspects of daily living and in particular the opportunity to meet other people and socialise. These services are typically run by care professionals and volunteers and are often in non-residential, group settings. Day care enables older people who have care needs, and/or who are at risk of social isolation, to engage in social and organised activities. An important function of older people's day services is to provide a regular respite break to carers so that the caring relation can be sustained.

Day care settings can include:

- a) purpose-built day centres
- b) day centres attached to or part of a care home
- c) community buildings (with shared use)
- d) sports and leisure activity venues
- e) cafes, restaurants and pubs (for example, lunch clubs)
- f) outdoor private and public spaces.

3.3 Older people's day care provision in Bromley has been in the main provided along traditional lines through buildings-based day centres (option a above.) A typical service offer would be one where older people who could not be fully independent would attend a day facility where a range of recreational activities would take place. Most older people in Bromley would need to self-fund their attendance at a day centre. The Council supports those older people who meet criteria for full or part Council funding through a Direct Payment enabling the older person and or any carers to purchase day support and through this they might choose to attend a day centre.

3.4 An early consequence of the government's lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic was a requirement that all older people's day centres commissioned by local authorities be temporarily closed in April 2020. This requirement was briefly lifted in early autumn 2020 and then reinstated when Covid cases increased in November 2020.

3.5 Day centres could reopen in the Summer of 2021 where government guidance on social distancing and other infection control and protection measures were put in place. With financial support from the Council and with Public Health Services guidance and support day activities for older people resumed from August 2021. The return of older people to day centres has been very slow.

3.6 In the period leading up to the pandemic lockdown and subsequently, influenced by the pandemic itself, there has been a marked decline in demand for day centres from those older people and carers supported by the Council's social care services and self-funding older people.

3.7 This report sets out plans to increase day activity opportunities for older people with a focus on those older people supported by the Councils Adult Care Service.

3.8 Factors contributing to shifting demand for day activities

3.9 In recent years there has been a marked decline in older people choosing to attend day centres. This shift in demand alongside other factors, including Covid, requires a rethink of how the Council needs to support day activities. Factors supporting this need to rethink the support to day activities include:

- *Choice and control over care and support through Direct Payments* – the Council has looked to give residents and carers more choice and control over their care and support through Direct Payments and through this many residents are choosing to purchase alternative support arrangements rather than use funds to attend a traditional day centre.
- *Increasing use of Personal Assistants via Direct Payments* - is also changing the way in which our residents are supported in the community. Many older people and their carers given a Direct Payment for day provision are choosing to employ a Personal Assistant to access a range of activities and support.
- *Volunteering* – The generous response to the request for volunteers to assist during the peak in Covid-19 has demonstrated an untapped potential for vulnerable residents to be supported by their near neighbours. With the right support and coordination volunteers could make a huge impact on improving the support and care outcomes for their neighbours.
- *Social prescribing* – Through social prescribing GP practices are looking to connect people to community groups alongside statutory services for practical and emotional support as an alternative to medicinal treatments.
- *Demographic changes* – The now ageing post war baby boom generation have a different set of aspirations and expectations on how they want to be supported in older age.
- *Self-funders* – With its large population of self-funders Bromley could be an attractive location for establishing new and diverse care and support services that could also serve Council funded residents
- *Covid pandemic* – Since day centres have reopened following the relaxation of lockdown arrangements both Council supported residents and self-funders who were attending day centres have been reluctant to return and or take up the offer. Factors influencing this will include concerns over personal safety
- *Strength-based social care practice* – The Council is transforming its social care practice towards taking a strengths-based approach. This way of working places the emphasis on people's and communities' assets, alongside their needs. The aim is to signpost people to, and connect them with, the types of support that are provided by the voluntary, community and social enterprises in their local neighbourhood

3.10 The Council has been working with Community Links Bromley and current day activity providers to look at day centre demand and the impact of the pandemic on day activities for older people. Workshops considered the outcomes of a survey of older people who were attending day centres in 2020 prior to the beginning of the pandemic lockdown and reviewed how day activity providers developed new services to support people in lockdown. The key findings from these workshops were:

- Most day centres found innovative ways to support their service users away from day centres during the Covid lockdown – through outreach and online
- There is already a wide range of day opportunities for older people, but they are not well known or well communicated to those who might need them and or those organisations

and professionals who give advice to older people and carers, e.g. faith organisations run a wide range of day support activities.

- There is not a one size fits all solution. It will be important to develop a more diverse range of community-based services to suit more people, e.g. activities with sport clubs. However, there is a need for some buildings-based services for those who are very frail and or vulnerable
- The role that day activities play in supporting respite for carers cannot be underestimated
- There are a lot of under used spaces where older people could safely meet up and or where organised support could be provided from.

3.11 **Increasing day Activity Opportunities for Older People**

3.12 In alignment with the Council's strategy to mitigate loneliness the following actions are under way to increase day activity opportunities for older people and their carers. The emphasis will be on:

- Identifying and publicising the existing wide range of activities available to support older people in Bromley. These are existing activities provided by community groups, faith organisations and charities
- Supporting community groups in establishing new day activities for older people in a number of new and safe settings across the borough
- Developing more opportunities for frail and or vulnerable older people by extending the reach of existing Council supported older people's services

3.13 Working with voluntary and community groups the following actions are being taken forward to increase access to day activities for older people:

- *A service e-directory for residents and care workers/advisers* – in order to know what is available, residents, carers, care workers and other advisers need to have access to a reliable directory of community-based services. Community Links Bromley have been given funding to update their Simply Connects e-directory resource and to put in place volunteers to sustain the database thereafter. A project worker and volunteers are engaging with c.700 local voluntary and community organisations inviting them to join the directory and to provide details on their support offer. To promote the availability of the database and encourage signposting and referrals to the voluntary and community services a series of publicity events are taking place. These events will focus on staff working in public facing services such as library staff, social care staff and GP Link workers in order to showcase the database and to demonstrate how it may be used to support giving advice and guidance to residents. Publicity materials are being planned for residents.
- *Mapping what's there and gaps* – The Simply Connects Directory work will help map the availability of existing community activities and other assets. We will want to understand access to activities across the borough and identify any gaps in terms of type of provision or coverage across the borough.
- *Pump priming funds for new services* – Working with Bromley Well we will prioritise the Innovation Fund to support the development of new local day activity projects, particularly in relation to any gaps highlighted by the mapping work. The aim will be to develop a set of new and diverse activities across the borough that may be financially sustainable over time through a mix of self-funding and Direct Payments.

- *Online services* – During the lockdown several existing providers established online day activities. Via Covid funds the Council supported the development of some temporary day service alternatives to give respite to carers. Feedback from providers is that the online offers were popular, and some will be continued in some form alongside in-person activities. Community Links Bromley is evaluating these Covid funded schemes.
- *Extra Care Housing Schemes extending activities to non-tenants* – Six Council supported Extra care Housing schemes support c.400 residents with on-site purpose built communal facilities designed to support older people and people with disabilities. Discussions are under way with Extra Care Housing providers to extend the activities provided to their tenants to other local residents. This offer will be targeted at those older people and carers who wish to attend a more traditional day centre type service.
- *Walnuts Development and Saxon Day Centre* – The Saxon Day Centre will be replaced as part of the redevelopment of the Walnuts site. The new centre will be designed for multi-use with Age Concern making the centre available to other users when it is not in use by their service users
- *Volunteering to support day activities* – Linked to the pump priming funding above Community Links Bromley will support emerging day activity providers in finding volunteer workers
- *Finding Community Spaces* – With Community Links Bromley we are identifying low cost and no cost community spaces that can be used for day activities. Extra Care Housing landlords have offered to make available their facilities when not be used by their tenants; space is offered at Anerley Town Hall; some residential care homes have made an offer of the use of spaces in their facilities.

4. CONSULTATION

Further consultation and co-production work will be done to determine priorities for both Council funded residents and self-funders and for carers. It will be particularly important to understand resident priorities coming out of the Covid lockdown.

5. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

The actions outlines in this report are aimed specifically at serving the needs of frail and or vulnerable older people

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications arising directly from this report. Any policy implications arising from the implementation of the various actions contained within the report will be reported to the PDS Committee separately.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The current 2021/22 budget for older people's day activities is £335k for Council commissioned services. In addition to this, individuals with Direct Payments can purchase their own day activities services, however this is not separately identifiable within the total Direct Payments budget for older people (£1,605k).

7.2 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no personnel implications arising directly from this report. Any personnel implications arising from the implementation of the various actions contained within the plan will be reported to the PDS Committee separately.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with the Care Act 2014 Part 1 Section 2, the local authority are under an obligation to provide or arrange for the provision of services, facilities or resources which it considers will contribute towards preventing or delaying the development by adults in its area of needs for care and support.

10. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This report provides an update on commissioning activity for day care opportunities for older people. No specific decisions are sought and no specific procurement action is identified.
- 10.2 The report indicates potential activity that may have a procurement implication such as variation of existing contracts (such as Extra Care Housing Scheme identified in paragraph 3.13).
- 10.3 Should any procurement action be required then a specific decision may need to be sought, as required through the Contract Procedure Rules.
- 10.4 Advice should be sought from the Corporate Procurement Team on any proposed procurement action to ensure it is carried out within the Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulation 2015.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel, Procurement
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Not applicable