

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 8 (f)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

8 JANUARY 2013

<p>SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - PROGRESS REPORT</p>

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. At the time of writing, the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel has met on one occasion since the last update report was presented to OSB, on 20 December 2012.
3. At that meeting the Panel concluded its evidence gathering on the issue of the introduction of 21 fixed day closures at the Orchard Day Centre. The Panel had held two meetings on this topic, the first of which was held on 4 December 2012 where Members received information from the Department of Wellbeing, Care and Learning on this topic.
4. The Panel was informed that since the centre opened in 2010 there had been various quality issues in relation to the operation of the centre, which had resulted in an overall review of the service. As a direct result of the review it was proposed to introduce fixed day closures to help the service run in a safer and more effective way. The proposal was subject to consultation in March 2012.
5. The Panel heard that there was very little response from carers on the proposal and that staff at the centre accepted that fixed day closures would improve service delivery. The decision to introduce fixed day closures came into effect in October 2012.

6. Aside from the introduction of fixed day closures the Panel was advised that the comprehensive review had led to improvements in a number of areas including the level of activity undertaken in relation to the level of planned activity and the amount of physiotherapy undertaken.
7. At the Panel's most recent meeting on this topic the opportunity was provided to carers of all service users at the Orchard Centre to submit their views on the introduction of 21 fixed day closures.
8. The member of the public who submitted the original scrutiny request was also in attendance at the meeting. The panel received written evidence from a total of 6 carers but other than the individual who had submitted the original scrutiny request no other carers raised any concerns about the introduction of fixed day closures.
9. Having considered the evidence received the Panel was in support of the introduction of the 21 day fixed centre closures and agreed that no further action was required.

RECOMMENDATION

10. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report and the updated position.

COUNCILLOR P PURVIS

CHAIR OF THE SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

Contact Officer:
Caroline Breheny
Scrutiny Support Officer
Legal & Democratic Services
Telephone: 01642 729711(direct line)
e-mail: caroline_breheny@middlesbrough.gov.uk