

Consultation on the proposal to close Brookvale Day Centre and reprovide alternative services

Information Booklet

Consultation Period

10 August 2015 to 2 October 2015

Introduction

We arrange day services for older people, older people with dementia and people with physical and/or sensory disabilities.

We currently have nine day centres in the borough which people can use.

The needs of current and potential service users are changing. To see how services could meet these changing needs, we started a review of our day services.

In August 2014 we asked for your views on how we might improve these services – we called this a *period of engagement*. This was an important step in the review because we wanted to gather views about the issues before any *formal consultation*. Your feedback has helped us make sure this process for consultation is meaningful and thorough.

On 30 June 2015 the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing (the Councillor responsible for adult social care) made a decision to consult on the proposed closure of Brookvale Day Centre and look at alternative services for people affected.

This booklet explains why we are consulting with you. Councillors will use your feedback to help decide whether Brookvale Day Centre should close.

Please be assured your answers will be treated as confidential; they will not be passed on to your social worker or anyone providing you with services. You will not be personally identified and your answers will not affect the services you receive.

Thank you for your time in reading this booklet and for your response.

Our vision for adult social care

When we asked for your views on how we might improve services (during the *period of engagement*) you told us to ensure day services prevent the risk of:

- Increased isolation
- Increased mental health problems
- Decreased stimulation
- Loss of respite
- Loss of preventative benefits
- Loss of health benefits
- Increased safeguarding concerns

Consequently, we are committed to offering services that allow people to:

- Have the best quality of life and maintain maximum dignity and respect
- Stay healthy and recover quickly from illness
- Exercise maximum control over their own lives
- Sustain a family and avoid family members taking on inappropriate caring roles
- Participate as active, equal citizens both economically and socially

We need to change because...

During recent times there have been fewer people attending the centre. The number of people attending has reduced to an average of six people a day although the centre could accommodate up to 20 people.

Increasingly, people are moving away from attending day centres and so we want to offer services in the community which are tailored more for the individual. The Council can support individuals to look at other opportunities if this is preferred.

We need to make sure that we use all our money well, while continuing to provide care and support for those that need it. At a time when there is less money available for public services, the Council is also required to save money to ensure we do not spend more than we receive.

It costs in the region of £125,000 a year to keep the Brookvale centre open. Because the service is not being used to capacity, we believe we can offer alternative services and save this money.

We want to make sure we deliver services in the best possible way for older people.

Proposal for Brookvale Day Centre

The proposal is to close Brookvale Day Centre and offer alternative services for the people affected.

There are other day centres in the borough with space for other people to attend. You will have opportunities to talk to us throughout the consultation period and we can reassure you that, should the time come, we will help you to attend an alternative centre elsewhere in the borough and remain with your friends.

No decisions have yet been made about the future of the day centre; this is why this consultation is so important. We need to hear the views, aspirations and wishes of people attending the centre and their family members.

Support

If the decision is made to close Brookvale Day Centre we will help people to find an alternative centre elsewhere in the borough and remain with friends. If required we will assess everyone's care needs so that they have the most appropriate support.

How to participate and tell us your views

At this stage we are consulting on our proposal for Brookvale Day Centre; no decision has yet been made on the future of this day service.

We realise this may be a difficult subject to think and talk about and people may be worried about what might happen. We will support people through this process and local advocacy groups will be visiting the day centre to offer help and support.

During this formal consultation people attending Brookvale Day Centre can be supported by independent advocacy organisations. Please let us know if you would like some support about any aspect of this consultation. This will be available free of charge. Contact:

- Your Day Centre Manager or your social worker
- or
- Solihull Connect on 0121 704 8007

To feedback...

Complete a short feedback form.

The feedback form is enclosed with this booklet. Either fill it in and post it back to us in the envelope provided, or complete it online at:

www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation

If you have any questions about this consultation please talk to:

- Your Day Centre Manager or your social worker
- or
- Solihull Connect on 0121 704 8007

Timescale

This consultation runs for 8 weeks starting on 10 August 2015 and closing on 2 October 2015; please feedback before this date.

We will consider all feedback and make recommendations on the future of Brookvale Day Centre. These recommendations will then be considered by councillors. We will keep you updated throughout the process and let you know as soon as councillors have made a decision.

In making the decision about what happens next we will take into account feedback and the interests of all affected. If councillors decide to close the service each service user will be offered, subject to assessment, an alternative service to meet their needs.

Questions answered

- Question 1** **I like my day centre, why does it have to change?**
Answer: The number of people attending has reduced during recent years and the day centre is not being used to its capacity; consequently it is not good value for money.
- Question 2** **Are you doing this just to save money?**
Answer: We believe we will be able to provide a better and wider range of activities and support for people if they have the opportunity to go to a day centre where there are more people attending than is currently the case at Brookvale. However, the Council does have to save a considerable amount of money, including £9.1million from Communities and Adult Social Care between April 2015 and March 2018, and the savings from the closure of the centre would contribute to this requirement.
- Question 3** **If I go to a different day centre will transport be provided?**
Answer: We will work with people to agree transport arrangements, but this will depend on your choice of alternative day centre and the availability of Council transport.
- Question 4** **What if I don't like any of the alternative services on offer to me?**
Answer: Increasingly, some people are choosing to do different things rather than attend a day centre. The Council can support individuals to look to see if there are other opportunities if this is preferred.

Question 5**What about staff?**

Answer: Staff will be involved in the review and we will be drawing from their wealth of knowledge and expertise. Obviously, changes to services would have an impact on staff, and we will be keeping everyone fully engaged and informed in the process.

Question 6**What happens next?**

Answer: We will gather together everyone's views and consider the themes of the consultation. We will come up with recommendations which will need the approval of the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing (the councillor responsible for adult social care).

Question 7

If councillors agree to the proposals, when will things change? If councillors approve the proposal, work will begin on the detail of which alternative services in the borough people may wish to use. This is likely to be early in 2016. The Council will support people to find alternatives and remain with friends. We will keep you informed of progress.

A copy of the Cabinet report on which the Councillors made the decision to consult is also available.

This document is available to view, print and download at:

www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation