

**HILLINGDON'S SHARED LIVES SCHEME:
REPORT FROM THE SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING &
PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

Cabinet Member	Councillor Philip Corthorne
Cabinet Portfolio	Social Services, Health and Housing
Officer Contact	Charles Francis, Administration Directorate
Papers with report	Appendix A: Social Services, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee Final Report.

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To consider the Policy Overview Committee's review on Hillingdon's Shared Lives Scheme.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	Putting our Residents First: <i>Our People; Financial Management</i> Shared Lives links into the Hillingdon Sustainable Community Strategy theme of improving health and social care by enabling people to live independently at home.
Financial Cost	The current cost of this service £576.6k pa (£77.3k Team & Overheads and £499.3k placement costs). This will be reviewed as part of the 2016-17 MTFF.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Social Services, Housing and Public Health
Ward(s) affected	All

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

- A) Welcomes the report from the Social Services, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee (attached) on the review into Hillingdon's Shared Lives Scheme and;
- B) Endorses the findings and recommendations of the Policy Overview Committee as set out below:
 - 1. That the Committee commend the Shared Lives Scheme to Cabinet and recognise the good work undertaken by officers to develop a successful scheme that delivers much improved quality of life to the participants and has the capacity to deliver modest financial savings.

2. That there are potential challenges in the Scheme, including safeguarding, and that any proposal to develop the scheme should ensure robust management such as is currently in place.
3. That the Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Housing and the Leader of the Council, consider extending the scheme, as identified in the review, in the first instance by 100% (i.e. to total 40 Service Users) and that potential savings arising from this be investigated for inclusion in the MTF from 2016/17.
4. That consideration be given to further development up to the optimal size (80 service users) once the initial extension has been successfully undertaken.
5. That any extension of the Scheme is dependent upon appropriate matches being found in the community and that consequently the time frame needs to be flexible.

Reasons for recommendations

The objective of the review was to examine the effectiveness of the current arrangements for The Shared Lives Scheme and to propose improvements which could be made to enhance this important aspect of independent living to the Borough's residents.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The Cabinet could decide to reject some or all of the Committee's recommendations.

Supporting Information

The Social Services, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee held meetings on 3 and 31 July, 9 September, 7 October and 5 November. In addition, a site visit was conducted on 21 October to the homes of several carers and service users to help the Committee form their findings.

The Terms of Reference of the review were as follows:

1. To review how Shared Lives is developing in Hillingdon and other local authorities and to review current best practice.
2. To examine the opportunities presented by Shared Lives to prevent avoidable admission into residential and/or hospital, including assisting carers in their caring role.
3. To make recommendations that will help officers and partners address any identified gaps in the role and function of Shared Lives to support Hillingdon residents to remain independent and assist the Council in achieving cost savings.
4. To make any recommendations, with full costings to Cabinet to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the service as appropriate based upon the findings of this review.

The Committee heard evidence from:

- Tony Zaman – Director of Adult Social Care
- Neil Stubbings – Former Head of Housing
- Sandra Taylor – Head of Service, Early Intervention & Prevention

- Kim Jebson –Team Manager, Early Intervention & Prevention
- Mr Sooben – Carer within the Hillingdon Shared Lives Scheme
- Catherine Kiraz - London Borough of Ealing
- Caroline Tomlinson - London Borough of Harrow
- 2 Carers and 3 service users
- Karl Steenson - SCH&H Operational Finance Manager
- Tim Dauncey - SCH&H Operational Finance Manager

The Shared Lives Scheme

The aim of the Shared Lives scheme is to provide accommodation, care and support for a vulnerable adult in a safe, appropriate manner in a family setting.

Within the placement service, users are able to achieve a positive outcome from Shared Lives, by way of their involvement and participation in family life, promoting a full and active life within the range that their physical and mental health and / or ability will allow. The scheme extends the range of housing and support options available to residents in Hillingdon, by providing a more personal form of care in family homes.

The scheme is open to adults aged 18 years or over with a learning disability, recovering mental problem, physical or sensory disability or someone who needs support because they are an older person.

Key findings, which were identified in the review, included:

That Shared Lives was a highly valued service, which offered increased choice and control to service users and in doing so, reflected the objectives of the Personalisation agenda. Comparisons made with other Local Authorities showed that Hillingdon's offer was performing well and had the potential to be expanded further.

To investigate whether this was feasible, the current costs associated with residential care and supported living options were used as benchmarking tools. The financial modelling clearly illustrated that Hillingdon's Shared Lives Scheme delivered high quality care at relatively low cost. Officers confirmed that the scheme could be doubled in size within existing resources (subject to there being sufficient carers and suitable accommodation) and that if the decision was taken to increase the offer, the scheme had the potential to deliver further savings whilst meeting the desired objectives and outcomes for service users.

The review concluded that the scheme could play a role in prevention and early intervention by supporting different approaches to service delivery and through lessening the predicted impacts of rising social care costs.

Officer comments on the implementation of the recommendations

This review led to a number of recommendations covering the functioning and development of the Shared Lives Scheme. In considering their implementation, the following comments are provided by officers for Cabinet to consider:

Recommendation 1:

Officers will continue to develop and grow the scheme to enhance the 'core' offer of accommodation and support available to residents of Hillingdon.

Recommendations 2

Officers will continue to ensure that this scheme meets CQC standards with an expected rating of at least 'good' and continue to use the auditing tools available to monitor quality and safeguarding, implementing any actions as they arise.

Recommendation 3:

Officers will develop a savings proposal for consideration by the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member, which may be considered for inclusion within the development of the MTFE for 2016/17-2020/2. This may build upon the opportunities from extending the Shared Lives Scheme identified in the review.

Recommendation 4:

Officers will explore a variety of methods for the recruitment of carers, linking with housing colleagues in respect of appropriate accommodation and consider incentives to enhance the Council's core offer to carers to grow the scheme to its full potential.

Recommendation 5:

Officers will continue to pursue recruitment of carers, linking with Shared Lives Plus Scheme to ensure that all opportunities that are appropriate to Hillingdon residents are explored and implemented.

Financial Implications

The recommendation to extend the Shared Lives project and potential savings that could be delivered will be reviewed as part of the MTFE process for 2016-17. A joint review between Care Management and Finance will assess the likely number of residents that would be suitable for this and the savings that may be generated.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendations?

The recommendations, if agreed, will enhance and expand Hillingdon's Shared Lives Scheme and in particular help reduce the costs associated with an independent living option for vulnerable adults.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

The Committee heard evidence from the witnesses listed in the report.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate finance has reviewed the report and the financial implications above, noting that the potential savings which could be generated by the extended scheme will be reviewed as part of the 2016-17 MTFE process.

Legal

There are no significant legal implications arising out of this report to bring to Cabinet's attention. Under the Council's Constitution, Cabinet has the appropriate powers to agree the recommendation proposed at the outset of this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.