

DISABLED PEOPLE'S PLAN 2009 - 2012

Cabinet Member	Cllr Philip Corthorne
Cabinet Portfolio	Social Services, Health & Housing
Report Author (s)	Gary Collier, Adult Social Care, Health and Housing
Papers with report	Detailed progress report against actions within the plan attached as Appendix 1.

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To update Cabinet on progress in delivering the Disabled People's Plan to the end of quarter 3 (Q3)
Contribution to our plans and strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council's Single Equality Scheme and the six priorities within the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 -2018: Improving Health and Wellbeing, Strong and Active Communities, Protecting and Enhancing the Environment, Making Hillingdon Safer, A Thriving Economy and Improving Aspiration through education and learning.• Disabled Children Strategy – common issues have arisen within consultation for this Plan and in developing the Disabled Children Strategy;• Joint Carers' Strategy (2008 – 2018) – the Disabled People's Plan supports the objectives of this strategy. The plan also supports the objectives of the joint strategies for people of working age with physical and/or sensory disabilities, older people and adults with mental health needs.
Financial Cost	Costs attributed to this plan are accounted for in individual service budgets.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Social Services, Health and Housing
Ward(s) affected	All

RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet notes the progress on the delivery of the 2009/10 Disabled People's Plan and suggests improvements for the future development of the plan and action plan.

INFORMATION

Background

1. The Disabled People's Plan seeks to address some of the challenges facing disabled people of all ages in Hillingdon by identifying what the council can do directly, or through its influence with others, to improve the lives of disabled people and to maximise their health and wellbeing. Its development included the most extensive consultation undertaken with disabled people in Hillingdon.
2. The Plan and action plan were approved by Cabinet at its July 2009 meeting. A more detailed action plan has subsequently been developed in order to enable the issues raised by disabled people and the response of the council and some of its partners to be captured on excelsis, the council's performance management database.
3. As it is intended that the Disabled People's Plan will be a living document, this report also outlines how it is intended to improve on it for 2010/11.
4. The implementation of the Disabled People's Plan is linked with that of the Disabled Children's Strategy and appropriate officers from Adult Social Care sit on the Disabled Children's Strategy Group to aid coordination.

Alternative options considered/risk management

5. No alternative options were considered.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

6. The Social Services, Health and Housing Policy Overview Committee received a performance report on the delivery of the plan to the end of Q2 and made the following comments:
 - the Committee was encouraged by the number of staff voluntarily being trained in British Sign Language (BSL);
 - the service user with learning disabilities who has been elected to represent the London Regional Forum for people with learning disabilities at national events was given the Committee's thanks;
 - the development of the carers' handbook and the importance of good information to enable Hillingdon residents to access the services appropriate to their needs was discussed.

Supporting Information

7. The performance update is attached to this report as Appendix 1. Of the 30 tasks within the action plan 3 have been completed and 22 are on target. There is slippage with 5 of them.
8. The need to establish baselines for some of the measures that demonstrate delivery of the tasks means that it will not be possible to test whether there have been improvements until the second year of the plan. Tasks 2.1 - *promote the involvement of disabled people in the service planning and development process* is an example of this.

9. Although Appendix 1 contains detailed information about progress during the first half of 2009/10, Cabinet may be interested to note the following:

Priority One: Improving Health and Wellbeing

- Hillingdon Centre for Independent Living (HCIL) – this service is the subject of a review by the Social Services, Health and Housing Policy Overview Committee. During the first six months of 2009/10 HCIL dealt with 135 enquires. Of these 25% were drop-in calls, 42% telephone and 11% home visits. Work is currently in progress in partnership with Medequip Assistive Technology Ltd to develop a retail facility at the premises in Judge Heath Lane.
- Mental Health Wellbeing Centre - the Well Being Centre is due to open in February 2010 and will be located within the Boots pharmacy at the Chimes Shopping Centre Uxbridge. It is a joint venture between Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust and both statutory and non statutory partners will be offering a broad range of services and information including non specific mental health advice and a comprehensive programme of activities and interventions that promote mental health and well being.
- Individual Budget pilot – this represents the first step in rolling a significant change in the way that adult social care services are provided that will give users greater choice and control.
- Heating in council owned homes - the budget for the replacement of obsolete boilers has increased from £400K in 2008/9 to £900K in 2009/10 and this will continue into 2010/11. There is an insulation programme as well as specific projects to improve energy efficiency in place for council tenants
- Adapted homes – the development of homes adapted for the needs of disabled people will help to prevent the need for avoidable admission into institutional care.
- Child minder register for children with additional needs - will lead to both a greater pool of accessible childminders for disabled children and provide greater structure around things such as childminder training and development

10. Cabinet's attention is drawn to the following developments that have occurred during the review period that are in addition to the actions included within the plan:

- a local service user with learning disabilities has been elected to represent the London Regional Forum for people with learning disabilities at national events. He meets with other regional reps and reports back to the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board on national issues;
- Adult Social Care Health and Housing Workforce Plan for 2009-2012 identifies employing people with learning disabilities as a key priority within the Recruitment and Retention work stream. In preparation, the council has already

identified a number of departments and roles which will positively accommodate individuals within the workforce

- the Crown Centre for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has coordinated some taster sessions for Civic Centre staff who are interested in learning British Sign Language (BSL). 40 people voluntarily started the introductory course and about 20 of these people will start the level one BSL course at the end of the introduction course. This addresses an issue raised by deaf people in the consultation about having more people available who can sign.
- 'Better with Books' pilot project launched between CNWL, Healthy Hillingdon and Library Services - scheme allows GPs to prescribe self help books to patients for mild to moderate mental health problems (books are approved by psychology dept).
- a Service User Participation Manager for mental health post which is jointly funded between the Council and NHS Hillingdon has been recruited to improve involvement of adults with mental health needs

Priority Two: Strong and Active Communities

11. The following developments set out in Appendix 1 are highlighted:

- Carers handbook – this is a loose leaf, A4 folder that contains a broad range of information to support carers in their caring role. It has been produced jointly by the Council and Hillingdon Carers.
- Middlesex Suite, Civic Centre – a new loop system has now been installed, which should make it easier for the hard of hearing to participate in events held in this room.
- LOCATA – all letters have been changed to promote the personal bidding service to help disabled people with the bidding process. A register of disabled people has also been set up to better link vacant property with need.
- Leisure centres – new services are being developed at Botwell Green and Uxbridge. Official opening of the Uxbridge facility took place on 23/03/10. The Botwell Green centre will open in Q1 2010/11.
- Gym equipment – a new piece of equipment was purchased for Highgrove Pool at the request of a disabled service user at a cost of £3.5k. This addition to the equipment already provided means that it is now possible for wheelchair bound users with limited body strength to get a full body workout. The equipment can also be used by able-bodied people.

Priority Three: Protecting and Enhancing the Environment

- Disabled parking bays - during the period 1/04/09 to 23/03/10, a total of 2,232 parking tickets have been issued for unauthorised use of disabled parking bays (1,678 on-street and 554 off street).
- Parking website – a key outcome of the review of the parking website that took place during 2009/10 is that additional information will be added in 2010/11. This will include a map of public disabled parking facilities in Hillingdon and how to report abuse.

Priority Four: Making Hillingdon Safer

- Public forums – staff from the Community Safety Team have attended 26 public forums during the first six months of 2009/10 to raise awareness about the action being taken to address crime and anti-social behaviour.

Priority Five: A Thriving Economy

12. In addition to the information contained in Appendix 1 the Committee may wish to be aware of the following:

- partnership working between the Council, NHS Hillingdon and third sector organisations such as DASH, Owl Housing and the United Response Trust has led to a funding application being submitted to the Department of Health that if successful will support people with learning disabilities and/or mental health needs to gain employment.
- the Council funds a number of third sector organisations to support disabled into employment, e.g. Mental Health Matters, Owl Housing, United Response Trust and Tageero. Their work has resulted in 68 disabled people gaining employment during the first half of 2009/10.

Priority Six: Improving aspiration through education and learning

13. The adult learning service has substantially developed its curriculum offer for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities to meet both the Valuing People and Employment Now national agendas. Residents can now access full time learning opportunities which lead to both supported employment and a national vocational qualification. The personal development curriculum has also been extended to include new courses which support independent living and learners who traditionally attended courses in day centres are now accessing courses in main adult learning centres.

Financial Implications

14. The costs of implementing the action plan are allowed for within the department's base budget.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

15. The Plan seeks to ensure responsive services and better outcomes for disabled people.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

16. Extensive consultation took place with disabled people as part of the development of the plan. Officers are working with the steering group for the Disabled People's Assembly and it is intended that consultation with the Assembly will take place in April 2010 on the content of the 2010/11 plan. This reflects the intention that the Disabled People's Plan be a living document that reflects the changing needs and aspirations of disabled residents.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

17. A Corporate Finance officer has reviewed this report and is satisfied that any financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report will be met from existing budgets.

Legal

18. Under s.49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, the Council has a duty in carrying out its functions under the Act to have due regard to:

- the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination;
- the need to eliminate harassment of disabled persons that is related to their disabilities;
- the need to promote equality of opportunity between disabled persons and other persons;
- the need to take account of disabled person's disabilities, even where that involves treating disabled persons more favourably than others;
- the need to promote positive attitudes towards disabled persons; and
- the need to encourage participation by disabled persons in public life.

19. The development of the Disabled People's Plan assists the Council in satisfying the duty referred to in paragraph 18.

Corporate Property

20. No comments.

Relevant Service Groups

21. Service groups have responded as follows:

- Deputy Chief Executive's Office – reflected in the body of the report and action plan.
- Planning and Community Services – reflected in the body of the report and action plan.
- Education and Children's Services – reflected in the body of the report and action plan.

22. Comments from NHS Hillingdon and Hillingdon Community Health Services are reflected in the report and in the plan and action plan.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Hillingdon Partners Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2018

Older People's Plan 2008 – 2011

Hillingdon Disability Equality Scheme

Hillingdon Single Equality Scheme

Disabled Children's Strategy