

UPDATE REPORT ON THE HILLINGDON INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE

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REASON FOR ITEM

1. This report provides the Policy Overview Committee with an update on the Hillingdon Independent Living Centre, now known as the Hillingdon Centre for Independent Living (H-CIL)
2. This report was requested as part of the work programme for POC in 2009/10. This follows a POC review that took place in 2007/08.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

3. To note the contents of the report.
4. To question officers on its content.

INFORMATION

Background

5. The Cabinet Office report 'Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People' published in 2005 has the expectation that every locality will have a Centre for Independent Living in place by 2010. This is also reflected in the Office for Disability's 'Independent Living Strategy' (published February 2008).
6. In 2007/08 Adult Social Care Health and Housing (ASCHH) engaged a consultant to develop a number of costed options for a centre for independent living. Resource issues meant that it was not immediately possible to pursue any of these.

Current Position

7. A stakeholder group has been formed to lead on the development of the H-CIL. This comprises of representatives from Adult Social Care, Health and Housing, Hillingdon Community Health Services (the provider arm of Hillingdon PCT) and representatives of third sector organisations working with disabled people, older people and carers.
8. A service specification has been developed that sets out a model of provision and the requirements for developing the service over the next three years. This is under discussion with partners.

9. In the meantime, as a result of partnership between the Council, Hillingdon Community Health (HCH) and the Disablement Association of Hillingdon (DASH), it has been possible to re-launch the independent living centre. This has been done under a new name- Hillingdon Centre for Independent Living (H-CIL) to mark a break with the past.
10. Funding from ASCHH and HCH has made it possible for an occupational therapist and two trusted assessors to be employed. Hillingdon PCT has also invested in the premises by reviewing the space and maximising the space at the centre available for equipment demonstration. New telephone lines and IT infrastructure have also been installed to enable potential users of H-CIL to carry out self- assessment on-line or to look at e-catalogues and brochures using the Internet.
11. An information leaflet and poster have been developed by H-CIL to publicise the service. In addition, the service now has a dedicated e-mail address that provides another communication channel for making contact with it.

Future action

12. The stakeholder group is arranging an official launch for the H-CIL to take place in September 2009. In addition to the launch, open days are being planned for professionals from the London Borough of Hillingdon, Hillingdon PCT and third sector organisations to promote the services available. Clubs and groups will also be able to visit the centre and receive an overview of the service.
13. Further discussions with partners will be taking place to clarify exactly what being a user-led organisation will mean for H-CIL. Discussions with partners are also needed about how to develop and provide a wider range of opportunities and services for disabled and/or older people and carers. Examples of this include the development of an employment advice service and in developing support groups (e.g. for people who are newly registered with a sight loss).

Issues

14. Scope for developing the H-CIL on its current site is limited by the size of the premises and its location. This has been identified by disabled people as part of the consultation for the Disabled People's Plan.

Conclusion

15. Considerable progress has been made since POC last received a report about this issue. During 2009/10 further work will be taking place with partners to support H-CIL to develop as a user-led organisation with the ability to develop a long-term strategy for the future and to broaden the range of services available to disabled people and carers in Hillingdon.