

DISABLED PEOPLE'S PLAN

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REASON FOR ITEM

To consult the Committee on the contents of the Disabled People's Plan and action plan.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

1. Question the officers on any aspect of the plan and action plan.

INFORMATION

1. POC was informed about the development of the plan at its April meeting. This report provides the Committee with the opportunity to give its views on the contents of the plan and action plan. The Committee's views can then be relayed to Cabinet at its meeting on the 16th July 2009 where it will be asked to approve the plan.
2. The Disabled People's Plan and action plan are attached to this report.

Definition of Disability

3. The definition of disability used by the Council is that contained within the Disability Discrimination Act, 1995 (as amended 2005). This states that a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Social Model of Disability

4. Through its Disability Equality Scheme, the Council adopted the social model of disability. This model acknowledges that, in many situations, it is not the disability that creates disadvantage but the attitudes and responses of services and people that cause social exclusion. This means that disabled people should not have to adapt to or accept any disadvantage in the provision of services but that services provided by the Council and its partners should be organised and delivered to ensure that disabled people do not suffer discrimination. The approach that is being taken to the development of the Plan reflects this fundamental principle.

Developing the Plan

5. The consultation that has taken place as part of the process of developing the Disabled People's Plan is the most extensive

consultation that the Council has undertaken with disabled people.

The following summarises the key elements of that process:

- a) an initial meeting with disabled people with a broad range of disabilities and voluntary organizations representing them in Nov 08 intended to identify the issues of major importance to disabled people;
 - b) a questionnaire that was widely distributed intended to identify the four most important issues for disabled people;
 - c) a meeting of the Disabled People's Assembly held on the 9th February 2009 intended to identify the key issues for disabled people;
 - d) responses sought from Council officers and partners, e.g. PCT, on what is being done already and what would be done between 2009 and 2012;
 - e) initial feedback provided to the Disabled People's Assembly on 27/04/09;
 - f) feedback on the consultation process and response of the Council and other partners taken to the joint strategic planning groups for people with learning disabilities, adults of working age with physical and/or sensory disabilities, older people and mental health;
 - g) workshop of disabled people held on 7/05/09 to consider feedback in more detail and explore some issues in more depth.
6. The views of young people were not specifically sought as part of the process of developing the plan. This was because of the consultation that took place shortly before that for the Disabled People's Plan as part of the Disabled Children's Strategy development process. POC considered a report about the strategy at its meeting in April 2009 and it was also approved by Cabinet in April.

Key Themes

7. The following are amongst the key issues that were raised by disabled people:
- **service promotion** – making disabled people and professionals aware of available services;
 - **disability awareness** – understanding the needs of disabled people;
 - **accessibility** – information, services and premises;
 - **choice** – improving options for disabled people;
 - **independent living** – disabled people being able to stay in their own homes;
 - **getting involved** – 'nothing about us without us';
 - **transport** – access and availability;
 - **safety and security** – at home and around and about

8. A number of these themes are common with the outcomes of the consultation for the Disabled Children's Strategy, particularly around reducing the fear of crime, enabling disabled people to contribute to their community and improving pathways to economic and social well-being.

Joint Working

9. The Disabled People's Plan helps to identify a number of examples of where partnership working both between Council departments and also between agencies across the statutory, voluntary and private sectors either already helps to deliver better outcomes for disabled people or will do so. Amongst these examples are:
 - Transition – jointly funded, dedicated staff based in ASCHH who work closely with the Children with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs Teams. The officers work with young people from the age of 17 with the intention of making the move to adult services as seamless as possible;
 - Mental health well-being centre – this is a partnership between the statutory (CNWL), voluntary (MIND, CAB) and private (Boots) sectors to develop a service for people with mental health needs that will prevent the need for more intensive support and interventions. Its High Street setting will help to 'normalise' this area of disability;
 - Hillingdon Centre for Independent Living (H-CIL) – a partnership between Adult Social Care, Hillingdon Community Health Services and Dash is enabling disabled people and their carers to get independent advice and support about their daily living equipment needs and the ways in which these can be met. Disabled people can also gain access to advice and information about a range of disability-related issues.

Implementation

10. The intention is to embed implementation of the plan into the Council's performance management systems. It is for this reason that the issues identified by disabled people have been addressed within the plan in line with the priorities contained in the Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008 – 2018
11. Each of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) theme groups will have responsibility for monitoring the actions within the plan that come within their remit and reporting will be undertaken quarterly on an exceptions basis. The aspects of the plan relating to children will be reported to the Children's Trust Board. The Healthier Communities and Older People theme group will have overall ownership of the plan and will review it in its entirety twice a year.

12. It is intended that quarterly reports will be made to the Performance Group chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive. At a department level the lead person for equalities and diversity will have the responsibility for collating performance reporting information. It is also intended that quarterly reports will be made to the Council's Disabled People's Champion.
13. POC should be aware that a much more detailed action plan will sit behind the one appended to this report. The details from this will be uploaded into the Council's performance management database, Excelsis. Actions that are the responsibility of partners such as the PCT will be included within the work plan for HCOP.

Publicising the Plan

14. Subject to the plan being approved by Cabinet, it is intended that it be officially launched at the Disabled People's Assembly meeting in September 2009. The plan will also be made available in different formats.

Plan Review

15. As with the Older People's Plan, it is proposed that the Disabled People's Plan will be a living document that will be reviewed on an annual basis.