

REPORT TO WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE - 5 NOVEMBER 2009

MEMBERS VISIT TO WASHINGTON MULTI PURPOSE CENTRE

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HEALTH, HOUSING AND ADULT SERVICES

1. Why has the report come to the Committee

- 1.1 Washington Area Committee Members expressed the wish to visit the Washington Multi Purpose Centre to understand the current range of facilities and services and to meet with service users and carers.

2. Background - The Visit

- 2.1 Members visited the centre on 4 September 2009 and were given a presentation by the General Manager and Centre Manager, assisted by the Head of Service, on the services currently available within the centre and on how staff support people to access community based activities individually and in small groups. The presentation also outlined the common themes in the Government White Paper 'Valuing People Now' which outlines the direction of travel for services for people with Learning Disability.
- 2.2 Members were shown round the building visiting each room in turn and speaking to members of staff and service users, Members spent a great deal of time getting to know the views of service users and understanding how the available services contributed to supporting people in their daily lives, meetings their aspirations and care needs.
- 2.3 Members were introduced to the Carers Group "In Touch" where the carers were able to express their view on how the Washington Multi Purpose Centre and other services provide support with their caring responsibilities. Carers were keen to seek reassurance from Members that the centre was not planned for closure. Members gave their full support to carers that the service had a long term future, although the style and delivery of the service may change in line with meeting individual aspirations and would include opportunities to pursue interests outside of the centre.
- 2.4 Carers specifically identified issues with the lack of an escort on some transport routes and also with the reduced nursing input from the PCT.
- 2.5 Managers have ensured that all arranged transport both directly provided and contract hire include an escort to ensure the safety of people during the journey.
- 2.6 The reduction in nursing support provided by the PCT was as a result of their difficulty to recruit to posts which were specifically attached to Day

Centres. The PCT is responding to the gap in service and is to use Peripatetic Nursing Services linked to the District Nursing Services which can be called upon when needed. Specific medical advice and training has been given to centre staff to ensure a good understanding of individual medical conditions and how they should be managed on a daily basis. The nursing situation will be kept under review.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 At the end of the visit Members expressed their appreciation to service users, carers, staff and management for organising an interesting and informative visit.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Members note the report for information.