

**Open Report on behalf of Glen Garrod,
Executive Director of Adult Social Services**

Report to:	Adults Scrutiny Committee
Date:	7 September 2016
Subject:	Visits to Day Centres

Summary:

Members of the Adults Scrutiny Committee have visited five day centres over the last two months. This item enables the Members to report their findings to the Committee.

Actions Required:

- (1) To consider the information presented on the visits by members of the Adults Scrutiny Committee to the following day centres:
- Warwick Road, Louth – 8 July 2016
 - Virginia House, Louth (Recently identified, refurbishment to begin in January 2017) – 8 July 2016
 - The Wong, Horncastle – 8 July 2016
 - Scott House, Boston – 11 July 2016
 - St John's Day Centre - Grantham – 6 September 2016

1. Background

In-House Day Services provide care and support to enable vulnerable adults to achieve assessed needs and the outcomes that are important to them as individuals.

The Committee received a report on 22 January 2016 on the proposed reconfiguration of the Council's in-house day services. The reconfiguration of in-house day services was to improve sustainability but also to improve the overall quality of building provision. At the meeting, the Committee requested that visits were organised for Members of the Committee, once some of the new arrangements had been implemented.

Following the Committee meeting visits to five day opportunities services have been organised, involving five members of the Committee.

2. In-House Day Services

Warwick Road, Louth

In-House Day services are delivered from two sites in Louth; namely Warwick Road and Ramsgate.

Ramsgate used to be a corner shop; the facility comprises a ground floor with an open space used for activities and relaxation, a galley fitted kitchen leading to a small office, one toilet, and laundry facilities. Whilst people who are supported do use the building base for activities: in the main they access activities and events in the community.

The plan is for Warwick Road and Ramsgate to merge and for both services to be delivered from Virginia House.

Councillors visited Warwick Road, which is a large industrial building on an industrial estate outside of Louth. There are a number of issues regarding health and safety due to where HGVs and cars are parked and the volume of traffic outside of the building.

The building comprises a large open room for activities with a sensory room off the main room; there is no natural light unless the fire door is left open. There are two toilets, and one toilet with shower changing facilities; this is cramped and difficult to access with a wheel chair. The large well-fitted kitchen with seating and windows is a useful room. The small garden outside is used for growing vegetables and there is also room to have BBQs.

This is a small property and the lack of space makes it prohibitive to merge with Ramsgate.

Virginia House Day, Louth

This is a former Children's Home. It is currently being used as office space and as a Children's Contact Centre.

The building is due to be vacated in December and it is anticipated that the refurbishment will take approximately three months. Once ready it will accommodate the people who are supported at both Warwick Road and Ramsgate.

The refurbishment will completely modernise the building, this will include a new hygiene suite, a large open space for activities, a fully fitted sensory room, and adapted kitchen for independent living skills. The rooms upstairs will be adapted for a variety of activities including IT opportunities.

There are spacious grounds outside which will be adapted for wheelchair access.

Councillors Bill Aron, Sarah Dodds and Jane Smith visited the two day centres in Louth on 8 July 2016.

The Wong, Horncastle

The day opportunities service is located in the Old Court House. This comprises a large meeting room with plenty of light, and a few steps and lift up to another reasonably sized room that is used for art and craft work (glass products). There is another smaller room usually used for people with a physical disability, whilst people with a learning disability tend to use the larger room.

There is a small kitchen, toilet and a toilet with changing facilities. LD, PD & OP were merged together in April 2015 and this has been more successful than anticipated. There is a small garden area that is used to grow produce; it also has a seating area.

People who are supported, parent carers and staff, through various engagement events have requested that they use some of the modernisation monies to extend the kitchen so that it can be used for independent living skills, to improve the outside area so that they can get more use from it and to buy more up to date equipment including technology.

Councillors Bill Aron, Sarah Dodds and Jane Smith visited the Wong Day Centre on 8 July 2016.

Scott House, Boston

Scott House is a single storey gatehouse to the former workhouse that was converted to a day centre in 2002. It has 28 rooms used for a range of activities, there is a reception area with small kitchen facility, a large kitchen with wheel chair adaptations, an IT room, quiet rooms and meeting rooms.

Field Street, Bosscat and the Kirton flat day opportunities have merged and all services are now delivered from Scott House. The change to service delivery has been extremely successful. This has been helped by the enthusiasm of the staff, and also each person who is supported has had an individual transition plan to ensure that they were fully prepared for the move. In consequence they have fully embraced the move and are enjoying a greater range of activities and opportunities.

The working group at Scott House have proposed using modernisation money to buy extra equipment, including technology to improve IT skills, and to erect a workshop in the grounds so that woodworking skills can continue.

Councillor Helen Powell visited Scott House on 11 July 2016.

St John's Day Centre, Grantham

The building is on three stories with quite small rooms. There is a lift. The building feels old, depressed, and downstairs has no natural light and it is damp. The middle room with the entrance is small with some tables and chairs and a kitchen area, with a toilet that opens into the kitchen area. The building also has shared access with another organisation that uses the other half of the building via a staircase.

The carpets are in a very poor state; there has not been any decorating for years. There is limited office space upstairs that is not private, and there is also a large activity room. Whilst they were given new blinds, and some of the window frames were replaced they were not painted.

The day opportunities Project Board are working closely with the property team to identify a better facility. Once identified the Board will submit a business case to DMT.

Councillors Helen Powell and Sue Wray are due to visit to the St John's Day Centre on 6 September 2016.

3. Conclusion

A report with proposals for the modernisation of day opportunities was submitted to Glen Garrod, Cllr Bradwell and Cllr Oxby in August 2015. The recommendations were agreed and since then the following events and developments have taken place:

1. Consultation events at Skegness and Boston involving people who are supported, where appropriate their parent carers, staff and managers.
2. Engagement events at the remaining 12 day opportunities facilities? to discuss the modernisation programme and to establish working groups comprising people who are supported, where appropriate parent carers, and staff.
3. The working groups meet regularly and have been asked to:
 - Develop ideas for new equipment and activities.
 - Identify building work that will be required
 - Identify cosmetic improvements that are required
 - Identify what is required to increase the range of activities
 - Develop the use of technology including Wi-Fi connection at each service
4. The Project Board oversee and monitor the way the modernisation money is being used.
5. Building work has been agreed at several of the centres.
6. The Architect's plans for Virginia House have been agreed.
7. A training programme is currently being prepared for staff to help develop their skills.

4. Policy Proofing Actions Required

This report does not require policy proofing.

5. Background Papers

Review of In-House Day Services report to Adults Scrutiny Committee on 22 January 2016.

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