


<p style="text-align: center;">Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">22 March 2021</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Cllr James King, Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Call-in of ‘Revised approach to day support in adult social care’</b></p>	

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Decision made by Cabinet on Wednesday, 3 March 2021 in respect of agenda item 6.2 ‘Revised approach to day support in adult social care’ was ‘called in’ under the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules of the Council’s Constitution by Councillors Gabriela Salva-Macallan, Shah Ameen, Shad Chowdhury, Tarik Khan and Victoria Obaze (‘Call-in Members’).

On 18 March 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Committee) convened a meeting to consider the following:

- the Cabinet report
- the Cabinet Decision published on 5 March 2021
- the “call in” requisition from the Call-in Members (undated)
- representations by the Call-in Members
- representations from a member of the community
- representations by the Cllr Rachel Blake, Cabinet Member for Adults Health and Wellbeing

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the decision be referred to the Cabinet for reconsideration, including consideration of the alternative courses of action set out below:

1. LBTH should retain the Day Opportunities Centres with a review of the funding that might be sought from assets and use from the wider community, and any new or existing grants available for allocation to adult social care
2. The co-production of services needs to include Pritchard’s Roads service users, who have not been fully afforded the opportunity to engage with coproduction of services
3. That the Pritchard’s Road Day Centre continues as an “in-house” service for the next two years as we are in the midst of mental health crisis
4. The Committee would like to see the previous reviews undertaken about Day Opportunities Centres, and information the council has about the impact of the proposed changes (new Hub) to existing activities/services at Sonali Gardens
5. LBTH should implement a slower and more phased implementation of the integration of alternative provision

6. That the Council action the Government's guidelines regarding the reopening of day care centre's  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-adult-day-care-centre-workers>
7. That a fresh consultation should be carried out with service users from April 2022, once they have had a chance to return to their centres and discuss the Mayor's proposed changes collectively
8. That the council undertake an audit of promotional materials, so that centres are advertised as widely as needed to achieve their full potential

## **1. THE CABINET'S DECISION**

1.1 The Cabinet's decision, published on 5 March 2021:

- To agree the closure of Physical Disability Day Opportunities, Riverside day centre and Pritchard's Road day centre with effect from 4 May 2021
- To agree to develop Russia Lane as a 'dementia hub' day service
- To agree to open a community support hub from May 2021 onwards (if it is safe to do so in light of the Covid-19 pandemic)
- To endorse the proposal to encourage more people to organise their own day support through a direct payment
- To agree the commitment to make Tower Hamlets a more inclusive place for people with care and support needs

## **2. THE 'CALL IN' REQUISITION**

2.1 The alternative course of action proposed in the call-in is as follows:

1. LBTH should retain the Day Opportunities Centres with a review of the funding that might be sought from assets
2. Funding for these day centres should be drawn down from the additional and unexpected £2.9 million Social Care Grant awarded to LBTH
3. The spaces provided by these centres should be used as part of a wider community offer, including after 4pm when Day Centre service users are not using them, in order to generate income and provide an additional community resource
4. That capital allocation be used to ensure that the centres be suitably adapted to meet the needs of specific types of service users and that all service users, carers and providers will have confidence that they are suitable high quality spaces to use to hire for community use
5. The co-production of services needs to include Pritchard's Roads service users, who have not been fully afforded the opportunity to engage with coproduction of services
6. That the Pritchard's Road Day Centre continues as an "in-house" service for the next two years as we are in the midst of mental health crisis
7. LBTH should implement a slower and more phased implementation of the integration of alternative provision
8. That the Council action the Government's guidelines regarding the reopening of day care centre's  
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9. That a fresh consultation should be carried out with service users from April 2022, once they have had a chance to return to their centres and discuss the Mayor's proposed changes collectively
10. That the council undertake an audit of promotional materials, so that centres are advertised as widely as needed to achieve their full potential

### **3. CALL-IN MEMBERS' PRESENTATION**

3.1 Call-in members presented the reasons for call-in and proposed alternative course of action, and added that:

- Keeping in-house provision very important
- Pandemic impacts leave an important ongoing need in recovery
- Care and support for individuals vitally important for future positioning for the council – even given the discretionary nature of day care/support
- Other councils (Haringey) are investing in these services, not reducing them
- Existing centres play an important community role with many services provided

3.2 A member of the community, Mr Zakir Hussain, spoke about his concerns about the Cabinet decision to the Committee, and added that:

- New hubs don't prioritise mental health, which is contrary to recognition of pandemic impacts
- No clarity of specific services to be delivered from new hub, to replace existing arrangements at the Pritchard's Road or Riverside centres – where specialists are on-site
- No alternative suggested for day opportunities
- Consultation was not fit for purpose

3.3 Committee members posed a number of questions concerning:

- services affected by the closure of both Riverside and Pritchard's Road day centres
- the kind of day support provided during the pandemic lockdown
- how the consultation was received
- concerns about the new Hub
- slower, more phased implementation of changes
- different funding options

### **4. LEAD MEMBER'S PRESENTATION**

4.1. The Lead Member reflected that it was clear from consultation that services are highly valued; and talked about:

4.2. The design of the future service – continuing to meet collective needs, which is why there's a flexible and safe support hub at Sonali Gardens, which also arranges services at the spokes (other locations); therefore replacement services are considered.

- 4.3. The transition services set out – social worker assessments, specialists' transition arrangements for Pritchard's Road, commissioned mental health services
- 4.4. Budget issues – will be spending £5 million more in ASC in response to need
- 4.5. Alternative courses of action – cannot retain as it will not meet overall need; using £2.9 million won't work; co-production is a good option; transitioning into new hub could be an important part of pandemic recovery.
- 4.6. The Committee asked further questions on matters including:
  - Staff impacts associated with closing centres
  - Accessing the new hub – different location in the borough
  - Consultation – open and closed questions
  - Communications of the proposed changes for users/community

## **5. CONSIDERATION OF THE 'CALL IN'**

- 5.1. After hearing from the Call-in Members and the Lead Member, the Committee considered the following issues and concerns:
  - following the concerns raised previously about the budget and savings proposals, the Committee remains unconvinced about the council cutting services at this time, during pandemic impacts and recovery, and putting money into reserves
  - the overall budget for day support is relatively small for our most vulnerable, and that the scale of the proposed changes is too large to cope with, and at this stressful time in people's lives (pandemic)
  - changes (new hub) will mean different access/transport issues for people
  - limitations about the consultation

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1. The Committee unanimously RESOLVED that the decision be referred to the Cabinet for reconsideration, including consideration of the alternative courses of action set out in the call-in requisition with the following additional and amended wording:
  - point 1 – add ‘..and use from the wider community, and any new or existing grants available for allocation to adult social care.’
  - remove points 2, 3 and 4
  - add that OSC would like to see the previous reviews undertaken about Day Opportunities Centres, and information the council has about the impact of the proposed changes (new Hub) to existing activities/services at Sonali Gardens
- 6.2. Therefore, the Committee proposes the following alternative courses of action:
  1. LBTH should retain the Day Opportunities Centres with a review of the funding that might be sought from assets and use from the wider community, and any new or existing grants available for allocation to adult social care

2. The co-production of services needs to include Pritchard's Roads service users, who have not been fully afforded the opportunity to engage with coproduction of services
3. That the Pritchard's Road Day Centre continues as an "in-house" service for the next two years as we are in the midst of mental health crisis
4. The Committee would like to see the previous reviews undertaken about Day Opportunities Centres, and information the council has about the impact of the proposed changes (new Hub) to existing activities/services at Sonali Gardens
5. LBTH should implement a slower and more phased implementation of the integration of alternative provision
6. That the Council action the Government's guidelines regarding the reopening of day care centre's  
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7. That a fresh consultation should be carried out with service users from April 2022, once they have had a chance to return to their centres and discuss the Mayor's proposed changes collectively
8. That the council undertake an audit of promotional materials, so that centres are advertised as widely as needed to achieve their full potential