

Information

for County Councillors

Sheet Number: 2009-13/31

From:	Steve Jones Strategic Manager Learning Disability Services
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Date:	27 th November 2013
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To:	All County Councillors
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Relocation of Day services for Adults with Learning Disabilities from the Enterprise Resource Centre, Bridgwater (ERCB) to the Rollercoaster Centre, Bridgwater

A decision was made in 2005 to consider the regeneration of the Northgate area, in conjunction with Sedgemoor District Council. This ultimately resulted in the decision to sell those parts of the site belonging to Somerset County Council (SCC) and relocate the services and offices occupying the buildings on site, using anticipated capital receipts, where necessary, to invest in alternative premises.

This included the Enterprise Resource Centre, which delivers day services for adults with Learning Disabilities. Whilst suitable for the model of day service delivery during the 70's and 80's, when it was built, the building was no longer fit for purpose given the changing requirement of a more modern day service. In addition, there were very significant anticipated costs from having to replace heating and ventilation systems that would have in no way delivered value for money.

Consequently, we began communicating with service users and carers about the proposals to move the service to other locations, and began the search, through the corporate property team, for alternative premises.

In October, 2012, part of the service moved to the new YMCA development in Bridgwater, where it shares accommodation with a range of other user groups and organisations. This co-location has worked well, and has given service users opportunities that they might not have otherwise had.

In approximately July 2012, we began negotiations with the Youth Service to relocate the remaining part of the day service at the Rollercoaster centre in East Bridgwater. There were obvious advantages in terms of making maximum use of the building (with us occupying it during weekdays and the Youth Service

during evenings and weekends) and in offering opportunities for joint work between the LD and Youth Services. Given that we were reassured that both the inside and outside space was a good fit for purpose, the decision was made to proceed with this co-location after necessary adaptations had been made. Works are now nearing completion, and the remaining LD service users at the Enterprise Centre are due to start their introductory visits to their new base. We have, obviously, been communicating closely with individual carers and service users about the proposed move. Whilst this does mean, therefore, that activity will be ceasing at ERCB, no one's service will be reduced as a result.

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