Dover Day Service

We want to know what you think
Hello

We want to tell you about changes to day services in the Dover area.

You might need some help with this document.

The government has told us that we need to look at how we run our day services.

This is part of a government White Paper called ‘Valuing People Now.’

This means we need to make sure people with learning disabilities have the best services possible to lead a full and meaningful life.

We are now looking at developing day services in the Dover area, to give a wider range of community based activities.

Dover Day Service at the Walmer Centre has been in the same building since 1978.

We know that some people have been going to this service for a long time and and are happy with it.
The Walmer Centre can no longer give people with a learning disability what they need.

So we are suggesting that the Dover Day Service move with the staff team to community locations instead.

Dover Day Service has been working hard to give people with learning disabilities a greater choice of community based activities.

We would like to know what you think about this.

We call this a consultation.

We would like to hear from:

• everybody who uses the services
• parents and carers
• people who might want to use the services in the future
people from health, education and housing

staff and union representatives

the general public.

Why does the Dover Day Service need to change?

Staff and service users have been using and getting to know more community groups and activities.

This has meant that people have more choice of activities in different community locations.

Younger people leaving school and their parents want something different and are put off by the style and position of the building.

They are choosing other day activities and supported employment.

This has meant that there are now fewer new people wanting to use the Walmer Day Centre.

As a result, the number of people using the centre has fallen and the building is now too big and empty.
• The service uses mini buses to get to and from the building, and this makes using community activities more difficult.

This means that some people are on the mini buses for a long time while they pick and drop people off.

• The design of the day centre is old fashioned. Although money has been spent on it over the years, there are still lots of things that need updating and replacing.

As we want to offer more community based activities, we do not think that we should spend large amounts of money on the building, as it is no longer what is needed.

3. What will the new service look like?

We will offer people more choices in what they can do during the day in places that are closer to where they live.

This will be done by:

• making Direct Payments easier to get, so people can buy the services they want
See if there are things that the current service gives at Dover Day Services and that could become a social enterprise

- investing in community hubs which give more choices of things to do. They are closer to where people live and included adult changing places.

- providing skilled staff to support people to access services within the local community.

- working with residential care providers to deliver or purchase a day service as described in the agreed support plan

- move away using large buildings which are set apart from the community.
People using the Walmer Day Centre will get a day care review. They will be asked what they want so the new day services reflect this.

These services could be bought from existing and new service providers.

Supported employment will be important to make sure that if needed, people can have support to move into paid employment.

We know how important it is for people to keep their friendships and make new friends.

We will make sure people continue to meet their friends and have opportunities to make new ones.
This is what it might look like

Deal Library

Dover Leisure Centre

Community Centres

Colleges

Meeting with friends

Supported Employment

Places of interest

Community groups
What happens next?

We have planned that this consultation will take 14 weeks, as we want to make sure that as many people as possible are included.

There will be lots of ways for people to get involved and tell us what they think, including:

- individual meetings
- information road shows
- advocacy support
- a questionnaire that will be available online and at these meetings

This means that your views will be gathered by 7th March 2014 and we will bring all these different responses together in a report that we will publish in April 2014.
Questions and answers

We have tried to answer some questions you might have.

Will I still get the same level of service?

- Yes

The place you go for activities will change, but there will be more things to do as a result of the changes.

There will not be less services, instead they will be more person centred.

Where will the new service be?

- We know where people live and using this information we will look at places that are easier to get to and affordable

There will also be a central office base.

What will this mean for the staff?

- The service will continue to be provided by the existing staff team, ensuring a good level of service

- The whole team will have access to an office and management support and will continue to have access to a full training programme.
How will the new service promote safety?

- For some time now we have been using a variety of community facilities and so have already put in place systems.
- We have also been working with local community organisations to raise awareness and encourage good practice.

How will transport needs be met?

- It is our aim to develop a service that is more accessible and personalised. Your Care Manager will discuss any needs on an individual basis.
- Through Care Management review.

Are these changes being made to save money?

- No

We aim to use the current budget differently, which means that the budget will be used to support people more flexibly instead of spending it on buildings.

If any efficiency is achieved through the new service model then this will save money.
Get in touch

If you have further questions or comments you will be able to share these in the following ways:

• Consultation meetings and events

• Completing the questionnaire

• Website:
  www.kent.gov.uk/learningdisability

• Email:
  GoodDayProgramme@kent.gov.uk

If you would like this booklet in an alternative format or another language, please contact us on 01622 221855 or Text Relay 18001 01622 221855