

Modernisation Matters

Update from the Modernisation and Development Team

Issue 6
June 2010

This is our sixth publication to keep you informed of work being undertaken by the Modernisation and Development Team. We hope you are finding the updates useful, but let us know if you think there any improvements to be made.

Modernisation of day opportunities for people with learning disabilities

Lawefield Lane - New Building (Clarence Court)

The new day opportunities base, to replace the temporary base upstairs at Waterton House, now has a name. It has been decided to call it Clarence Court, as this part of the nearby Thornes Park is known as Clarence Park. The short breaks unit which shares the site had already been named Clarence Gardens. A name was needed as there is no street number to identify the building.

The building is coming on well and is on target for being completed at the beginning of October. Service users are visiting the site and taking photos for their display wall, which will chart the progress and help them prepare for the move to their new surroundings. The interior finishes are being selected, with input from Therapy Services to make sure they are suitable for the needs of the service users.

The transition plans for the service users are now underway and will be shared with the multidisciplinary team and families in the near future to make sure all necessary information is included.



Learning Disability Short Breaks Transformation

Clarence Gardens And Cypress Road

The Clarence Gardens building which will replace the short stay unit for people with learning disabilities at Batley Road, is also going up and is on target for completion in early October. As with the day opportunities base, interior finishes are being selected with input from Therapy Services and displays were shown to carers who use the Batley Road service for their input at an event held at the end of May.

Events were held to give carers the chance to meet the new service provider which has won the tender for both Clarence Gardens and Cypress Road. They are the **Wilf Ward Trust**, a charity based in North Yorkshire with good experience of providing short breaks to people with a range of needs, including people with complex needs. The intention is that everyone who is in need of the short breaks service can use one or the other unit, usually depending on where they live.

The Wilf Ward Trust is starting to work with Dimensions on planning the handover at Cypress Road and it is hoped that many of the staff there will choose to move across to work for the new organisation.

For more information on the Wilf Ward Trust visit their website <http://www.wilfward.org.uk/>



Housing Development Group

PSA 16

This Public Service Agreement outlines Government targets for both settled housing and employment. On the housing side, the Housing Delivery Group is responsible for a number of work strands to increase the numbers of people in settled housing.



Residential conversion

The Modernisation and Development Team has been working closely with colleagues in the CTLDs and with Alternative Care, a local support provider, and Chevin, a housing association, to convert a second residential home into supported living. Three residents of Ashton Lodge will this month become tenants of Chevin in the same house as before, while continuing to receive round the clock support from familiar staff who will now be working for Alternative Care's domiciliary service.

Stanley house

Linked to the above, a further two people will move house within the same area of Stanley and become Chevin tenants, supported by Alternative Care. In this way inroads are being made into residential provision and more people are obtaining settled accommodation in line with national targets.

Housing DVD

Filming has been completed of the accessible DVD showing different housing choices for people with Learning Disabilities. There is a little more editing to do but in a short time the DVD will be available to be distributed free to service users and carers in Wakefield.

Training in Housing Choices

Training has taken place for care managers to help them understand the changes in the ways service users will be supported in their own homes in future and the various pathways for obtaining housing. At the request of the Partnership Board a further session is being arranged for service users to attend with their families to get more information and this is on 21st June. Any professionals who were interested in, but unable to attend, the previous training for care managers, are also invited.

South Kirkby Apartments

The flats are going up on site in South Kirkby, which will be for people with learning disabilities to rent. Each of the 8 flats will be intended to house one person but will have a spare bedroom, so people could share if they wish. One of the flats will be adapted for a learning disabled person who also has physical disabilities. There will be a common room and a sleep-in member of staff.

Nominations have been received and managers are in the process of prioritising which service users will be offered a tenancy there.



Contact the Team

We distribute updates to interested groups about specific projects, including Wakefield Day Opportunities Base and Short Breaks. If you would like to be added to the distribution list to any of these, please contact us.

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