Better Days for People with Learning Disabilities in Kent
The Good Day Programme

This report can be made available in other formats and large print copies are available at Wood and Leathercraft.
Background

During March to June 2012 we have been in consultation, talking to people about their views on the future of Wood and Leathercraft in the Thanet district.

The proposal was to find another organisation (not KCC) to run and develop the Wood and Leathercraft Service.

The proposals took into account ideas from:
- The Localism Act (2011)
- Valuing People Now (2009)
- Bold Steps for Kent (2010-14)
- Better Days for People with Learning Disabilities in Kent.

The aim is to develop the services in the following ways:
- To get the right balance between social outcomes and business outcomes
- Training and development opportunities
- Business and employment
- Access to other income streams
- It would enable people to use Direct Payments to access these Services, which at the moment they cannot.

This report is the outcomes and decision for Wood and Leathercraft.

If you would like a copy of the report for the other services please contact: Tahsina Rahman on 01622 221484 or email Gooddayprogramme@kent.gov.uk
What happened during consultation?

A consultation is when you find out what someone thinks about something.

Consultation packs were sent out and a series of presentations, workshops and 1:1 meetings took place with people who use the services, their family carers, staff, KCC Members, Councillors and other people who were interested.

Independent Advocacy supported people who use the service, including those with complex needs to make sure their views were included.

Presentations and updates have been held with Thanet District Partnership Group.

Thanet District Partnership Group
What did people who use the service say?

After Advocacy for All supported group and 1 to 1 meetings. The majority of service users were keen to see the service continue and developed with a lot of ideas on how this could be achieved.

People had ideas about how to change Woodcraft and Leathercraft. Some people said they want to help choose who runs Woodcraft and Leathercraft.

"I like the staff, we are friends. I just want to carry on doing Leathercraft here at the Gallery. I don’t mind if the staff change"

"Training sounds good - a certificate to take on further."

"Going to the shops round here, showing them. Might be able to make a profit"

"I'd like it to be a job and get paid for it rather than going back to the council. We only get the pride of what we make, nothing else"

Some people were interested in training and earning money. Some people were not interested.

Seeing friends at Woodcraft and Leathercraft was important to people.
What did Family Carers and other people say?

Family Carers attended 2 workshops and asked about:
- Keeping services open and running and where they will be located?
- Woodcraft equipment
- Having a say in finding the right kind of organisation to run the service
- Transport
- Knowing if another organisation will achieve the expected benefits?
- What will happen if another organisation can’t be found?

Some carers were concerned that the service would be located in a different place and that it would stop running.

Thanet District Partnership Group

- The group wanted people that currently use the service to be able to continue.
- The group gave some suggestions on how to find a good organisation to take over the services.
- The group asked if Wood and Leathercraft would remain local in Thanet.

A local County Councillor made the following points:
- Money from sales being re-invested
- Avoiding any cuts to front line services
- The same people being able to continue attending the service
- Would another organisation benefit from taking over the service?
Decision

We took people’s views and comments to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health for him to look at and make a decision.

He agreed the outsourcing of five group based Learning Disability Day Services (Freeways Catering Service, Nolan’s Table Café & The Check Café, Wood n Ware, Wood & Leather Craft and Hadlow Pottery) to external organisations.

What will happen now?

It is important we take the time to get the right organisation to take over the Wood and Leathercraft service. So this will be planned carefully with full involvement from people who use the service and family carers.

Together we will set out what we want and this will help us to find the right organisation.
Thank you to everyone who has taken part in this consultation and given their views and ideas.

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This summary report is available in alternative formats and can be provided in a range of languages.

Please contact us on 08458 247 100