Swale Learning Disability Day Services

We want to know what you think

Easier to read guide
Hello

We want to tell you about changes to day services in the Swale 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 full and meaningful lives.

Currently in the Swale area, services are being offered from the Crawford Centre and the Faversham Community Day Centre.

We are now looking at our day services in the Swale area, to offer a wider range of community based activities. This means Sittingbourne, Isle of Sheppey and Faversham.

Swale Day Services at the Crawford Centre and Faversham Community Day Service have been in the same buildings for a number of years.

We know that some people have been going to this service for a long time and and are happy with it.
The Crawford Centre and Faversham Community Day Service can no longer meet the future needs of people with a learning disability.

So we are suggesting that the service we offer from the Crawford Centre and Faversham Day Opportunities Centre will make more use of community locations to deliver the service. This will be called the Swale Learning Disability Day Service and will cover the whole of Swale.

Swale Day Services 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 use our services
- parents, family and carers
- people who will want to use the services in the future
- people from health, education and housing
- staff and union representatives
- the general public.

**Why does the Swale 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.

People interested in a day service often want something different. They are not attracted by the style and position of the building.

- This has meant that there are now fewer people wanting this style of traditional day service
We need to use our minibuses more flexibly to access more services.

We will be supporting people to be dropped off at their community based building.

The design of the Faversham 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 do during the day in a wider choice of 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 Swale Day Services that could become a social enterprise.

- investing in community hubs which give more choices of things to do. These will be in local communities and will include 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 from using large buildings which are set apart from the community.
Reviews will be offered to everyone attending our day services.

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
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 12th August 2014 and we will bring all these different responses together in a report that we will publish in October 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