Good Day Programme
Advocacy for All
report about
Swale Day Services
and Faversham Day Centre
Advocacy for All

Advocacy is when one person helps another person talk about their needs and wishes.

Advocacy for All helps people in Kent when they need an advocate.

An advocate is someone who helps you speak up for yourself. They make sure other people listen to what you say and respect your rights.

Good Day Programme

The Good Day Programme is run by Kent County Council.

It works with people to help them
- choose what to do during the day
- be part of their community
Swale Day Services offers activities for people in Swale during the day.

One of the bases is Faversham Day Centre.

42 people use the Faversham Centre at the moment.

The Good Day Programme think it would be good to close Faversham Day Centre.

They want to move Swale Day Services into smaller places in the community called hubs.

This will mean

- people will not need to travel so far
- people will be part of their local community
- people will have more choice about things to do in their local area
A consultation is when you find out what someone thinks about something.

The Good Day Programme wanted to find out what people think about:

- closing Faversham Day Centre
- moving Swale Day Services into smaller places in the community, called hubs.

They asked Emma and John from Advocacy for All to help.
what happened in the consultation

1. The council had a big **meeting** about **Swale Day Services**. They gave a **talk** about the **plans**. **Emma** and **John** went to the meeting and **met** some **people** who **use** **Swale Day Services**

2. **Emma** and **John** ran **workshops** for **people** who **use** **Crawford Day Centre**. People **talked** about the **plans** and said what they **think**

3. **Emma** and **John** went to **information events** for **parents** and **carers**.

4. **Emma** and **John** **met** people on their own in **1 to 1 meetings**. They **talked** more about the **plans**. They filled in a **form** saying what they **think**
big meeting

There was a big meeting on Tuesday 6 May 2014 at Swale Community and Voluntary Services (SCVS) in Sittingbourne.

Different people went to the meeting

- members of Parliament
- people from Kent County Council
- people who use Swale Day Services
- parents and carers
- support workers and staff
- people from workers’ unions

Lots of people who use Swale Day Services could not go to the meeting because of the stairs in the building.

Councillor Gibbens from Kent County Council talked about the plans for Swale Day Services.

He said that Crawford Day Centre would stay open until all the people were using new places.

He said that the same sort of changes are happening to day services all over the country.
what people said

There was a chance for people to ask questions.

people asked

- what will happen to the buses?
- what will happen to the Faversham Centre building?
- have you already found the new hubs?
- is this only happening because the council need to save money?
Emma and John visited Faversham Day Centre on Wednesday 14 May.

They chatted to the people who use the centre and the people who work there.

Lots of people said they leave the centre to go to activities out in the community.

Some people were worried that the day centre was closing and their activities would stop.

Emma and John said that activities would carry on even if people were going to a different base first.
Emma and John ran workshops at Faversham Day Centre on Tuesday 20 May.

At the workshops people could
- talk about the plans
- ask questions and find out more
- get their own voice across

Most people said that the Faversham Centre is old and needs a lot of work.

Lots of people said that the Faversham Centre is a long way from other places.

Everyone understood that their activities would carry on. But some people were still sad that the building may close.

People talked about using hubs closer to where they live. Most people said that local places with new rooms and equipment would be good.
People talked about the **activities** they do. They said what **places** they go to and what they **like doing**.

Most people do **activities outside** the **day centre**. They said there is a **good choice** of things to do.

**Lots** of people **like** the **staff** who help with the activities. They are **worried** that **staff** might **change**.

**what people said**

- it’s not a good area
- happy to move to a hub - where is it?
- I am moving to Sittingbourne. It would be easier to go to a hub there
1 to 1 meetings

John and Emma had a 1 to 1 meeting with every person who uses the Faversham Centre.

John and Emma talked to people about the changes and found out what they think.

Some people had complex needs. This means that they had different disabilities and health problems.

John and Emma worked with day centre staff and used things like DVDs and person centred plans.

This helped them communicate with people with complex needs.

They helped people fill in the form.

There is a big sheet with everybody’s answers on it.

Some of their answers are on pages 13 to 21.
questions and answers

1. what do you like about Swale Day Services?
What do you not like about it?

Most people like the activities they do. Some people are waiting to try out new activities.

Favourite activities are:

• cooking at the centre
• bowling
• photography
• gym and swimming
• golf
• bowls
• art and craft

bowls in the hall, communication with Ingrid. Used to enjoy gardening
don’t like sticking inside. Would rather be out in the fresh air

discos have gone. Not allowed to watch movies - boring. Going to hell.

Like photography group. Got bored in the centre
2. What do you like about services in Swale?
What do you not like about them?

Most people like **community activities and services**, like

- leisure centres
- golf in Sittingbourne
- Milton Bowls
- bowling at Whitstable
- bowling green in Faversham
- John Graham Centre
- Skillnet
- Age Concern
- Brogdale and Monkshill farms
- Swalecliffe hub

walk every day, use bus pass locally
lunch in town
I want to go out every day
like the seaside
3. Will the changes make a difference to you?

*Lots of activities* happen *outside* the Faversham Centre.

*Most* people said they *like going out* into the *community* and doing different things.

*Some people* said they will find the *change sad* and *difficult*.

I’ve been here too long. Doesn’t worry me in the least if the building closes. It’s going to be a big change. I’ve been used to it for so many years.

I think the hubs are a good idea.

I would be a bit sad if the building was to shut.

I am not changing because of the changes at the centre. I think there is more to do and more fun at the John Graham Centre.

I hope there is a hub in Faversham, because that is where I live.
4. are you worried about the changes?

Only a few people are worried about the changes.

People are worried about missing their friends.

Friends might end up going to different hubs if they do not live near each other.

not happy about going into a hub. I see enough of Sittingbourne. I want to be in Faversham.

I think this building closing down is a good thing. As long as I can carry doing art and my other things.

I like it here because we have quite a bit of time here in the morning catching up, having a chat and a laugh before our sessions start. I know we would meet up in our hubs but it wouldn’t be for as long time.

a little worried Faversham might shut.

wouldn’t let it bother me.

It would be all right if the building shut.
5. what would make you feel happy about the changes?

Most people did not answer this question.

Some people said that visiting the hubs and being involved in the changes would help them.

think everything will be back to normal. Like to cook at Swalecliff

I have a quite a few friends here and I only see them here. To know I could still do this, in this way, would make me feel better

if L could go and look at some possibilities and experience them she may find it easier if the building were to shut

S is interested in looking how hubs have changed other services

happy for someone else to find a hub. I probably would like to see one of the hubs that is up and running, would like to tell my mum what’s happening
6. what activities do you like?

People gave lots of different answers.

You can see all the answers on the big sheet.

These are the most popular things that people would like to try out.

- cookery
- music
- gardening and nature studies
- dance and exercise
- snooker and pool
- drama
- horse and cart
7. Is there anything else you think is important?

like the people here, like vending machines, like getting my coffee

meeting up with friends is very important to me especially the mornings. It would make me very upset and sad if the building was to close even though I know my sessions would still carry on

A would like her sessions to stay the same but also go out in the evening

got a lot of friends and the staff are good

some 1 to 1 support to access activities

miss going to the centre

I don’t want to go another place. I don’t like it. I like Faversham. The day centre. Yes here.

Somewhere in Sittingbourne town would be nice
8. Would you like to work?

Some of the people who use the Faversham Centre would like to have a job.

You can see all the answers on the big sheet.

I do not want to work
17 people

I want to work
7 people
9. Do you get a Direct Payment? Would you like to get a Direct Payment?

Most people did not know if they get a Direct Payment or not.

10. Do you have any other ideas for Swales Day Service?

I like the idea of hubs

Industrial estate in Sittingbourne is good

Faversham hub is important to L

I like Sittingbourne College. I want to go out from Faversham. Sittingbourne carnival and fun fair on my own. Ghost train, bumper cars, all the rides
main points

People who use Faversham Day Centre have said what they think about the day services and the changes.

They have had their say

- in workshops
  The workshops helped people talk about the changes together.

- in 1 to 1 meetings with Emma and John
  People carried on talking about the changes in the 1 to 1 meetings.

Emma and John worked in the same way with everybody.
When someone needed more support to have their say, Emma and John worked with their supporter to help them do this.

The staff at the day service helped Emma and John a lot.
Most people who use Faversham Day Centre are happy about the services changing.

Most of the activities are already out in the community.

The people who use Faversham Day Centre want to know

- when the service will move
- where the service will move to
- what the new community hubs will be like

They want to get support all through the changes.

They want to know that they will have the same services and activities and be able to carry on seeing their friends.