

Recommendations from Scrutiny Committee: Day Centres  
Community and Housing Committee, 11 November 2010, item 8

**Committee: Community and Housing**

**Agenda Item**

**Date: 11 November 2010**

**8**

**Title: Recommendations from Scrutiny  
Committee re Day Centres**

**Author: Roger Harborough, Director of Public  
Services**

Item for decision

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## Summary

1. A review of Uttlesford day centres was requested by Scrutiny Committee and has been the subject of research by officers and a small member task group.
2. That work has been completed and it is now appropriate to refer the findings from the review and resulting recommendations of Scrutiny Committee to the Community & Housing Committee, as the policy committee responsible for day centres.

## Recommendations

3. That members note the report of the officer member task group (attached at Appendix 1) and endorse the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee on Day Centres as follows:
  - 1) The Scrutiny Committee acknowledges the valuable role of the day centres in the district. In recognition of their unique position within the community, it is recommended to the Community and Housing Committee that the financial model adopted at Stansted Day Centre is explored with a view to further developing technical support and collaboration across the whole district.
  - 2) Management agreements should be reviewed and that status of the ownership of the Stansted centre should be regularised.
  - 3) Other findings of the Scrutiny Committee be addressed, as appropriate, respectively by the Council and/or the management committees.

## Financial Implications

4. None. There are no costs associated with the recommendations.

## Background Papers

5. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Report and Minutes of Scrutiny Committee 1 November 2010

**Impact**

6.

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Communication/Consultation      | Meetings have been held with members of the Day Centre Management Committees and the Day Centre Review Group and relevant council officers. The group has talked to users during centre visits. |
| Community Safety                | Day centres support the wellbeing of their users  |
| Equalities                      | There are no specific equalities implications in this report  |
| Health and Safety               | Health and safety is a particular topic on which the management committees have indicated they would welcome advice and support.  |
| Human Rights/Legal Implications | There are no specific legal implications in this report   |
| Sustainability                  | Further developing technical support and collaboration will aid the resilience of day centres and potentially identify scope for energy efficiency improvements.                                |
| Ward-specific impacts           | Day Centres are located in Saffron Walden, Dunmow, Thaxted, Takeley and Stansted  |
| Workforce/Workplace             | Adjustments to some roles likely  |

**Situation**

7. A task group of members from the Scrutiny Committee has completed a review of the operation of day centres in the district.
8. The task group consulted the management committees of the five day centres in the district, and visited the centres to observe activities. Essex Social Services and Age Concern and other bodies were consulted during the course of the review. The task group also met with key officers from the council involved in day centres.
9. The research carried out as part of the review included case studies of other day centres.

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10. The attached report at Appendix 1, which summarises the group's findings, reflects the final deliberations at the Scrutiny Committee on 1 November 2010.

**Risk Analysis**

11.

| Risk   | Likelihood  | Impact   | Mitigating actions   |
|--|---|--|--|
| That no progress is made regarding the recommendations from Scrutiny Committee | 1 – Significant drivers for change exist  | 3 – Management committees would struggle to continue on the existing basis | Continuing action through the processing of recommendations in this report |
| Stansted day centre model may not fit circumstances in other communities       | 2 – centre locations, needs and alternative facilities vary from community to community | 2 – variations or other models are available                               | Adapt model if necessary to suit local conditions                          |

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.