

Committee: Scrutiny Committee

Agenda Item

Date: 29 April 2014

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Title: Day Centre Review

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Item for decision

Summary

1. This report responds to the Committee's request to examine discretionary services, beginning with an update on the current position of the Uttlesford Day Centres and outlining what has changed since the last review was carried out in 2009.

Recommendation

2. That the Scrutiny Committee members note the report.

Financial Implications

3. Day centre buildings (with the exception of Stansted) are owned and maintained by this council. Provision is made in general fund revenue budgets for upkeep of the buildings and utilities costs. There is provision for a rolling programme of major works in the capital programme with an annual budget of £10,000.

Background Papers

4. None

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	A further review would involve consultation with users and centre management committees
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	Day centres users are a group with protected characteristics: older persons some of whom will have disabilities. Any further review would need to include an EqIA.

Health and Safety	Essential health and safety work to premises continues to be carried out
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	Day centres are located in Dunmow, Takeley, Thaxted and Walden
Workforce/Workplace	Arrangements for the employment of staff vary between centres

Situation

6. The last review of the Uttlesford Day Centres was carried out in 2009.
7. One of the recommendations following this review was that the Day Centres were to keep the proceeds raised from their activities and use this money to employ their own Managers. Three of the five centres, Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted now employ their own Managers. The other two centres continue to be run by their volunteer management committees.
8. Issues facing the centres, such as maintaining the required levels of volunteer support, still remain a problem for the smaller day centres.
9. Whilst some centres have been successful in re-branding their image, including not using the outdated term of "Day Centres", others have done little to move this forward.
10. The council continues to maintain the council owned buildings from which the Day Centres operate.
11. The level of activity varies across the five day centres with some having greater usage than others. There appear to be various reasons for this, including location, days opened and lack of variety of activities offered to the users.
12. The initial day centre review in 2009 reported that Takeley is located in a building with a limited life. This is confirmed in a recent stock condition survey.
13. The condition survey shows that all the day centre buildings are of a varying standard, with some now requiring major refurbishment to make them fully fit for purpose going forward.
14. With decisions needed to be made on the amount of investment required to keep the day centres operational, officers feel that now would be an appropriate time to re-evaluate the Day Centres as a whole and fully review

how best the service can be delivered to meet the changing needs of the community.

15. Risk Analysis

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Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Day centre buildings not fit for purpose	3. Significant risk - some of the buildings will shortly need major refurbishment if they are to continue to be fit for purpose	3. Significant risk of Day Centre service being unable to continue from current locations	Review of buildings to be carried out to ascertain viability of continued use of these buildings as Day Centres
Day centre service financially unviable	2. Some risk – some of the Day Centres have low usage and therefore without increase in numbers will remain financially unviable	2. Some risk – reduced number of Day Centres across the district	Review of Day Centre Service to address the continuing need for current number of Day Centres or whether a more effective service may be provided on a different basis.

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.