

OPEN

Adults and Health Committee

25 September 2023

Building Based Day Services – Proposal to decommission the service provision at the Stanley Centre

**Report of: Helen Charlesworth-May, Executive Director Adults
Health and Integration**

Report Reference No: AH/04/2023-24

Ward(s) Affected: All Wards

Purpose of Report

- 1 As part of the review of the Learning Disability service offer, and consistent with the Cheshire East Day Opportunities Strategy to move away from buildings-based care, a proposal around the potential decommissioning of the existing provision at the Stanley Centre in Knutsford was included within this year's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).
- 2 This report considers the findings from the consultation undertaken on the impact of the proposal, based on the feedback from a wide range of stakeholders and the outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment
- 3 Based on these findings, a recommended option has been produced on the future of the building-based day services at the Stanley Centre to be considered by the Adults and Health Committee.

Executive Summary

- 4 The Council needs to consider what is the best way in the future to provide support to individuals with learning disabilities who currently access day opportunities at the Stanley Centre.
- 5 A consultation with people who access day services at the Stanley Centre, carers and wider stakeholders was undertaken by the council on

the proposal to decommission provision at the Stanley Centre from March to June 2023. Feedback received, which has been reviewed and analysed in detail and has been collated into key themes as set out in Appendix 2. The consultation responses have been very carefully considered and have helped shape the recommendations in this report.

- 6 From the feedback it was apparent that there is a strong attachment to the day service at the Stanley Centre among people who use the service, carers and wider stakeholders in Knutsford. The day service at the Stanley Centre is very highly regarded in terms of its location, staff, range of activities, and the quality of the support provided.
- 7 The main concerns around the proposal to discontinue day service provision at the Stanley Centre among people and carers using the centre, are the fact that there is no local alternative building-based provision in Knutsford, where most people who attend reside.
- 8 When asked about requirements for any alternative service, the provision of transportation was a significant question raised. Other areas highlighted included appropriate facilities to deliver personal care and a building that was wheelchair friendly, with appropriately trained staff.
- 9 Overall demand for the day opportunities service at the Stanley Centre has fallen from the numbers who attended prior to lockdown. While at the same time building operational costs have increased. Ensuring value for money across the services we provide, considering the financial challenges facing the council is also a significant factor that needs to be taken into consideration.
- 10 It is also recognised that there are different ways to provide better personalised care. The Cheshire East Day Opportunities Strategy 2022 to 2027, which was approved by the Adults and Health Committee on 16 November 2021, supports a move away from the reliance on building-based provision, to develop a more person-centred range of options which can provide improved outcomes.
- 11 While there had been considerable feedback from the local community who did not wish to see provision decommissioned, no alternative suggestions put forward during the consultation process. which would deliver the potential saving identified in the MTFS.
- 12 Based on the feedback from stakeholders, alignment with the Day Opportunities Strategy (see background papers) and taking into consideration the financial challenges facing Cheshire East Council, the recommended option would be to decommission the provision of day opportunities at the Stanley Centre, with alternative service provision to be provided within other Care4CE day services and independent sector

provision, where sufficient capacity currently exists. This would enable the council to ensure value for money.

- 13 The council would mitigate the concerns highlighted around any alternative provision by being able to fully meet the broad range of care and support needs, providing appropriate facilities and the environment to meet the needs of people with disabilities and include the provision of transport to enable people to access services outside of the local area.
- 14 This approach also provides consideration of the full report on the consultation responses ;(the detailed analysis of the feedback in Appendix 2 and the content of the Equality Impact Assessment - Appendix 1).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Adults and Health Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the decommissioning of the day service at the Stanley Centre with alternative service provision to be provided within other Care4CE day services and independent sector provision.

Background

- 15 A day opportunities service is provided at the Stanley Centre for adults with learning disabilities in Knutsford and the surrounding areas.
- 16 The annual running costs of the Stanley Centre are £420,000, which includes building operational costs and revenue costs (staff and service costs).
- 17 Although the Care Quality Commission regulates and monitors providers supporting with person-centred care such as personal care, they do not regulate day services.
- 18 COVID 19 severely impacted on the ability of many day opportunities services to operate at full capacity or reopen at all. The Stanley Centre re-opened in May 2022, as the building was unable to facilitate safe social distancing for the individuals who attend during the pandemic.
- 19 During the time that the Stanley Centre was closed, some individuals accessed other Care4CE day services in Cheshire East and others received support at home.
- 20 The numbers attending the Stanley Centre have fallen since the pandemic. 20 people currently attend the Stanley Centre and on average

between 10-14 people attend the service daily. Prior to the pandemic, the numbers of people who attended the Stanley Centre was significantly higher with 18-24 people per day attending the centre each day.

- 21 The capacity of the Stanley Centre service (based on optimum staffing levels) would be 40 people. Based on current numbers of people who attend (20 people) the average cost per person is £21,000. This means the Stanley Centre has a higher cost per person compared to other Care4CE services that support people with learning disabilities such as the Mayfield Centre (£13,283 per person) and Cheynee Hall (£13,884 per person).
- 22 A total of 10 people no longer attend the Stanley Centre who attended prior to March 2020. Four people also reduced the number of days they attend. The reasons why people no longer attend are quite varied, some people have died, moved out of the local area, have chosen not to return to the service, decided to access another service and some have had changing needs. There is little demand from new people to use the service for the reasons set out in the Day Opportunities Strategy.
- 23 Another reason why service numbers have remained low is the lack of new referrals. The service has only had two referrals since they reopened in May 2022 with one person taking up a five-day place, while the other despite expressing a wish to attend has yet to do so.
- 24 The Stanley Centre sits on the large Bexton Road site adjacent to the East Cheshire NHS Trust hospital site. Also on the wider site is the Council owned vacant Bexton Court building. The Stanley Centre is currently only using part of the existing building, with half of the building, Stanley House, partly decommissioned. The full capacity of the Stanley Centre building would accommodate 40 people. This service is the only Council service operating out of this building at the current time.
- 25 In terms of the support needs of the people currently attending the centre, 10 require personal care, with others requiring some degree of assistance. Seven are wheelchair users., with the remaining 3 not requiring personal care or wheelchairs.
- 26 A recommended option (Option 1) has been developed.

Option 1 – Decommission the day services operated from the Stanley Centre with alternative service provision to be provided within Care4CE day services and the independent sector

- 27 This option would support a more outcome focused and personalised approach. It would provide choice and control for people in terms of accessing a wider range of alternative provision to best meet people's

needs, including both building-based services and community-based support.

- 28 Feedback from the one-to-one meetings highlighted the preference for most people who attend the Stanley Centre (and their advocates) would be to access another building-based service, should the centre close, which would best meet their care and support needs. A smaller number of people indicated they wished to consider community-based activities.
- 29 There are several alternative Care4CE day services that would meet the needs of the people with learning disabilities who currently attend the Stanley Centre. The facilities would meet the requirements of those with personal care needs and wheelchair users.
- 30 The closest of these learning disabilities day services is the Redesmere Centre in Handforth (10 miles) and it would be able to accommodate all the people who attend the Stanley Centre (this service could accommodate an additional 25 people per day, based on optimum staffing levels).
- 31 There is also the Mayfield Centre at Macclesfield which is located 13 miles from the Stanley Centre and this also supports people with learning disabilities (this service could accommodate an additional 23 people per day, based on optimum staffing levels).
- 32 Utilisation of other Care4CE day services would ensure that we are maximising our current available capacity and ensuring value for money across our in-house provision.
- 33 In addition, the Day Opportunities Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) now has 18 providers accredited to provide day opportunities in the independent sector within Cheshire East. All these services can also be accessed via people using a direct payment using the Care Finder Portal on the Live Well website.
- 34 The nearest independent sector provision is located five miles away at the David Lewis Centre at Warford. It offers person centred leisure, vocational and work-based activities, in a variety of settings to adults with Learning Disabilities, Autism, Epilepsy and other complex needs. One person currently attends day opportunities at both the David Lewis Centre and the Stanley Centre.
- 35 There are also six providers on the FPS that can provide learning disability day opportunities services within the community in Knutsford, that could potentially meet the needs of people who attend the Stanley Centre.

- 36 Community based day opportunities provide personalised support to enable people to maximise their opportunities to engage in social, occupational, and educational activities. The services are provided within community venues to maximise social inclusion and to reduce isolation. These also include opportunities to learn new skills and gain employment and qualifications through college tutor led educational sessions and practical led skilled sessions. Recognising that people accessing the service will have a wide range of needs and abilities means the service is flexible and responsive to ensure that it is truly inclusive and continually delivers interesting and stimulating opportunities.
- 37 Most individuals who attend the Stanley Centre reside in Knutsford (18 out of the 20) and most people would therefore need to travel further to access either other Care4CE, or independent sector provision in Cheshire East (see map in Appendix 3).
- 38 When a Care Act assessment identifies transport as part of the care and support plan for a service user, that transport will form part of the overall service which is subject to a financial assessment in line with the Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulation 2014. For most people, this will not make any difference to the financial contribution they make to the costs of their care and support. Where additional transport costs are incurred because of having to travel further to attend a day service, Cheshire East Council would be required to fund this extra cost.
- 39 As part of the review, we have obtained estimated costings for individuals located in Knutsford who currently attend the Stanley Centre to travel to alternative Care4CE services across the borough. This would be estimated to cost between £108,000 and £112,500 per annum (based on current daily usage and would be from one pick up/drop off location in Knutsford). These costs could increase should people want to access other services in the independent sector.
- 40 The savings identified takes account of those additional costs. The annual net saving for Option 1 would be estimated to be in the region of between £214,000 and £307,500 (depending on which alternative services people choose to access).

Consultation and Engagement

- 41 Extensive consultation on the proposal to decommission provision at the Stanley Centre was undertaken between February-June 2022. This has included a wide range of stakeholder groups including people who use services, families, carers, local ward members and the wider population including Knutsford Town Council and local community groups. There has also been ongoing dialogue with Care4CE staff and the Trade Unions.

- 42 Consultation and engagement activities have been undertaken using a variety of methods including face-to-face meetings, telephone contacts and online surveys. Throughout this process we have made appropriate reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that all stakeholders can fully participate in the consultation process.
- 43 The views of all 20 people who currently attend the Stanley Centre were collected from a series of face-to-face meetings during April 2023. This included individuals who attend the Stanley Centre, family members, carers and advocates. The views are summarised below.
- 44 People were asked what they liked the most about the day service at the Stanley Centre. Responses included the location, staff, range of activities, seeing friends and the quality of the support provided.
- 45 In terms of what could be improved about the service provided at the Stanley Centre there was very little negative feedback on the service. Some suggestions included providing more access to the local community and a dedicated minibus to take people out on trips, which would increase the costs of the service.
- 46 In terms of future day opportunities, people were asked what kind of service they would like to access. Most people suggested that a building-based option would best meet their support needs. Having a broad range of different activities would also be a key requirement for most people. Some people said that they would also like to access the community more as part of any future day opportunities, but for some a community day service would not meet their needs.
- 47 People were also asked is there anything that they would need to have in place if they were to access another service outside of Knutsford. All respondents highlighted transport as an essential requirement that they would need to access service provision outside Knutsford. Accessible toilets and a building which was wheelchair friendly were also mentioned by several people. A service that provided staff trained to deliver personal care was another important factor to meet the needs of many people who attend the Stanley Centre currently.
- 48 A wider public survey (including an easy read version) was then issued via the council website between 5 May and 4 June 2023, and this was promoted to partner organisations through social media.
- 49 108 responses were received in total (90 surveys, 16 easy read surveys, and 2 emails). Key feedback from the survey questions indicated that:
- It was particularly important for a day opportunities service to be local and provide opportunities for social interaction.

- Receiving support at the Stanley Centre was identified as the most preferred option by respondents.
- Services that offer a more outcomes focused, personalised service and more opportunities to get involved in the local and wider community were ranked highly too.
- In terms of developing a more value for money offer most suggestions were around developing the Stanley Centre offer with the potential of working with the NHS to develop a new health and wellbeing centre.

50 For more detailed information on the feedback from the public consultation please see Appendix 2.

51 Social workers have also been undertaking reviews of people who currently attend the Stanley Centre. The feedback has been consistent with the 1-1 meetings and the consultation in terms of people's preferences. Many people who attend the Stanley Centre were also very anxious around the uncertainty surrounding the future of the Stanley Centre and how they would access any alternative services, with transport a main concern.

52 Staff and the Trade Unions have been fully informed of the consultation and have been updated regularly at the Joint Consultation and Negotiation Panel (JCNP).

Reasons for Recommendations

53 The key reasons why we are recommending this option (Option 1) should be taken forward are highlighted below.

Recommendation – (Option 1) Decommission the day service at the Stanley Centre with alternative service provision to be provided within Care4CE day services and the independent sector.

54 This option aligns with the future strategic vision within the Cheshire East Day Opportunities Strategy, which seeks to offer viable alternatives to traditional building-based day services and provide more person-centred and flexible approaches, including enhancing links to the community and employment opportunities.

55 This option firmly aligns to the following priorities within the Cheshire East Corporate Plan 2021-2025:

- Work together with residents and partners to support people and communities to be strong and resilient.

- Increase the life opportunities for young adults and adults with additional needs.
 - Support a sustainable financial future for the council, through service development, improvement, and transformation.
 - Promote and develop the services of the council through regular communication and engagement with all residents.
- 56 This offers a significant financial saving for the council would be estimated to be in the region of between £214,000 and £307,500 once additional costs for transport are considered.
- 57 This option would mean that the Council would no longer have a current operational requirement for this asset. This would mean the building would be managed through the vacant operational property process. The MTFs agreed by Full Council committed to ensure that the review and future use of any surplus assets was prioritised.

Other Options Considered

- 58 Several other options have been developed for consideration based on the findings of the consultation.

Option 0 – Do Nothing

- 59 This would see the council continue to deliver day opportunities from the Stanley Centre.
- 60 This isn't recommended as maintaining a service at the Stanley Centre does not align to the ambitions and outcomes set within the coproduced Day Opportunities Strategy. This option does not provide value for money, and it would not deliver any of the financial savings identified in the MTFs and would also not deliver the outcomes identified within the Day Opportunities Strategy.
- 61 It would also mean that the council would not be able to maximise current available capacity, while still having the same financial commitments for building operational costs.
- 62 As far as service provision at the Stanley Centre is concerned the service would continue to operate out of a building which is partly decommissioned, thus incurring significant costs to maintain the building for future service provision.
- 63 Also, since 2019/20 there has been a 20.5% drop in the numbers of people attending Care4CE day services (365 down to 290).

- 64 The impact of the lockdowns and the pandemic saw many of the building-based services closed for a significant period, due to the inability to safely facilitate social distancing due to the layout of the buildings.
- 65 As a result, many individuals have accessed other independent sector day services and alternative forms of community-based support.
- 66 This has meant that several day services are operating significantly below pre-COVID levels.
- 67 Current numbers of people who attend Care4CE day services and the capacity of each service are provide in the table below.

Care4CE Building Based Day Services Usage Data - July 2023*				
	Client Groups	Numbers of people who attend	Maximum Capacity *	Daily Numbers Range (Lowest to Highest)
Acorn Centre	Learning Disabilities	63	70	34- 47 per day
Cheyne Hall	Learning Disabilities	30	40	17-18 per day
Salinae Centre	Older People (Dementia)	23	30	10-13 per day
Carter House	Learning Disabilities	34	55	22-28 per day
Redesmere Centre	Learning Disabilities	28	40	13-15 per da
Stanley Centre	Learning Disabilities	20	40	10-14 per day
Macclesfield Lifestyle	Learning Disabilities	26	15	11-14 per day
Mayfield Centre	Learning Disabilities, Older People (dementia)	36	45	17-22 per day
* This is on the basis that the services were at the optimum staffing This does not include the Occupational Opportunities Services that contains 30 individuals				

- 68 Other options have been considered, however due to additional in-year financial pressures these options are now being enacted for additional in-year savings. These will be reviewed and evaluated in preparation for the financial year 2024/25.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 69 The Care Act 2014 ('the Act') imposes a general duty on a local authority to promote an individual's well-being (section 1 of the Act) 'Well-being' is a broad concept but particular reference is made to control by the individual over day-to-day life (including over care and support and the way in which it is provided), domestic, family and personal relationships and also the suitability of living accommodation (section 1(2)(d), (g) & (h) of the Act). Although the wellbeing principle applies specifically when the local authority performs an activity or task, or makes a decision, in relation to a person, the principle should also be considered by the local authority when it undertakes broader, strategic functions and should be seen as the common theme around which care and support is built (paragraph 1.13). The Care and Support Statutory Guidance also states that supporting people to live as independently as possible, for as long as possible, is a guiding principle of the Act.
- 70 Local authorities are also required to have regard to a number of other key principles and standards when carrying out its functions in addition to the general principle of promoting well-being, including the importance of beginning with the assumption that the individual is best-placed to judge the individual's wellbeing: the individual's views, wishes, feelings and beliefs; and the importance of the individual participating as fully as possible in decisions relating to the exercise of the function concerned and being provided with the information and support necessary to enable the individual to participate (section 1(3)(a), (b) and (e) of the Act).
- 71 A local authority must promote diversity and quality in the provision of services. There is a duty to promote the efficient and effective operation of a market for meeting care and support needs which includes ensuring that there is a variety of high-quality services and variety of providers to choose from (section 5 of the Act)
- 72 As part of its duties under the Act a local authority must consider, following an assessment of needs, whether the needs meet the eligibility criteria for a provision or service (section 13(1) of the Act) and this includes any carer where it appears they may have needs for support (section 10(1) of the Act). A local authority must meet assessed eligible needs for those people eligible for care and support. The criteria do not specify the types of care and support that a local authority must provide to meet eligible needs. As part of this process a personal budget is set which is the mechanism that, in conjunction with the care and support plan, or support plan, enables the person, and their advocate if they have one, to exercise greater choice and take control over how their care and support needs are met including being able to choose from a range of options for how the money is managed. Whilst day services provision provided directly by the Council has been used to meet needs it is not in itself a prescribed statutory service.

73 The Care and Support Statutory Guidance emphasises that care and support planning should be person centred when deciding how to meet eligible needs, placing people in control of their care, providing every opportunity to take joint ownership of the development of the plan with the local authority if they wish. The guiding principle therefore is that the person be actively involved and is given every opportunity to influence the planning and subsequent content of the plan in conjunction with the local authority with support if needed.

74 A local authority is also required to make information and advice available for all people and put in place universal services which are aimed at preventing, reducing or delaying care and support needs in the context of community wellbeing and social inclusion. Preventative approaches foster a holistic approach that includes accessing universal services, early intervention, promoting choice and control, and the development of social capital.

75 Paragraph 10.27 of the Care and support statutory guidance updated 1 June 2023 issued by the Department of Health and Social Care provides as follows-

In determining how to meet needs, the local authority may also take into reasonable consideration its own finances and budgetary position and must comply with its related public law duties. This includes the importance of ensuring that the funding available to the local authority is sufficient to meet the needs of the entire local population. The local authority may reasonably consider how to balance that requirement with the duty to meet the eligible needs of an individual in determining how an individual's needs should be met (but not whether those needs are met). However, the local authority should not set arbitrary upper limits on the costs it is willing to pay to meet needs through certain routes – doing so would not deliver an approach that is person-centred or compatible with public law principles. The authority may take decisions on a case-by-case basis which weigh up the total costs of different potential options for meeting needs and include the cost as a relevant factor in deciding between suitable alternative options for meeting needs. This does not mean choosing the cheapest option; but the one which delivers the outcomes desired for the best value.

76 Proposals to make significant changes in service provision require consultation with the public and those directly affected, including service users, staff and carers and relevant stakeholders.

77 The Gunning principles set out the common law principles to be observed when undertaking consultation. R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning [1985] 84 LGR 168 established these principles, which set out that a consultation is only lawful when these four principles are met:

1. Proposals are still at a formative stage - A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers.

2. There is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration' - The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response.

3. There is adequate time for consideration and response - There must be sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation. In the absence of a prescribed statutory period, there is no set timeframe for consultation, though it is widely accepted that twelve-week consultation period is sufficient. The adequacy of the length of time given for consultees to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation.

4. 'Conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made. Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account.

78 Following the consultation members will now need to take account of the views expressed in arriving at their decision. Members must give clear and conscientious consideration to the responses received to the consultation which ran for a 14-week period between March and June 2023. In addition, any final decisions must also consider the rights of service users and their carers asset out in the Human Rights Act 1998 Article 8 'right to respect for family and private life'...

79 If the closure of the Stanley Centre is approved and people are offered alternative services, officers will be expected to conduct any subsequent procurement of these services in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 if such services are being sourced other than from providers available via the Day Opportunities Flexible Purchasing System referenced above at paragraph 30.

80 Employment law legal implications:

If a decision is made to decommission the day service at the Stanley Centre with alternative service provision to be provided within Care4CE day services and the independent sector, this will have staffing implications for those currently working at the Stanley Centre. As well as trade union engagement, individual consultation with affected staff will need to take place and individual circumstances considered with regards to working at alternative Care4CE centres. Failure to carry out proper consultation with staff could lead to claims against the Council including unfair/constructive dismissal or breach of contract. Council policies and

procedures should be followed to reduce the risk of legal challenge and further HR/legal advice should be sought regarding the possibility of any individual redundancy situations arising.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

81 The current annual operational costs for the Stanley Centre are as follows.

<p>Building Operational Costs – £47,000 Revenue Costs (including staff salaries, travel, stationary, catering etc) – £373,000 Total - £420,000</p>

82 Ceasing provision at the Stanley Centre would ensure that the council makes savings on the operational building costs and on staffing costs.

83 The Council's approved budget/ Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) highlighted a potential net annual saving of £229,000 could be achieved by decommissioning the Stanley Centre.

84 If the recommended option was approved (Option 1) which would see the potential for utilisation of existing capacity within Care4CE day services (alongside the independent sector), then the annual net saving could potentially be between £214,000 and £307,500 (depending on transport costs).

85 Should the service be withdrawn from the building, and it held vacant, the Council would not see the full benefit of taking this step, as it would continue to attract holding costs and the Council would not benefit from releasing the asset to its future use.

86 The financial implications of the Options highlighted in this report are summarised below:

Option	Annual Expenditure required (£)	Total Estimated Net Annual Savings (£)
Option 0 – Do nothing	£420,000	£0
Option 1 - Decommission the Stanley Centre with alternative service provision to be provided	£108,000-£112,500 (for transport)	£214,000 and £307,500

within Care4CE day services and the independent sector		
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Policy

87 The recommended option directly supports the priorities within the Cheshire East Council’s Corporate Plan 2021-2025.

Priority

Aims and objectives

A council which empowers and cares about people

- Work together with residents and partners to support people and communities to be strong and resilient
- Increase the life opportunities for young adults and adults with additional needs

An open and enabling organisation

- Promote and develop the services of the council through regular communication and engagement with all residents
- Support a sustainable financial future for the council, through service development, improvement and transformation

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

88 A full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been prepared and updated reflecting issues raised during the consultation process and is appended to this report (Appendix 1), Members must have due regard to this report to ensure that it is satisfied that any adverse impact and the proposed mitigation allows it to meet the legal obligations set out above.

89 The key elements highlighted in the EIA around the proposed service change in relation to the following specific characteristics are as follows:

- Disability - The current service offers an accessible building to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities and those with

physical disabilities. It also provides opportunities for social interactions to establish friendships for people with learning disabilities and a feeling of being a part of the community. Any service change could impact on continuity and stability as this offers security, consistency, and routine for those that attend. The proposals may also have a positive impact by providing more opportunities for people with disabilities to access the wider community and improved outcomes within more skills-based provision.

- Carers - The main impact around any change in service is the ability to cope with a change in location, especially if this was further from the current location. This could have an adverse effect on the wellbeing of service users as well as their family/carers.
- Socio Economic Status - Transport arrangements for alternative day opportunities services outside of Knutsford and the unknown cost impacts are a significant consideration that have been highlighted in the recent consultation. Any financial implications would be mitigated by the provision of transport highlighted in Option 1.
- Age – Many of the people who attend The Stanley Centre are older people with learning disabilities. A significant proportion also live with their families and carers. As such, the proposals could have a potential negative impact upon this protected group. These impacts will vary according to level of disability, accessibility of alternative services and the ability to cope with a change in location of the service that is being accessed. There could also be a positive impact for younger people who may benefit more from the more holistic offer proposed by more of a community and outcomes focused range of services.

90 In coming to a decision, the Council should also have regard to its statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 set out above and the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act 2010.

91 The PSED requires public authorities to have "due regard" to: The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010 (section 149(1a)).

92 The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it (section 149(1b)). This involves having due regard to the needs to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic (section 149(3)(a));
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it (section 149(3)(b)); and
- encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low (section 149(3)(c)).

Human Resources

- 93 No formal consultation discussions have taken place yet with Stanley Centre staff. Care4CE have vacancies for staff in other services that would be offered to staff and some staff stated that voluntary redundancy will be their preference
- 94 Trade union engagement will continue to be an integral part of the process. Regular updates have been provided to Trade Unions, who have been fully informed of the consultation and have been updated regularly at Joint Consultation and Negotiation Panel (JCNP).

Risk Management

- 95 The proposals to change the way the service is currently delivered at The Stanley Centre will present challenges and risks.
- 96 See below identified risks with mitigation.

Transport would be an issue for many people, as alternative provision would be located outside of Knutsford

- This would be mitigated by the commissioning of transport for individuals due to impact of service change.
- Seek to accommodate people living outside Knutsford in day opportunities services which are local to them.

Climate change impacts with people travelling to other day services across the borough.

- The potential to access community day opportunities within Knutsford would mitigate travel distance. This would include individual and group based activities within the local community.
- Transport options including shared transport options (minibus and car sharing).

Impact on carers and people who access the Stanley Centre who are concerned about change

- Support carers and people who access day opportunities and keep them informed about service changes and any transitional arrangements put into place.
- Ensure engagement on potential alternative services with involvement of people who access day opportunities and carers.

Rural Communities

97 Individuals and those living in the rural areas of Knutsford would be impacted by the need to travel further to access alternative building-based day services, either by car or by public transport. This is recognised and transport options would need to be implemented to facilitate access to alternative provision.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

98 Feedback from the Day Opportunities Strategy consultation (especially younger people and families) proposed that the move to a more personalised offer (delivered by Option 1) would create a wider range of enabled services which will be more attractive to young people preparing for adulthood than at present. Services would then be able to enter work around transitions to ensure a seamless journey for these individuals.

Public Health

99 Through continued joint working with the Public Health Team and Primary Care, the future service provision for people accessing day opportunities will continue to promote healthy lifestyles with its people who access day opportunities.

100 Improved person-centred approaches can reduce the inequalities that arise from a standardised approach. Thorough consultation and intelligence on inequalities opportunities can be robustly evaluated to ensure that they do not risk widening inequalities.

Climate Change

101 The recommended option (Option 1) could have a negative impact on the council's ambition to reduce its carbon footprint and achieve environmental sustainability, with the potential for additional journeys by road to access alternative provision outside of Knutsford. This could be mitigated by providing transport which is zero or ultra-low emissions. However, the increase of individual journeys by road instead of by

walking will have a negative impact on the wider borough transport emissions.

- 102 It could conversely have a positive impact on helping the council to reduce its carbon footprint and achieve environmental sustainability by decommissioning the Stanley Centre building (half of which is currently not in use) which would result in reduced energy consumption. However, any future ongoing use of that building by other organisations would have no net benefit to the borough's emissions without further decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures.

Access to Information	
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Appendices:	<p>Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment</p> <p>Appendix 2 – A summary of response to Cheshire East Council's – The future of day opportunities in Knutsford Consultation</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Map of the Stanley Centre, locations of people who attend and other nearby day services</p>
Background Papers:	Cheshire East Day Opportunities Strategy 2022-27