

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

## **REPORT TO CABINET**

**Date of Meeting:** 14 March 2011  
**Report of:** Phil Lloyd, Director of Adults, Community, Health and Wellbeing  
**Subject/Title:** Rationalisation and Temporary Closure of Buildings in Adult Services  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Roland Domleo

### **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1 The Cabinet Report of 19 July 2010 outlined a range of options for delivering the same level of service from fewer buildings in Adult Services. In particular, the report referred to the possible closure of 291 Nantwich Road and the transfer of services to the nearby Hilary Centre. The matter was discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12 August 2010 and it was noted that those affected by the proposals would be consulted and a recommendation be brought to Cabinet.
- 1.2 At Cabinet on 18 October 2010 Cabinet noted 'that as a result of discussions with users of 291 Nantwich Road, it is not proposed to close that facility at this stage but to re-examine the future of that building in March 2011'.
- 1.3 This report details the outcome of that re-examination and puts forward a proposal for the future of the building.
- 1.4 The new proposals are to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 March 2011.

### **2 Decision Required**

- 2.1 Cabinet agree to the closure of 291 Nantwich Road once the remaining groups have transferred to the Oakley Centre.
- 2.2 Cabinet agree to the recommendation that 291 Nantwich Road be declared surplus to the service requirements of the Adult, Community, Health and Wellbeing Directorate when it has been vacated and authorise officers to take the necessary actions to implement the proposals.
- 2.3 That the property be then appropriated to the management of the Assets Manager and consideration be given to the use of the property by other Services within the Council or otherwise.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 It is considered good practice (and has been Government policy for many years) to move mental health day services, where possible, away from day

centres and to locate them in more socially inclusive settings. Examples of such settings are libraries, community centres, colleges and leisure centres. Nearly all mental health services and groups across Cheshire East are now located in such settings.

- 3.2 However it has been recognised that service users in Crewe have an attachment to 291 Nantwich Road and have shown a reluctance to share a building with other groups.
- 3.3 Lunchtime meetings to consult with service users have been held regularly over the last six months and, as a consequence of the views expressed, have identified a room at the Oakley (Leisure) Centre in West Street which will become available daily to mental health service users by early summer. Whilst providing a dedicated space for them, it will also provide the opportunity to branch out and share some facilities with other community groups and the general public.
- 3.4 At the final consultation meeting on 28 January 2011, service users agreed to this plan as an acceptable alternative to remaining at 291 Nantwich Road.
- 3.5 Unrelated groups using the building for occasional meetings in the evening will also be able to relocate to either the Oakley Centre or Hilary Centre.
- 3.6 291 Nantwich Road will then become surplus to requirements in the Adult Community Health and Wellbeing Directorate.

#### **4. Wards Affected**

Crewe South, North, East and West.

#### **5. Local Ward Members**

Crewe South	Cllrs. Flude, Cannon and Howell
Crewe East	Cllrs. Conquest, Martin and Thorley
Crewe North	Cllrs. Beard, Bebbington and Jones
Crewe West	Cllrs. Cartlidge, Parker and Weatherill.

#### **6. Policy Implications – including Climate Change and health**

- 6.1 Rationalisation of buildings reduce carbon impact without impact on service level.
- 6.2 No direct impact on individual health, following satisfactory conclusion to consultation with service users.

#### **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 The current 2010/11 non staffing budget for 291 Nantwich Road is £20,500 of which approximately £10,000 relates to the physical premises, which will be a full saving that has been factored into delivery of the Adult's 2011/12 budget.

Staffing savings have already been achieved following the restructure of day services. The remainder of the non pay budget of £10,500 will be utilised in running the new facility at the Oakley Centre,

## **8. Legal Implications**

- 8.1 There is no statutory requirement for consultation in respect of the possible closure of a Community Support Centre. However, it is appropriate to seek the views of affected service users and for these to be taken into account before any final decision is taken as to closure. Therefore, the discussions that have taken place with service users in respect of the proposed changes at 291 Nantwich Road appear to fulfil the councils duty in respect of them.
- 8.2 Enquiries made by the Legal Department in respect of staff employed by the council to work at 291 Nantwich Road suggest that all staffing issues have been dealt with and therefore there are no outstanding legal implications in respect of this issue.

## **9 Risk Management**

- 9.1 The risk arising from this proposal is a delay in release of the room at the Oakley Centre but the closure of 291 Nantwich Road would not take place until an alternative suitable venue was found or there was no further demand for the service.

## **10. Background Options**

- 10.1 These are detailed in Cabinet reports 19 July 2010 and 18 October 2010.  
[http://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/Published/C00000241/M00003094/\\$\\$ADocPackPublic.pdf](http://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/Published/C00000241/M00003094/$$ADocPackPublic.pdf)  
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- 10.2 Since then there has been considerable consultation with those directly affected and the new proposals have been accepted as acceptable to them.

## **11. Access to Information**

- 11.1 The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report author.

Put in links to Cabinet reports mentioned in the text

Name.	Sandra Shorter
Designation	Head of Care4CE
Tel. No.	01270 685717
Email	Sandra.shorter@cheshireeast.gov.uk