

Adults and Health Committee

Date of Meeting:	18 July 2022
Report Title:	The Brocklehurst Centre – Future Options
Report of:	Nichola Thompson, Director of Commissioning
Report Reference No:	AH/05/2022-23
Ward(s) Affected:	Macclesfield and surrounding wards

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 A consultation and engagement process has been undertaken on the future of the Brocklehurst Centre and the future of dementia day opportunities in Macclesfield.
- 1.2 This report will detail the steps taken as part of the consultation and the key findings that have emerged during the consultation period.
- 1.3 The findings and evidence obtained will support a recommendation on the future of the Brocklehurst Centre, which will determine the best way to support people with dementia in Macclesfield who access day opportunities, both now and in the future

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Brocklehurst Centre provides a day service for adults living with dementia in Macclesfield and the surrounding areas, with a capacity of 10 places per day.
- 2.2. COVID 19 has severely impacted on the ability of day opportunities services to operate at full capacity and some services (including The Brocklehurst Centre) have remained closed, where the buildings have been unable to facilitate safe social distancing for the individuals who attend.
- 2.3. Over this period the assessed needs of many of those who accessed the Brocklehurst Centre prior to closure have advanced. 6 people have gone into residential care, and two are deceased. As a result, only 4 of the 12

people who attended prior to March 2020 are currently accessing alternative day services or would be able to do so.

- 2.4.** A consultation and engagement process took place between February and May 2022, with a wide range of stakeholders. This included people who access the service and their carers, staff, trade unions, local councillors, and a wider public consultation on dementia day services in Macclesfield.
- 2.5.** Some of the key themes and feedback from the consultation when considering future service provision, have centred around social interaction and friendship being important factors for people who attend dementia day opportunities. Having a safe and secure building is also a key consideration, as well as helpful, friendly, and highly trained staff. The service being local and accessible to people in Macclesfield was another key factor for people who attend and their carers.
- 2.6.** Throughout the consultation nobody has formally objected to the potential closure of the Brocklehurst Centre.
- 2.7.** We will also be using the findings from the consultation to shape future day opportunities for people to use.
- 2.8.** Considering the current closure, several potential options around the Brocklehurst Centre have been proposed. The Council needs to consider what is the best way in the future to provide support to those who access day opportunities at The Brocklehurst Centre
- 2.9.** Based on the feedback from stakeholders the recommended option would be to close the provision of day opportunities at The Brocklehurst Centre and relocate the service to a dedicated dementia unit within the Mayfield Centre.
- 2.10.** The benefits of relocating the service to the Mayfield Centre include:
 - Better facilities including wider corridors, accessible toilets, and bathing facilities (which aren't available at The Brocklehurst Centre) to support those with personal care needs
 - Future proofing the service against any resurgence of COVID 19 with greater space to facilitate social distancing
 - It can support more people daily than the Brocklehurst Centre (12 people, compared to 10)
 - The ability to support people with multiple care needs on one site, including those with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and older people as well as people with dementia
 - A larger car park with a dedicated drop off area, which would benefit carers who drive family members to the service.
 - The ability to make the service more resilient to fluctuations in staffing levels and staff absence, with all staff being on one site
 - Greater scope for future service development as Mayfield is on a larger site and could be used to develop different activities both indoors and outdoors

- A financial saving of £19,195 per annum in building costs for the Brocklehurst Centre would be achieved
- The opportunity to re-use The Brocklehurst Centre building in a different way to benefit the local community.

2.11. In terms of transport implications, both the Brocklehurst Centre and the Mayfield Centre are in accessible locations in Macclesfield, which are close to local bus routes (both centres are less than 1 mile apart). Therefore, there will be minimal impact on people who access the service and carers would not need to undertake longer journeys by road.

2.12. This proposed approach firmly aligns with the future strategic vision for day opportunities in Cheshire East and the priorities within the Cheshire East Corporate Plan 2021-2025 (See Section 3) by improving services closer to home for those with dementia and making the best use of community assets through communication and engagement with local people.

3. Recommendations

3.1. Close the provision of day opportunities at The Brocklehurst Centre and relocate the service to The Mayfield Centre.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

4.1. The recommendation on the future of The Brocklehurst Centre aligns with the following aims and objectives within the Council's Corporate Plan 2021-25 and will produce the following benefits for local people.

- **Reduce the reliance on long term care by improving services closer to home and providing more extra care facilities, including dementia services** – The facilities at The Mayfield Centre are an improvement on the current offer provided at The Brocklehurst Centre. It also ensures that day opportunities provision for people with Dementia can continue to be provided locally in Macclesfield.
- **A commitment to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities** – The relocation to the Mayfield Centre will provide an enhanced day opportunities provision in Macclesfield. This also makes the best use of existing community assets by using a site that supports multiple care needs. It will also better ensure that provision meets the needs of those individuals with dementia (including those with personal care needs) and deliver positive outcomes for users, families, and carers.
- **Promote and develop the services of the council through regular communication and engagement with all residents.** – By consulting on the future of The Brocklehurst Centre, this has ensured that the wider views of stakeholders have been considered regarding any potential service changes.

5. Other Options Considered

Continue to Deliver Services from the Brocklehurst Centre

- 5.1.** The Brocklehurst Centre could be re-opened under current guidelines, but the layout of the building means there is an inability to safely facilitate social distancing (if there was a future resurgence of COVID 19). This would result in the service not being financially viable as well as more disruption to families and carers (see 6.1-6.6 for more information on the Brocklehurst Centre facilities and deficiencies in relation to the building).

Utilise Dementia Day Services in other parts of Cheshire East and In the Independent Sector

- 5.2.** Another option would be to allocate places at other Care4CE day services or another external commissioned day services across Cheshire East which support people with dementia. The negative impact of this would potentially be that some individuals with dementia would need to travel longer distances to access other services across the borough. Day opportunities are currently undergoing a transformation in Cheshire East and there could be new services developed in the future, but at present this is in a formative stage.

6. Background

- 6.1.** The Brocklehurst Centre provides a day service for adults living with dementia in Macclesfield and the surrounding areas. The Brocklehurst Centre had a capacity of 10 people per day prior to the service closing in March 2020 due to the lockdown. On average 12 people attended the centre each week, with attendance varying day to day.
- 6.2.** All people who attended the Brocklehurst Centre live in Macclesfield.
- 6.3.** Throughout the pandemic, those who attended the Brocklehurst Centre have undergone assessments of their care and support needs and as a result some individuals assessed needs have changed over time.
- 6.4.** As a result of the 12 people who attended the Brocklehurst Centre prior to the service closing in March 2020, only 4 people are either accessing day services or would be able to do so.
 - 6 have had an escalation of their care needs and are now in long term residential care
 - 3 are attending other Care4CE day services (2 at Mayfield Centre, 1 at Redesmere)
 - 1 is receiving support at home
 - 2 are deceased
- 6.5.** COVID 19 has severely impacted on the ability of day opportunities services to operate at full capacity or reopen at all. The Brocklehurst Centre has

remained closed, as the building has been unable to facilitate safe social distancing for the individuals who attend.

Alternative Day Opportunities Provision

- 6.6. With the service currently closed there are several potential alternative options for people who attend the Brocklehurst Centre now or may do so in the future. This will ensure that people with dementia are provided with the best service that meets their needs.

Option 1 – Relocate the Brocklehurst Centre to the Mayfield Centre

- 6.7. The Mayfield Centre currently provides a day service for adults in Macclesfield and the surrounding areas. The centre caters for people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and older people.
- 6.8. A dementia unit has been developed within the current building at the Mayfield Centre, which would have the potential to accommodate people with dementia including those from the Brocklehurst Centre.
- 6.9. Mayfield has a skilled and dedicated team who promote a relaxed atmosphere. It provides broad range of tailored activities to suit the individual with a strong focus on orientation and reminiscence with the sharing of memories and experiences as well as providing valuable carer respite.
- 6.10. The dementia unit at Mayfield can accommodate 12 people per day (compared to 10 at The Brocklehurst Centre).
- 6.11. The accessible toilets are also superior at the Mayfield Centre and will lead to an improvement in the facilities of those who have personal care needs.
- 6.12. The Mayfield Centre building also offers a bathing facility as part of the day service offer, or the ability for personal assistants to utilise the facilities.
- 6.13. In terms of accessibility, it is in Macclesfield (approximately 1 mile from the Brocklehurst Centre) and is close to local bus routes.
- 6.14. The site is larger than the Brocklehurst Centre both indoors and outdoors and offers greater scope for future service development and the sharing of staff across the site to meet fluctuating service demand.
- 6.15. The cost for the formation of a dementia unit at Mayfield has been £18,664.

Option 2 – Continue to Deliver Services from the Brocklehurst Centre

- 6.1. The Brocklehurst Centre also benefits from similar facilities to the Mayfield Centre and contains highly skilled staff with person centered activities and reminiscence area with the sharing of memories and experiences, as well as providing valuable carer respite.
- 6.2. It too is based in Macclesfield and is close to a local bus route.

- 6.3. The negative aspect in terms of the environment of the Brocklehurst Centre is the layout of the building and the narrow corridors. In the event of another wave of COVID 19, it would be hard to safely facilitate social distancing for the number of individuals who would want to attend and ensure that the service was financially viable.
- 6.4. The Brocklehurst Centre also lacks the same standard of facilities that are available at Mayfield Centre such as the accessible toilets and bathing facilities to support those with personal care needs.
- 6.5. Car parking facilities and outside space are also very limited at the Brocklehurst Centre compared to The Mayfield Centre.
- 6.6. The annual building costs for The Brocklehurst Centre when the service was fully operational was £19,195. If the service was relocated to The Brocklehurst Centre this would result in a financial saving.

Option 3 - Utilise Dementia Day Services in Other Parts of Cheshire East and in the Independent Sector

- 6.7. There are several other day opportunities services in other parts of Cheshire East that support people with dementia. These include Care4CE services such as Redesmere (Handforth) and Salanie (Middlewich). In the independent sector there is West Street (Congleton) and Betamindes (Crewe).
- 6.8. This would mean individuals living in Macclesfield with dementia would need to travel considerable distances to access other services which are in areas such as Wilmslow, Congleton, Middlewich or Crewe, to find a service that meets their needs.
- 6.9. Day Opportunities services in Cheshire East are currently undergoing a transformation, which could result in new forms of dementia day opportunities provision. However, there is currently no other service provision up and running locally and this could take time to mobilise. The potential for engaging and working with the market has been adopted in the past by commissioners to find a solution to tackle gaps in service. Some people may also opt to take a direct payment which would offer even greater choice and control.

7. Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1. Extensive consultation and engagement on The Brocklehurst Centre has been undertaken between February-May 2022. This has included a wide range of stakeholder groups including people who use services, families, carers, local ward members and the wider population. There has also been ongoing consultation with Care4CE staff and Trade Unions.
- 7.2. Consultation and engagement activities have been undertaken with carers and people who access the service by a variety of methods including face to face meetings, telephone contacts and 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.

- 7.3. Feedback from the consultation and engagement process was obtained from 4 people who have remained in the community who attended the Brocklehurst Centre prior to March 2020. This included face to face interviews and telephone consultations.
- 7.4. The most important aspects of future day opportunities support were having highly trained staff onsite and an environment that was safe and secure. No negative responses were received on the potential for using the Mayfield Centre in the future for a dementia day service, with 2 people already receiving support there currently.
- 7.5. A wider survey on dementia day opportunities in Macclesfield was then issued via the council website and promoted to partner organisations and through social media.
- 7.6. 19 survey responses were received in total. Key feedback from the survey questions indicated that:
 - **When developing day opportunities for people with dementia** - social interaction including making friends and engaging with other people' was considered the most important factor, along with focusing on individual strengths and goals.
 - **In terms of what people currently like about services** - staffing and being safe featured highly, with the main dislikes being lack of service available to them which were in suitable buildings (including lack of availability on certain days).
 - **When choosing a dementia day opportunities service** - having friendly and helpful staff who treat people with respect was the most important consideration, along with a service that provides respite for carers.
- 7.7. The Brocklehurst Centre is a satellite of the Mayfield Centre, so no Care4CE staff are directly employed to work at the site. Staff have been kept informed and encouraged to complete the survey as part of the consultation.
- 7.8. Alongside this Trade Unions have been fully informed of the consultation and have been updated regularly at the Joint Consultation and Negotiation Panel (JCNP).
- 7.9. The timeline below details the steps that has been undertaken as part of the consultation and engagement.

February 2022

- Briefing to local ward members

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March 2022

- 1-1 meetings with people, carers, and families (virtual and face to face)
- Care4CE Staff Meetings
- Engagement with Trade Unions

April 2022

- Wider survey on Dementia Day Services in Macclesfield issued via the Cheshire East Council website

June 2022

- Report begins journey with the destination being approval at Adults and Health Committee

July 2022

- Report with recommendation on the future of the Brocklehurst Centre goes to Adults and Health Committee

8. Implications

8.1. Legal

8.1.1 As part of its duties under the Care Act (2014), the Council must meet assessed eligible needs for those people eligible for care and support. The Council has a duty to provide support by way of direct provision or direct payment where care and support is set out in an adult's care and support plan. Whilst day services provision provided directly by the Council has been used to meet needs it is not in itself a prescribed statutory service.

8.1.2 Paragraph 10.27 of the Care and support statutory guidance updated 27 August 2021 issued by the Department of Health and Social Care provides as follows-

8.1.3 In determining how to meet needs, the local authority has 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 has also reasonably considered 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).

8.1.4 Consultation and engagement have been undertaken at a stage when proposals around the Brocklehurst Centre were still at the formative stages and the Council has provided the consultees with sufficient information to enable them properly to understand the proposals being consulted upon and to express a view in relation to it. The information must be clear, concise, and accurate and must not be misleading. The consultation and

engagement activities have taken place between February and May 2022 and people have been given adequate time to consider the proposals and to respond. The Council has also given genuine and conscientious consideration to the responses received from the consultees before making the final decision on the proposals.

- 8.1.5 The recommendation which results in a change to the way in which services are currently provided has included widespread engagement with stakeholders including people who access day opportunities.
- 8.1.6 There are currently no procurement related issues to consider at this stage as this report only deals with issues relating to the closure of the Brocklehurst Centre and the subsequent relocation of those services to the Mayfield Centre,
- 8.1.7 If the relocation of these services is approved and an enhanced service provision is put in place at the Mayfield Centre, officers will be expected to conduct any subsequent procurement of these services in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

8.2. Finance

- 8.2.1 There are no financial implications or changes needed to the councils Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) because of the recommendation to consult in this report. Savings relating to Day Opportunities for 2021/22 have already been achieved and will be regularly monitored to track progress for future years.
- 8.2.2 Financial considerations of each of the options have been presented and will form part of the information shared with decision makers following the consultation.
- 8.2.3 In terms of financial savings made by the closure of the Brocklehurst Centre, this would only be applicable to annual building costs of £19,195. There are no financial savings relating to staffing as those working at the Brocklehurst Centre are part of the wider Mayfield service.
- 8.2.4 All of the equipment, furniture and furnishings at the Brocklehurst Centre would be relocated to the Mayfield Centre.

8.3 Policy

- 8.3.1 The Care Act (2014) places people and their carers in greater control of their care and support needs. The Act is particularly pertinent to how day opportunities provision is commissioned and how support is arranged and aims to give greater control and influence on those in need of support.

This includes encouraging people to think about what outcomes they want to achieve in their lives, with a greater emphasis on prevention.

8.3.2 The recommended approach on the future of The Brocklehurst Centre firmly align to several priorities within the Cheshire East Corporate Plan 2020-2025 (see 4.1).

8.4 Equality

8.4.1 As part of its decision-making process, the Council must have 'due regard' to its equality's duties. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council in exercise of its adult care and support functions ,must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination ,advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not ,foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not in order to tackle prejudice and understanding .The protected characteristics are age, gender reassignment ,disability ,pregnancy and maternity .race, religion or belief ,sex and sexual orientation.

8.4.2 Under the Equality Act (2010), the Council is required to identify the impacts of any decisions, policies etc. on certain protected groups to ensure equality is promoted, and inequality minimised. For example, there must be an assessment made of the impacts on groups or individuals who are disabled, including mental health problems, who belong to ethnic or racial groups, on the grounds of age or sex discrimination etc. An Equality Impact Assessment can both assist in evidencing that these equality duties are being met and inform decision making.

8.4.3 The Council is required to give serious, substantive, and advance consideration of what (if any) the proposals would have on the protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place. This exercise must be carried out with rigour and an open mind and should not be a form of box ticking. These are mandatory considerations.

8.4.4 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed (see Appendix 1)

8.5 Human Resources

8.5.1 All the staff who work at Brocklehurst Centre are part of the wider Mayfield service. All staff who worked at the Brocklehurst are currently working at the Mayfield Centre.

8.5.2 Trade union engagement will continue to be an integral part of the process. Regular updates have been provided to Trade Unions have been fully informed of the consultation and have been updated regularly at Joint Consultation and Negotiation Panel (JCNP).

8.6 Risk Management

8.6.1 Any proposals to change the way the service is currently delivered at The Brocklehurst Centre will present challenges and risks.

8.6.2 See below identified risks with mitigation.

Changes and disruption due to any future resurgence of COVID 19 resulting to the temporary closure of services

- Moving to the Mayfield Centre would ensure that improved social distancing would be possible to ensure service provision could be maintained.
- Additional interim measures to support the needs of people using the service (Outreach support, welfare calls) could be provided.
- Systems are in place to ensure services would be supported for appropriate PPE.

Impact on carers and people who access the Brocklehurst 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 co-production of the new service at the Mayfield Centre with involvement of people who access day opportunities and carers.

Negative impact on existing friendships and support networks from changes

- Aim to maintain and support existing friendship groups wherever possible with individuals who wish attend together on certain days.

Impact on staff who may affected by the impact of service changes

- Regular consultation and engagement with staff to develop the new model.

8.7 Rural Communities

8.7.1 Individuals and staff living in the rural areas of Macclesfield can access the Mayfield Centre either by car or by public transport with the centre being located close to local bus routes.

8.8 Children and Young People/Cared for Children

8.8.1 There are no direct implications for Children and Young People/Cared for Children.

8.9 Public Health

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

8.9.2 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.

8.10 Climate Change

8.10.1 The recommendation of the closure of the service provided at the Brocklehurst Centre does not have a negative impact on carbon reduction measures, as the alternative local provision is to be established locally at the Mayfield Centre.

8.10.2 This means that people won't undertake longer journeys by road. The recommended approach ensures that any alternative service provision is made available closer to home in the local communities in and around Macclesfield.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Mark Hughes Senior Commissioning Manager mark.hughes@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix 1- Equality Impact Assessment Appendix 2- Developing Dementia Day Opportunities in Macclesfield Survey Findings
Background Papers:	Cheshire East Corporate Plan 2021-2025 https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/your_council/council_finance_and_governance/corporate-plan.aspx