



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

WHITDALE DAY CENTRE – PETITION FROM EARS ADVOCACY

REPORT BY HEAD OF SOCIAL POLICY

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise the Council Executive of the proposed response to the petition received with a covering letter from Ears Advocacy in relation to a request asking the council to re-consider the closure of Whitdale Day Centre.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council Executive:

1. Notes that the Council as part of its budget setting on 13 February 2018 made a decision to deliver older people's day care through existing external provision.
2. Notes that it was never the council's intention to close Whitdale Day Centre without regard for current and anticipated future demand for older people's day care needs.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs Being honest, open and accountable Making best use of our resources Working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Effective prioritisation of resources is essential to achieving the targets contained in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The revenue budget for 2018/19 to 2022/23, agreed by Council on 13 February 2018 included an efficiency saving of £300,000 related to day care being delivered by existing external provision.

VII Consideration at PDSP

The proposed response to the petition was considered at the Social Policy PDSP on 2nd November.

Feedback from the proposal as part of the Transforming Your Council (TYC) consultation was discussed at the Health and Care PDSP on 18 December 2017 and the Social Policy PDSP on 21 December 2017.

VIII Other consultations

The proposal formed part of the TYC consultation in 2017.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

As part of the Council's budget setting on 13 February 2018 a decision was taken to deliver older people's day care through existing external provision (budget ref SJ5a).

At its meeting of 11 September 2018 the Council Executive considered a petition received with a covering letter from Ears Advocacy in relation to a request asking the council to re-consider the closure of Whitdale Day Centre. The Executive agreed to refer the petition to the Social Policy PDSP for consideration and to report back to Council Executive.

Background

The provision of social care services is based on assessed eligible needs and services are commissioned, whether internal or external, based on those needs. One objective of commissioning plans is to have a consistent model of care for council arranged services which ensures equity in service delivery and creates a more efficient and consistent model in relation to registered care services. This is particularly important for people who select Self-directed Support (SDS) Option 3 where the council is required to arrange the support necessary for the individual.

Day care provision for older people in West Lothian is already met predominately through external contracts with Optima providers. These providers are:

- Acredale House, Bathgate
- Braid House, Livingston
- Rosebery Centre, Polbeth
- ANSWER House, Whitburn and
- Linlithgow Day Centre

These organisations provide daycare services throughout West Lothian and have a capacity of 110 places per day. There is adequate capacity within the Optima day centres to meet the demand related to current provision at Whitdale. The current contracts have been extended until 31st March 2020 to enable this transition.

Whitdale Day Centre, which is based Whitdale Care Home, is the only older people's day care centre that is run directly by the council and has an average of 15 attendees on a daily basis. Service users who access this service come from communities across West Lothian, as detailed in the table below:

Area	% of Service Users
Armadale	25%
Bathgate	6%
Whitburn	15%
Blackburn	13%
Fauldhouse	12%

Boghall	1%
Stoneyburn	6%
Blackridge	1%
West Calder	9%
Mid Calder	1%
East Calder	6%
Polbeth	1%
Addiewell	1%
Livingstone	3%

The petition summary states that the closing of Whitdale Day Centre “*will leave us with no suitable alternative support.....fearing it will create more loneliness and isolation*”. It was never the intention of the Council to withdraw from direct provision of older people’s day care without regard for an alternative. The budget proposal included a specific reference to this provision being delivered by existing external provision.

It should be noted that capital funding has been allocated to reconfigure the space currently used for day care in Whitdale Care Home to provide additional residential beds, hence ensuring that the current space remains dedicated to providing care for older people.

The creation of these additional residential beds within the care home provision will have a positive impact on delayed discharge rates from St. John’s Hospital, waiting lists and also on respite demand. The provision of these additional beds will improve the supply of care home provision and provide capacity to assist with the longer term care planning for frail elderly.

E. CONCLUSION

The petition received with a covering letter from Ears Advocacy is clearly predicated on a fear that there will be no suitable alternative support to replace that provided by Whitdale Day Centre. This was never the council’s intention and service users and their families can be assured that there is adequate capacity within the commissioned provision of day care for older people to meet current and anticipated future demand.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

- West Lothian Council meeting 13 February 2018
- West Lothian Council Executive meeting 11 September 2018

Appendices/Attachments: None.

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