

21 June 2012

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Health and Community Services)

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Community Services

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Response to Petition: Keep St Thomas' Day Centre Open

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

To respond to the petition requesting:

“Recent temporary arrangements, transporting St Thomas’ day centre pensioners to Earlsdon. Ensuring they continue to have a hot dinner. The journey has unsettled them, raising fears that it may be the Council’s intention to transfer the service to Earlsdon permanently. We the undersigned will fight vigorously for this valued service”

This petition was received in response to the temporary arrangements, however at the same time the City Council began consultation on proposals to modernise and improve Council provided day opportunities services for older people.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member (Health and Community Services) is recommended to:

1. Note the petition and pass comments on to Cabinet that is due to receive a report on the outcome of consultation on proposals to modernise and improve Council provided day opportunities services for older people.

List of Appendices included:

None

Other useful background papers:

Cabinet Member Report- Modernising and improving the Council Provided Day Opportunities Service for Older People -14 February 2012

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it, or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title:

Response to Petition: Keep St Thomas' Day Centre Open

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Currently the Council provided day opportunities service for older people operates from 5 separate sites across the city. These sites and the capacity offered at each are as follows:
 - Gilbert Richards Day Centre (40 places per day, Monday to Friday and 15 places per day Saturday and Sunday) Current number of attendees - 74
 - Milan Day Service at Frank Walsh House (16 places per day Monday to Friday and 8 places on Saturday) Current number of attendees - 11
 - Risen Christ Day Centre (12 places per day Monday to Friday) Current number of attendees - 28
 - St Thomas' Day Centre (15 places per day Monday to Friday) Current number of attendees - 6
 - Samuel Hayward Day Centre (12 places per day Monday to Friday) Current number of attendees - 0
- 1.2 In addition to these sites there is also a specialist day opportunity for people with dementia at Maymorn.
- 1.3 Services are delivered in a traditional building based model where people are collected from their home in the morning, and taken home again at the end of the day. Centres generally operate between 9.00am or 10am and 4.00pm, with attendance being on a full day basis. The services remain well liked by the people that continue to use them, but are less popular with people looking for support options for the first time.
- 1.4 From December 2011 to February 2012 day opportunities at St Thomas's had to be closed for health and safety reasons, and services were provided from Gilbert Richards. In response to this the attached petition was received.
- 1.5 At the same time the Council was reviewing day opportunities for older people. A report was presented to the Cabinet Member (Health and Community Services) on 14 February 2012 and permission was given to consult on the consolidation of day opportunities services for older people on to 3 sites, and ceasing provision of services at St Thomas' and Samuel Hayward.
- 1.6 As the petition was received at the beginning of the consultation this is being considered alongside other consultation responses.
- 1.7 During the past 18 months the Council has re-contracted all its day opportunities provided externally through a new framework contract, whereby external providers delivered a range of building based and non-building based day opportunities. Since this framework has been in place the number of older people accessing building based services has reduced. The Council's day opportunities provide building based services only, with the independent sector providing both building based and community based services. Now this framework contract is in place, and people are choosing options other than centre based services the Council need to consider how its own day opportunities services are delivered so that they remain effective for the people that continue to access them.

- 1.8 As part of the move to personalisation in adults social care, people who need support are able to choose the types of support that suit them best. As a consequence demand over the last 12 months for traditional day services has reduced, with only around 70% of places within non-specialist day services being taken up. Gilbert Richards and the Milan day service currently open at the weekend. The demand for services at the weekend at Gilbert Richards is very low.
- 1.9 In July 2011 services normally provided at Samuel Hayward temporarily moved to Risen Christ due to low attendance at Samuel Hayward. Since then all the people attending Samuel Hayward have chosen to continue to receive their support at Risen Christ. Therefore the Samuel Hayward building is not currently being used.
- 1.10 When St Thomas' re-opened, 7 of the 13 people using St Thomas' chose to move to different locations (5 to Gilbert Richards and 2 to Risen Christ) to receive their service, as they preferred to go to a centre with more people and more choice of activities.
- 1.11 The number of people currently attending St Thomas' is 6 people in total, with no more than 4 people attending on any one day, and only 18 out of 60 places filled each week. This equates to a vacancy rate of 70%. Table 1 below shows the attendance at St Thomas' as of 25 May 2012.

Table 1:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Daily Attendance	3	4	3	4	4
Home Postcodes	CV6 6F CV6 6D CV2 1S	CV6 6F CV6 6B CV6 7E CV2 1S	CV6 6F CV6 2G CV6 6D	CV6 6F CV6 6B CV6 6D CV2 1S	CV6 6F CV6 6D CV6 7E CV2 1S

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 A petition was received and signed by 80 people and submitted by Cllr Duggins to Council on 21 February 2012. The petition was entitled 'Keep St Thomas's Day Centre Open'. The petition focused on ensuring people continued to have a healthy hot dinner and the impact on Longford residents having to travel further to access their support. The petition stated that the journey time to Gilbert Richards in Earlsdon was unacceptable.
- 2.2 The petition identifies that the increase in distance travelled from St Thomas' to Gilbert Richards is unsettling for people. There are various alternative options for people and Table 2 shows different distances between St Thomas' and other day opportunities for older people. This shows that if the journey to Gilbert Richards is unsettling, there are other options with a shorter distance.

Table 2:

Home Post Code	Current (to St Thomas)	Gilbert Richards Centre	Risen Christ	Frank Walsh	St Barnabas	Change in Journey
CV6 6F	0.6	4.1	2.4	2.8	2.3	1.7
CV6 2G	2.3	3.7	4.0	3.1	2.6	0.3
CV6 6B	0.3	4.6	2.9	3.2	2.8	2.5
CV6 6D	1.0	4.9	2.7	3.6	3.1	1.7
CV6 7E	1.5	4.8	1.4	2.0	1.4	-0.1
CV2 1S	0.7	4.8	2.1	3.2	2.6	1.4

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 A 12 week consultation period took place regarding Council provided day opportunities for older people from 27 February to 21 May 2012. A report is to be presented to Cabinet regarding the outcome of the consultation on the proposals, including the petition, and recommendations.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 The report is to be considered by Cabinet on 14 August 2012.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Legal Services

5.1 Financial implications

The consolidation of services on to 3 sites and the associated deletion of a number of posts would generate savings of between £130k-160k for the Council. Further property related savings are also expected.

5.2 Legal implications

Social services authorities are required to provide, whether at centres or elsewhere, facilities for occupational, social, cultural and recreational activities which include day centres in its various forms.

The public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 came into force on 5 April 2011. Decision makers must have on-going due regard to avoid discrimination and advance opportunity for anyone with the relevant protected characteristics which are disabilities, age, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. "Due regard" requires more than just an awareness of the equality duty. It requires rigorous analysis by the public authority, beyond broad options.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / LAA (or Coventry SCS)?

Not applicable.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Not applicable.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Not applicable.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

An EIA was undertaken prior to consultation, and this is being updated following the consultation including this petition.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

Not applicable.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

St Thomas' Parochial Church Council in Longford currently receives rental income of £4,600 and a contribution of 90% to the utility bills for the Church Hall. This contribution was approximately £10,000 for 2011/12. Any changes to services from this site would impact on the Church.

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