

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub Committee

**DATE:** 25 June 2008

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Health & Community

**SUBJECT:** Integration of Adults with Learning Disabilities' Services

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To inform the Executive Board Sub Committee of plans to strengthen the integration of the services for Adults with Learning Disability (ALD) managed by the Health and Community Directorate. To seek appropriate authorisations and approvals.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) **the Sub Committee agree the arrangement for a five-year contract between Halton Council and Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust (PCT) to transfer 13 posts (of which 6 are vacant), to the Council including a requirement for the PCT to meet the costs of these posts during the five-year term.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Adults with Learning Disabilities (ALD) Services are guided by "Valuing People" the Government National Guidance published in 2001, which set out the priorities for the delivery of services for adults with learning disabilities.

3.2 This Guidance recognised the need to work in partnership both across agencies and with the service users and carers. The Guidance also recognised the need to promote social inclusion and ensure that people with learning disabilities participated as fully as possible within the community.

3.3 In Halton the importance of close working arrangements has long been recognised to ensure that the needs of people with learning disabilities are met and that the spirit of the Guidance is adhered to except where there are compelling reasons to do something else. The Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Halton Borough Council (HBC) have worked closely together; this has been achieved by:

- The establishment of a pooled budget since 2002, managed by

HBC. The budget stands at £12.8m 2007/2008 and includes most ALD services and the Community Care budget.

- Co-location of the PCT's Health Team and HBC's Care Management Team. However, separate management arrangements are in existence for the two teams, located at The Bridges, Crow Wood Lane, Widnes. Plans address this issue.

3.4 The Partnership between the PCT and the Council can now be further strengthened to offer a fully integrated service. The PCT is seeking to transfer 7 relevant staff to the Council and place them under the management of HBC. The staff in question are mainly nurses who have developed an expertise in learning disabilities. More specialised staff will be transferred to the 5 Boroughs Partnership Trust and will with additional staff offer a specialised service to Knowsley, Halton and St Helens. They do not form part of this proposal. This transfer would take place on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. There are a number of advantages for this proposal which are set out below:

- The service will improve; as people with learning disabilities will only have one point of access and assessment, currently there are two systems for service users and carers to navigate.
- Nurses and social workers will have one management system, thus avoiding duplication and inefficiencies and will be based in one location at John Briggs House Gerrard Street Widnes.
- The "person-centred planning" approach will be strengthened in line with national guidance "Valuing People 2001".

3.5 The proposal to transfer NHS staff into Halton Council has been subject to widespread consultation with staff and undertaken in partnership between the Council and the PCT. The PCT, as the employer, have informed the relevant NHS staff and their representatives of the progress of the transfer of the undertaking. Halton continue to keep the PCT informed of the detail of the transfer so that the PCT can meet its duties to keep staff informed. The transfer will be undertaken on a planned basis and be subject to clear contractual arrangements.

3.6 These proposals do not set out the delivery of a new model of service therefore formal consultation with service users and carers is not required, indeed many service users and carers will not experience any change in service. At the same time, these changes are to be viewed as an opportunity to improve services and carers and service users will be consulted in how this can best be achieved.

3.7 It is expected that transferring PCT staff will be able to retain their

membership of the NHS Pension Scheme.

#### **4.0 BUSINESS CASE**

4.1 The integration of services for people with learning disabilities offers the council the opportunity to be more efficient in its delivery of services. There will be an increased ability to be flexible and a decrease in duplication improving the experience of people with learning disabilities assessed to be in need of services.

4.2 It is planned that the existing agreement of a pooled budget and joint management between the PCT and the Council will be amended to reflect the new arrangements which will result in the Council providing all care and budget management. This will be undertaken by agreement between the council and the PCT, and subject to formal notification by both parties.

4.3 The date of the implementation of the amended agreement will be agreed between the PCT and the Council and will be no earlier than 1 July 2008.

#### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This proposal supports the national guidance "Valuing People 2001" which requires agencies to provide a holistic service to people with learning disabilities.

#### **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Transfer of NHS staff will be subject to TUPE protection in the case of employees and a contract between the PCT and the Council that will cover all financial implications (see Funding Agreement Appendix 1). Appendix 2 is a confirmatory letter from the PCT. This ensures the PCT will provide funding to the council for the staff. It is proposed this is a 5-year agreement subject to mid-review at 3 years. There will not be any additional costs to the Council with this proposal.

6.2 The PCT staff will be transferred under an NHSPS direction, which allows specified Halton and St Helens NHS staff, who are to be compulsorily transferred to Local Authority employment to remain in the NHS Pension Scheme. There are no financial implications on this basis.

#### **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **7.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

The proposal will support the transition process for young people into Adult services.

7.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**  
None identified

7.3 **A Healthy Halton**

This proposal will better meet the needs of vulnerable people and specifically Adults with Learning Disabilities and their families.

7.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

8.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 Some staff currently employed by the PCT may seek employment elsewhere and not move into Council employment, this would make it difficult to provide both a Health and Social Care service. The Council has agreement from PCT that funding for the posts, even when vacant, sits within the council allowing maximum flexibility in the provision of the service. The Funding Agreement is a 5-year arrangement, there are additional guarantees relating to the PCT sharing costs of any future redundancies and therefore minimal risk to the Council.

9.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 This proposal will enhance equity of access to people with learning disabilities.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Valuing People 2001	Runcorn Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 5TD	Audrey Williamson, Runcorn Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 5TD