

ADULTS AND COMMUNITY CARE SELECT COMMITTEE

**Item under consideration: COUNCIL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME:
PROPOSALS FOR SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL IN-HOUSE LEARNING
DISABILITY DAY CARE SERVICES**

Date Considered: 12 January 2009

1. In June 2008, the Executive approved a four-month consultation on the proposals to improve learning disability day services in Surrey. The consultation ended in November 2008.
2. At its meeting on 27 November 2008, the Select Committee discussed the proposals and agreed its contribution to the consultation. The comments made related to general issues such as access to services and transport, as well specific concerns about the loss of the swimming pool and specialised autism facilities at Lockwood in Guildford.
3. The Select Committee received a report on the outcomes of the consultation process on 12 January 2009, and invited carers and representatives of voluntary groups to attend the meeting and put forward their views.
4. The Select Committee praised the consultation process, welcoming the opportunity to talk to carers and people with learning disabilities, but noted that the challenge would be to manage any change in a way which minimised any negative impacts on those receiving services. The key points the Committee wished to highlight were as follows:
 - there should be a person-centred approach to change to ensure that the needs of individuals were met.
 - co-ordination between County Council services and the involvement of voluntary, community and faith groups was critical to the success of any new arrangements.
 - individuals had a range of different needs and required access to a variety of services and types of provision.
 - any change needed to be made at a pace that enabled service users and carers to adjust.
 - the impact on transition arrangements needed to be considered fully.
 - those with moderate needs should not be disadvantaged by any move to 'centres of excellence' aimed primarily at those with complex needs. Access to local services should be continued as well as more comprehensive Centres of Excellence.

Mrs Kay Hammond
Chairman of the Adults and Community Care Select Committee