

Report to:	STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL
Date:	27 November 2017
Reporting Officer:	Mark Whitehead Head of Operations Adult Services
Subject:	REVIEW OF LEARNING DISABILITY DAY SERVICES – OXFORD PARK DEVELOPMENT
Report Summary:	<p>Learning disability and autism internally provided day services have been significantly reduced since 2012 as a result of budget reductions. This review was undertaken in response to further savings being set against this area of operations.</p> <p>The report reviews current internal and external day service capacity and current and future demand and identifies that due to current lack of capacity to meet current and future predicted demand for day services that closure of any further day services would result in a lack of capacity to meet assessed need and would have a potential impact in terms of higher costs of provision having to be purchased from specialist providers out of area.</p> <p>The report proposes capital investment in a new disability centre at Oxford Park Ashton. This centre would increase current day service capacity as well as providing services for looked after children, children with disabilities and as an alternative post 16 further education site reducing out of area placements.</p> <p>The centre and site would be utilised to expand the internship programme assisting 16-24 year olds into employment and could be utilised for a range of other early intervention and prevention services focused on promoting good health.</p> <p>It is envisaged that through collaborative working that significant financial and non-financial savings and benefits could be achieved across the sector through the development of this scheme.</p>
Recommendations:	That capital investment of £ 0.455 million is approved to fund the development of the Oxford Park site to increase day service capacity, to improve collaborative working, improve a wide range of outcomes and achieve financial and non-financial benefits for a range of services including Children's, Education and Adult Services.
Links to Community Strategy:	The proposals contained in this report will support the delivery of the community strategy.
Policy Implications	In compliance with Council policy.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Section 151	Demographic and transitional growth in costs relating to care provision for individuals with complex Learning Disabilities will result in significant cost pressures for the

Officer)

Council over the coming years.

The proposal in this report seeks to expand the in borough capacity to deal with the growth in cases identified over the next 5 years. Based on the number of known cases the proposal will deliver cost avoidance over the next 5 years to 2022/23 which is estimated to be a minimum of £ 0.568 million by this date. It is envisaged that this sum will increase once the impact of avoidance costs within the Education and Children's Social Care services are quantified. It should be acknowledged that the estimated avoidance cost will therefore reduce the value of assumed cost pressures within the Council's medium term financial plan.

The estimated expenditure profile for the scheme is provided within section 4.4 table 1, with the estimated avoidance costs within Adult services provided within section 5.4 table 2.

Members should note that the report explains the premises related expenditure for the proposed development will be financed by Active Tameside from within the existing annual management fee paid by the Council. It is essential that this arrangement is included within the related agreement for this facility with Active Tameside. It is also essential that the Council ensures it has priority utilisation of the facility within the related agreement for the predicted increased demand in services.

The future estimated Council avoidance related expenditure will be closely monitored to ensure the assumptions included within the report are realised.

Legal Implications:

(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

The Council has power to approve the recommendation.

Before undertaking any works to the property, agreement should be reached with Active Tameside to ensure that the project as described is deliverable and will not adversely impact of Active Tameside's revenue generating activities as this may affect the contribution sought from the Council through the leisure management contract.

The Council should record and monitor the costs avoided through the development to ensure that best value can be shown and the assumptions upon which the decision was based were correct

Risk Management:

A risk assessment is included in the report.

Access to Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer Mark Whitehead:

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report follows the review of learning disability and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) day service provision that is currently provided and/or commissioned by Adult Services, and to seek capital funding to develop a new scheme at Oxford Park Ashton-Under-Lyne that will meet current and future predicted demand for services in borough. The Single Commissioning Board resolved:-

That the agreement is given in principle to progress the Oxford Park development subject to a bid against the Capital Programme to increase day service capacity, to improve collaborative working, improve a wide range of outcomes and achieve financial and non-financial benefits for a range of services including Children's, Education and Adult Services.

That the existing internal day service's review individual users and move less complex individuals into independent provider services freeing capacity to reduce the waiting list for internally provided complex service provision.

- 1.2 The review is one of a number of reviews that have been undertaken across day services over the past six years. Since 2010, a number of day service pre-employment schemes have been closed to meet increasing funding reductions and in 2012 a substantial commissioning and market development / shaping exercise was completed with service users, carers and local providers. The aim was to develop more diverse day service options within the borough with a focus on offering more choice and control to individuals regarding the services on offer and a significant reduction in the daily unit cost of provision. This resulted in four internal day services closing and the re-provision of services by a range of providers including People First Tameside, Tameside Arts, Tameside Countryside Service and Active Tameside at a reduced daily unit cost. This initiative achieved an annual saving of £137,000.
- 1.3 The strategic vision was based on diversification of services being offered to facilitate greater choice and control, the introduction of a more diverse market to increase competition, drive up quality and reduce cost and to differentiate internally provided services to focus on the provision of higher cost specialist complex provision of day services to adults who have learning disabilities and/or Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who have complex needs. This has been successful in that there is a more diverse range of service options on offer at a significantly reduced cost.
- 1.4 The review also considered demand and capacity in terms of children with disabilities and Looked After Children (LAC) and the increasing demand for specific services for these groups as well as considering the provision of alternative services for children and young people with special educational needs (SEND) post 16 in the borough as an alternative to out of borough placements in specialist education establishments. The focus being on improving outcomes for young people in terms of targeted education around the development of independent living skills, offering pre-employment and employment support and supporting more varied service options to improve choice and control while reducing costs of provision in the future.

2. POLICY CONTEXT

- 2.1 While day service provision does not form part of our statutory duty directly, if the provision is providing an identified service to meet an assessed eligible need within the Care Act (2014) it becomes the local authority's duty to meet that need. This fact, coupled with the benefits that day service activity offers in terms of providing day time support, an opportunity for people to keep in touch, meet people and develop relationships, respite to carers and in some cases essential care and therapeutic interventions, day services role and function, does become more fundamental in supporting individuals in the community

while reducing the need for long term residential provision by supporting people to live at home.

- 2.2 Key legislation, guidance and statutory guidance in relation to day services and the recommendations proposed within this report include:
- Valuing People and Valuing People Now
 - Care Act (2014)
 - The Children and Families Act - Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) (2014)
 - Autism Act (2009)
 - Autism Act Strategy *Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives* (2010)
 - Autism Act Guidance *Think Autism* (2014)
 - Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and NHS Organisations to Support Implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy (2015)
 - Transforming Care: A national response to Winterbourne View Hospital (2012).
 - Greater Manchester Learning Disability and Autism Fast Track Programme
 - Putting People First (2007) and subsequently the Think Local Act Personal Programme.
- 2.3 Valuing People 2001; Valuing People Now 2009 and Putting People First 2008 all support the four key principles of rights, independence, choice and inclusion as being at the heart of change for people who have learning disabilities. People with learning disabilities should have the same opportunities to live an ordinary life, fully involved in the community alongside everyone else as equal citizens. Recent developments around day services within Tameside has meant that partnership working with other agencies has become essential both in terms of the provision of services but also in terms of more creative and efficient ways of providing and funding services, managing budgets and improving individual outcomes. Prevention, early intervention and personalisation are core elements of the Putting People First and Think Local Act Personal programme of work.
- 2.4 Fundamental elements of the Care Act (2014), the Children's and Families Act (2014) (SEND) and statutory guidance around the Autism Act (2009) places emphasis on good transition planning for children and young people moving from Children's to Adult Services. That the duty to undertake assessment of need and in planning of the provision of relevant services to meet identified need is essential for young people with disabilities and autism. Also recognised is the profound impact on the individual's ability to meet their full potential through access to further learning, training, employment and independent living is recognized as a fundamental element of the transition process and in preparing young people for adulthood.
- 2.5 Employment is promoted as a positive outcome for the majority of children and young people with autism and disabilities as it enables the individual to be less reliant on the state, be more independent, promotes health and wellbeing including good mental health and enables the individual to become an active citizen. This includes access to work through the Work Programme, Supported Employment or via the Supported Internship Programme which specifically focuses on young people in the 16-24 age group.
- 2.6 Care Act (2014), Autism Statutory Guidance (2015), Children and Families Act (2014) all emphasize the importance and need for co-operation between all services that support children and young people with special educational needs and their families and recognizes the need for local leadership in relation to the planning and provision of services to adults who have autism and disabilities.

3. DAY SERVICE REVIEW OVERVIEW

Day Services

- 3.1 The current internally provided learning disability / autism day service provision consists of four bases that have 65 places per day and support 78 adults with varying packages of day support. The current mean unit cost per person per day is £77. Costs do vary depending on levels of need and some of the most complex individuals are supported by these services some of which require high staffing support ratios per person based on risk. The alternate providers of day services have a set payment per person per day of just under £32 per day. Although in a very small number of cases where needs require more intensive support this daily cost increases by approximately £10 per hour of additional 1:1 support thus increasing the daily cost. People who use day services are financially assessed and are required, where appropriate, to pay a contribution towards their care in line with the Care Act (2014).
- 3.2 The principle reasons for this review are to meet financial savings targets and also to future proof the service to enable complex day services to be provided in borough as further client's transition through from Children's Social Care. We are aware that over the next two years 21 young people are coming through transition who have complex needs with 59 young people projected in total coming through transition over the next five years. As of September 2017 there are 8 individuals waiting for internal day services primarily at the centre that provides intensive support to people who present challenging behaviour and/or have autism this is fundamentally unmet need.
- 3.3 Many of these individuals will require the complex service provision that is currently provided by internal services and many will also access existing services provided by partners through Children's Services. While closure of a day centre will contribute to the overall savings target, this is a short term solution to a budget pressure that will result in significant increased costs in the coming years as the young people with eligible needs transition into Adult Services and demand significantly exceeds service capacity which could realistically result in increases in high cost out of area placements. As a result of the known pressures this review has become a cost avoidance exercise rather than a savings exercise in terms of maintaining and possibly increasing current capacity to meet current and future demand.
- Post 16 Education**
- 3.4 In 2014 Adult Services created and funded a Transition Coordinator post to liaise between Adults, Children's, Education and Health and to develop the transition pathway for children and young people moving from Children's to Adults. As part of this work it became apparent that there was insufficient provision of post 16 educational placements available in Tameside. Post 16 placements have traditionally been provided by Tameside College's Dovestones Unit, and by placements in colleges outside the borough. These out of area placements can be at significant cost and they do not always meet the required outcomes identified with individuals. Due to capacity issues and syllabus changes at Dovestones their offer of a five day per week service has been reduced which has meant that more young people are being referred to Adult Services for day service provision, increasing pressure on existing services to provide day service provision.
- 3.5 Current figures provided indicate that we currently have 533 children and young people from Year 7 onwards who have an Education Health Care Plan or Statement. We currently have 53 young people post 16 who are placed out of area. These are primarily placed due to autism related needs however sixth form education ends at 19 and we have responsibilities under SEND until age 25. The question is could these young people access services in borough at a significantly reduced cost if we had a site and capacity to provide these services locally with the assistance of Tameside College for Education or other providers if not education based.
- 3.6 As part of this review and the requirements of the Children and Families Act (2014) SEND agenda the provision of effective transition, post 16 education, training and/or employment is a major issue for services going forward in terms of the 0-25 offer for young people with

disabilities and/or autism and this is an area for development going forward, particularly in terms of the local offer under the SEND agenda.

Looked After Children (LAC)

- 3.7 Adult Services are experiencing increasing referrals for young people coming through the care system who are vulnerable who may not meet Adult Services access criteria but who need support to learn skills for daily living and who may need additional support and training to support them into employment. Active Tameside are working with Children's services on a project focused on the training and skills development of LAC to better prepare them for adult life. Currently 3 pupils are piloting this scheme.
- 3.8 There are currently 237 cases open in Leaving Care who are young people / young adults 16-25 years of age.
- 3.9 It is reasonable to assume that in addition to the Integrated Service to Children with Additional Needs (ISCAN) numbers, other LAC who would be using the service would equate to approximately 23 (10% of leaving care open cases).
- 3.10 Approximately 10% of all open cases across the service are defined as having a disability, this equates to 105 children and young people who could be eligible for services.
- 3.11 In terms of LAC a dedicated transitional support team has been established to proactively work with children in the most complex placements in order to ensure pace of change and ability to achieve independence is maximised. This will produce better outcomes for young people whilst also reducing spend in the longer term.
- 3.12 In addition the team will provide direct support to care leavers who are in semi-independent/independent living situations. This support will offer independent living skills, education support and interventions, health support and interventions and address readiness to work. The overall aim is to improve life chances, increase employability and reduce demand and dependency. The aim is to "break the cycle" of involvement or dependency with wider public services which leads to high cost on the public purse.
- 3.13 This team will work alongside key partners from Health, Education, New Charter Housing, Active Tameside and other local voluntary sector providers thereby utilising the full resource of the Corporate Parent.
- 3.14 Tameside has a profile inherited from previous years whereby over the coming 5 years plus, we have more teenagers who will need this service than would be expected. Failure to provide for them will make the cost unaffordable.
- 3.15 The work with this group of young people will follow the already well established Transition Pathway that is in place for young people with SEND. This model of working demonstrates improved outcomes for young people and a clear evidence base. The Oxford Park development will be a support to this process going forward.

Market Pressures

- 3.16 A number of day service providers are operating across Tameside providing day services to adults with learning disabilities and/or autism these include Tameside Arts, People First Tameside, Tameside Countryside Services and Active Tameside.
- 3.17 Active Tameside has proven to be a popular service offer with approximately 140 people currently accessing the base at Active Medlock. This is significantly more people than the planned capacity of the service and there are concerns that this scheme needs to expand capacity to meet current and possible future demand. The primary reasons for this growth is that the services offered are very popular and 70% of people who have commissioned services also pay privately to access services on days which are not commissioned. The

scheme also provides a range of services to children and young people with disabilities at the same site. Active Tameside have been proactive in developing the supported internship programme with Education and during 2016 supported 13 out of 15 individuals into paid employment as a result of this programme. This has been supported by an independent provider who offers education and training opportunities to the young people on the programme.

Employment Review

- 3.18 As a result of funding reductions in Supported Employment capacity and service provision, performance in this area has dropped from above the Greater Manchester (GM) average several years ago to one of the poorest performers in GM, with only 2% of people with learning disabilities in paid employment. Routes to Work (Supported Employment) is another facet of this area of operations and is an area that there is significant interest in from the Department of Health, CQC and Ofsted in terms the Special Educational Needs 0-25 agenda, transition in terms of people with disabilities and autism accessing education and employment and generally in terms of adults accessing employment. While this report refers to employment throughout it should be acknowledged that employment is one means of reducing day service demand. Employment is being looked at separately as part of the Supported Employment Review.

4. OXFORD PARK PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Oxford Park is a small park on the outskirts of Ashton which contains gardens, sports pitches and a small sports centre managed and run by Active Tameside. The site is owned by the Council. The collaborative proposal is that the Oxford Park site is developed through the provision of an extension to the existing building which will accommodate:

- Sensory Room
- Several classrooms with access to internet
- Teaching kitchen
- Studio
- Utilisation of outdoor areas including the pavilion and grounds

Please see **Appendix 1** for the initial building plan.

- 4.2 The proposed development will provide a purpose built disability / community facility within Tameside that will host a wide range of services to children and adults. The proposed service will provide the following opportunities:

Opportunity	Outcome
Special education provision for young people excluded from college (alternative curriculum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to a structured programme focused on reducing levels of support required, introduction to Supported Internship Programme focused on employment and / or introduction to day services provision. • Delivery of Maths and English and various vocational skills including gaining qualifications.
Expand the supported internship programme. Support for 16-24 year olds with Special Educational Needs into paid employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase current capacity to support young people 16-24 into paid employment. • Reduce reliance on the state, improve lives and support improved health and wellbeing. • Scheme is focused on supporting life skills,

In 2016 13 young people were supported into paid employment.	functional skills and vocational qualifications.
Holiday, community and respite provision to support families. Active Tameside provide 1056 places and 5000 hours respite on this scheme each year for holiday provision for children and young people with disabilities. Oxford Park will expand capacity to increase this provision significantly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better support for families. Helping individuals to stay at home rather than being placed in residential or out of area care.
Support for hard to reach young people in conjunction with New Charter, Integrated Neighbourhoods, GM Police, Transport for Greater Manchester and other local community groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxford Park will provide a base for this service in engaging these vulnerable young people. Increased engagement will result in potentially better outcomes and life chances for the youngsters involved.
Expansion of Learning Disability and Autism Day Service provision across the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet current and projected increased demand. Reduce higher cost provision spot purchased or provided out of area due to insufficient local capacity. To provide a diverse service offer to increase choice and control. To expand the employment offer to support adults with learning disabilities and autism into employment.
To provide support and training to LAC and to support transition into adulthood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build on the existing pilot assisting individuals to secure qualifications, work experience and employment. To better prepare LAC for adulthood in terms of promoting independent living skills.
To work with Children with disability services in the provision of respite locally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To date 51 children and young people have moved from Direct Payments and external respite provision both in and out of borough with significant cost savings. Work is underway with a further 42 families.
To provide better facilities that are appropriate for the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in conjunction with White Bridge College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an inspiring environment for continued learning and routes to independence.
Expansion of 'Live Active' programme with local GP surgeries around low intensity support and clinical exercise sessions for people with long-term health conditions such as diabetes etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve health and wellbeing of the population Increased capacity to expand work programme Healthier population. Reduced demand on health providers Offers proactive solutions for GP's to access for patients.

Work with the local BME population to reduce cardio vascular disease with the provision of culturally appropriate exercise programmes. Oxford Park development increases capacity for this work with particular emphasis on Asian women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved health and wellbeing. • Healthier population • Reduced demand on health providers.
The provision of alternative 16-25 SEN provision locally based on developing skills for daily living, improved employment opportunities and experience (see supported internship above).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in out of area Sixth Form provision. • Significantly reduced cost of provision. • Greater choice and control for individuals and families

4.3 Services will be jointly commissioned / funded from Adult Services, Children's Services and Education to provide more economical and efficient provision that is more effective at meeting the outcomes of vulnerable children and adults within the borough.

4.4 The actual capital cost of the development is estimated to be £455,000. The revenue for running the building will form part of the existing Active Tameside management fee financed within the Population Health revenue budget. It is envisaged that the range of services delivered would generate surplus income to finance the additional utility costs of the proposed development. The estimated capital investment is allocated as follows within table 1 :

Table 1

	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	Total £000
Professional fees	42.5		42.5
Construction	200.0	182.5	382.5
Furnishings		30.0	30.0
Total	242.50	212.50	455.0

4.5 Exploration of the existing property portfolio in the borough to establish if this scheme could be provided in an existing building thus reducing capital investment costs, however no other buildings exist that could meet the requirements particularly in terms of the overall site that supports gardens and other facilities that will be utilised.

4.6 While the proposed scheme is led by Active Tameside we would expect other providers across the borough to be able to access and contribute towards service provision where appropriate to strengthen a more diverse and stronger market locally. An example is that Active Tameside work closely with Supported Employment and Pure Innovations to provide access to supported internship work and employment generally including validated educational programmes to support individual development and ability to secure employment. It is envisaged that other service provider's will be engaged to provide specific courses / activities. Active Tameside already have a good track record of working with partners including Tameside College, Action Together, Sport England, Tameside Arts, Green Space, Public Health, Tameside MBC and Denton Community College.

- 5.1 This review has highlighted that current and future demand for day service provision exceeds current capacity and that over the next five years we expect to see increased demand for service provision for individuals with more complex needs. This review, while originally focused on savings, has become focused on future cost avoidance through the provision of more capacity within the sector and increasing greater specialisation of internally provided day service provision to better meet the needs of people with complex disabilities.
- 5.2 The cost of adult day services within Tameside are £1.8m per annum. People who use day services are financially assessed and are required, where appropriate, to pay a contribution towards their care in line with the Care Act (2014) and the Council's Charging Policy 2015. Current income generated by day services is £300,000.
- 5.3 Revenue funding in terms of the management and maintenance of the proposed structure will be financed within the existing Active Tameside management fee which is financed via the Population Health revenue budget. High cost items such as boiler maintenance will be included within the Council's asset management plan. A Project Board has been established and will report into the wider single commissioning programme management board to monitor progress and expenditure of this development and its future use. This will include performance measures that will be reported into the Adult Services Transformation Group.
- 5.4 The estimated cost avoidance based on current known cases is provided in table 2:

Table 2

Current Day Service model	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Cost per Service User per day	77.00	78.93	80.90	82.92	84.99
Number of users transitioning through (cumulative)	14	36	52	64	74
Estimated number of days provision per annum (based on 3 days provision p/w average)	2,100	5,400	7,800	9,600	11,100
Estimated annual cost under current model	161,700	426,195	631,005	796,038	943,429
Proposed Oxford Park model	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Cost per Service User per day	30.60	31.37	32.15	32.95	33.78
Estimated annual cost under current model	64,260	169,371	250,763	316,347	374,921
Cumulative cost avoidance	(97,440)	(256,824)	(380,242)	(479,690)	(568,508)

- 5.5 The details in table 2 are only based on the direct care provision element and exclude any potential transport savings (although it is estimated that these would not be material)
- 5.6 The calculations are based on a number of assumptions:
- That the market daily rate remains is £30.60 per day, increasing in line with inflationary projections each year.
 - Calculations are on the differential between internal provision costs and the current market. Specialist provision both in borough and out of borough would be at a significantly higher cost thus increasing the actual cost avoidance estimation quoted above. However a detailed review of the out of borough cases would need to be undertaken to quantify this.

- Calculations are based on the assumption that individuals' needs would be 3 days provision per week. If provision is higher (5 days assessed need per week) then the level of cost avoidance would increase.
- That if the needs are complex in the population then costs of provision would increase thus reducing current predicted cost avoidance and extending the financial return timescale.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Consequence	Impact	Likelihood	Actions to Mitigate Risk
Close day centre base to achieve current savings target	Reduced capacity in provision of identified need, Increased cost of out of area placements, challenges regarding meeting assessed need	High	High	To retain current levels of provision in terms of future cost avoidance. Establish efficiencies to meet some of the identified savings
Do not close day centre base	Savings targets will not be fully realised	Medium	Medium	Establish efficiencies to meet some of the identified savings Potential system wide and community efficiencies through the provision of lower cost service offers for Children, Education, and Adults through the provision of early intervention and prevention services such at employment access.
Failure to secure capital investment	Lack of capital will mean the Oxford Park development could not progress impacting on current and future day service	Medium	High	Collaborative working across all stakeholders. Business case regarding benefits of the development both in terms of outcomes and efficiencies across all

	capacity and on system wide offers and subsequent efficiencies that can be achieved.			stakeholder agencies.
Failure to fully utilize the Oxford Park site	Lack of ROI in terms of savings across the system	Medium	Low	<p>Full engagement from all stakeholder agencies.</p> <p>Current demand is high and predicted use will be high.</p>

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The day service review was initially triggered by the need to make savings across day services. Since 2012 over 50% of internal day service provision and 100% of pre-employment provision has closed and been re-provided by the independent sector including Tameside Countryside Service, Tameside Arts, Active Tameside and People First Tameside. This market shaping and development has been a success in terms of achieving significant savings and also in offering improved choice and control to people with learning disabilities and/or autism within Tameside. Based on current and future demand for services and increasing out of area placements for provision of these services the review found that there was a need to expand existing capacity to meet this need locally.
- 7.2 Active Tameside has proven to be a popular choice amongst people and the service based at Medlock is fundamentally over-subscribed with current provision to 115 individuals. This includes the Supported Internship programme supporting young people (16-24) into paid employment with 13 out of 15 young people securing paid employment in the past year. The programme also includes a pilot working with 3 LAC which appears to be a successful scheme for expansion in the future. A further recommendation of this report is that a review is undertaken of current supported employment opportunities with the sector to have a clear joined up strategy towards employment for vulnerable young people and adults.
- 7.3 As part of the SEND work it has been identified that there is also a gap in post 16 provision locally in terms of the 0-25 offer and demand exceeds current capacity with numbers of young people being placed out of area or being referred into Adult Services.
- 7.4 The report concludes that due to current and future predicted demand that it would be unwise to close a day centre base as this would result in possible increased cost in future to meet demand and assessed needs. The report highlights the developmental proposal of Oxford Park as a means of meeting current and future demand of children, young people and adults who have learning disabilities and autism as well as providing a base to assist with the provision of services to other vulnerable groups such as LAC and hard to reach young people as well as providing a resource for post 16 further education and independent living opportunities. The scheme would also fit with the upcoming Employment Review and would link in this work with the Oxford Park offer and other provider offers to increase pre-employment training, qualifications and placements.

- 7.5 Following a review of the available options the recommendation is to seek capital investment to develop the Oxford Park site to become a disability service base for children, young people and adults, and to review internal day service packages to establish if individuals currently using internal services could move into services provided by the sector releasing capacity for more complex individuals. Both financial and non-financial efficiencies and benefits will be realised across partner agencies with cost avoidance return on investment being realised within three years of the scheme opening.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 As stated at the front of the report.

