

Title of policy / procedure / function / project / decision:	Older People's Day Care Review
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Evidence based equality analysis

Main aims, purpose and outcomes and how does it fit in with the wider aims of the organisation:

Background

The Council are currently carrying out an operational review of our Older People Day Services across Vivo Care Choices and Adult Social Care.

Cheshire West and Chester Council are committed to Enabling Great Lives through the Adult Social Care support that we offer. As traditional building-based attendance at day care centres has declined, people want more personalised, flexible support. So the Council are looking to reconfigure the services for older people to create up to date, person-centred approach. We want to move away from traditional services towards a more community and person led service.

What is happening

Along with the reduction of places, any remaining clients who currently receive Day Care at the Coronation Centre, Ellesmere Port, and Hazelmere, Winsford will need to relocate to alternative sites or providers. Options will include:

- using in-house services at Lightfoot Lodge and Anderton Place, Northwich
- access alternative support in the local community
- in home support.

Currently Adult Social Care teams are liaising with staff and service users affected by this change. All those currently receiving care will continue to do so, with sufficient capacity to meet demand and are being contacted and provided with alternative care and support. This reconfiguration supports wider ambitions around independence, ageing well, and community-based care.

Any staff that are affected are being retained and supported throughout this change, with their involvement in shaping the future of the Adult Social Care Service.

This approach is in line with national best practice, and we are actively engaging with service users, carers, and community partners.

The move enhances sustainability, community inclusion, and carer support, not just efficiency.

Lead officer: Alistair Jeffs

Stakeholders:

For each of the areas below, an assessment needs to be made on whether the policy has a positive, negative or neutral impact, and brief details of why this decision was made and notes of any mitigation should be included. Where the impact is negative, this needs to be given a high, medium or low assessment. It is important to rate the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

High impact – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact –some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

Low impact – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

	Neutral	Positive	Negative
Target group / area			
Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers, refugees, asylum seekers etc.)		There is a positive impact on race and ethnicity as the re-organisation of traditional older people's services releases resources for more personalised services that are more flexible to the needs of diverse groups	

Disability (as defined by the Equality Act - a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities)			This will have a disproportionate impact upon Older People who have physical disabilities and mental health conditions and their carers. To mitigate this all service users affected will be offered the opportunity to have their entire care package reviewed and any unmet needs met. However, the re-organisation of traditional older people's services releases resources for more personalised services that are more flexible to their needs.
Sex (male or female)	The impact is neutral as the services are used by people of both sexes		
Gender identity (gender reassignment)	The impact is neutral as the service is used by people of all genders		

Religion and belief (including lack of belief)		The impact is positive on religion and belief as the re-organisation of traditional older people's services releases resources for more personalised services that are more flexible to the needs of diverse groups	
Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual and others)		The impact is positive on sexual orientation as the re-organisation of traditional older people's services releases resources for more personalised services that are more flexible to the needs of diverse groups	
Age (children and young people aged 0 – 24, adults 25 – 50, younger older people 51 – 75/80; older older people 81+. Age bands are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs)			This will have a disproportionate impact upon Older People who have chosen to attend traditional services provided directly by the Council. To mitigate this all service users affected will be offered the opportunity

			to have their entire care package reviewed and any unmet needs met.
Care Experienced (all young people and adults who have been in the care of Cheshire West and Chester Council - for a period of 13 weeks or more - from the age of 14 years. This includes those children/young people for whom the Council currently or have previously held corporate parenting responsibilities)	The people using the service are all older people over the age of 65 and this doesn't apply		
Carers (people who care for others, informally or formally)			This project will cause some disruption for the carers of people using the current service. To mitigate any negative effects all carers of people using the service will be offered the opportunity to have their needs as a carer assessed or reviewed to ensure they have adequate support in their caring role

Rural communities		There is a positive impact on Rural communities as this project will free up resources used in urban areas to create more personalised services and encourage local community based services in Rural areas.	
Areas of deprivation (include any impact on people living in poverty who may not live in areas identified as deprived)			There will be a reduction in traditional day Care services for older people in Ellesmere Port and Winsford that are recognised as deprived areas. This will be mitigated by the greater availability of resources to create more personalised support.
Human rights (see guidance note for key areas to consider)	There are no negative or positive impacts upon individual Human Rights		
Health and wellbeing and Health Inequalities (consider the wider determinants of health such as education, housing, employment, environment, crime			The proposal to cease offering traditional Older People's Day Services from locations in Winsford and Ellesmere Port will

and transport, plus impacts on lifestyles and effects on health and care services)			potentially have a disproportionately negative impact upon two of the more deprived areas of the borough. This will be mitigated by releasing resources for more personalised care.
Procurement/partnership (if project due to be carried out by contractors/partners etc, identify steps taken to ensure equality compliance)			The proposal involves soft market testing for alternative providers and efforts to bolster and support universal community services including “Dementia Cafes” and similar support groups. Local Authority Commissioners are ensuring equality compliance is part of this process.

Evidence

As we are unable to include embedded items in documents for publication on the website, evidence submitted, including Day Centre alternatives and Dementia activities are available on request from equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Action plan:

Actions required	Priority	Outcomes required	Officer responsible	Review date
<p>Communications with Service Users, staff and Council Members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Member Briefing• All families affected have been individually contacted by telephone and a letter issued including;<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An invitation to a face to face meeting at Ellesmere Port and Meadowbank Lodge2. The offer of an Adult Social Care review or assessment3. A list of local alternative services in the borough• Face to face and written communication with staff affected.	High	<p>To manage the anxiety and expectations of those affected.</p> <p>To ensure Council Members are able to respond appropriately to members of the public</p>	Alistair Jeffs, Simon Smith, Denise Whiteland	3 July 2025
<p>Scoping of alternative community services for the families affected</p> <p>Details available by emailing equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</p>	High	<p>To ensure all the service users affected have alternative services in place to meet their needs including those who currently fund their own care. To ensure families and informal</p>	Michelle Taylor, Lisa Charters, Gemma Baxter	3 July 2025

		carers do not experience increased pressure as a result of the change in service.		
Desktop review of service users affected to establish their level of need and urgency of response. Offer of assessment and re-assessment as appropriate	High	To ensure the wellbeing of all service users affected by this change and support them with alternatives where the assessment indicates this is appropriate. To prevent social isolation by connecting people with services in their local community.	Simon Smith	1 August 2025

Sign off	
Lead officer:	Simon Smith
Approved by Tier 4 Manager:	Alistair Jeffs
Moderation and/or Scrutiny	
Date: Moderation Panel 23 July 2025	
Date analysis to be reviewed based on rating (high impact – review in one year, medium impact - review in two years, low impact in three years)	