

Committee for Employment and Learning Visit Report

Oakridge, Social Education Centre, Dungannon, 14 May 2014

Background

As part of its Inquiry into Post School Special Educational Need Provision in Northern Ireland the Committee for Employment and Learning agreed, to go on a study visit to Oakridge, Social Education Centre, Dungannon.

Attendees

The following Committee Members attended:

Mr Robin Swann MLA, Chairperson
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA

Mrs Cathie White - Clerk to the Committee for Employment and Learning
Mr Vincent Gribbin – Assistant Clerk to the Committee for Employment and Learning

Southern Health & Social Care Trust representatives:

Dessie Cunningham, Supported Living and Day-care Service Manager
Margaret McShane, Service Manager
Leeanne Cornett, Assistant Manager
Geraldine Dinsmore, Community Access Manager
Valerie Berry, Community Access Officer

Meeting

On arrival the Committee received a presentation on the work of the Southern Health & Social Care Trust regarding individuals with learning disabilities (a copy of the presentation is attached) followed by an informal discussion. The Committee was then given a brief tour of the facilities available.

Issues raised

- Children's services are better resourced than adult services.
- Resourcing Transforming Your Care is a problem.

- The staff acknowledge that the Oakridge building is inadequate – the RQIA did not raise it as a problem.
- It is a challenge to accommodate highly complex service users in the space available at Oakridge.
- Representatives noted that there are failures and that there has to be certainty over the right facilities for individual's needs.
- Community Access teams oversee services for those with learning and physical disabilities because there is very often an overlap in need.

Southern Health & Social Care Trust DMHD Post 19 provision



Transforming Your Care

Vision

Southern Trust believes 'Community First' should be the basis upon which all community support and day care service should be founded.

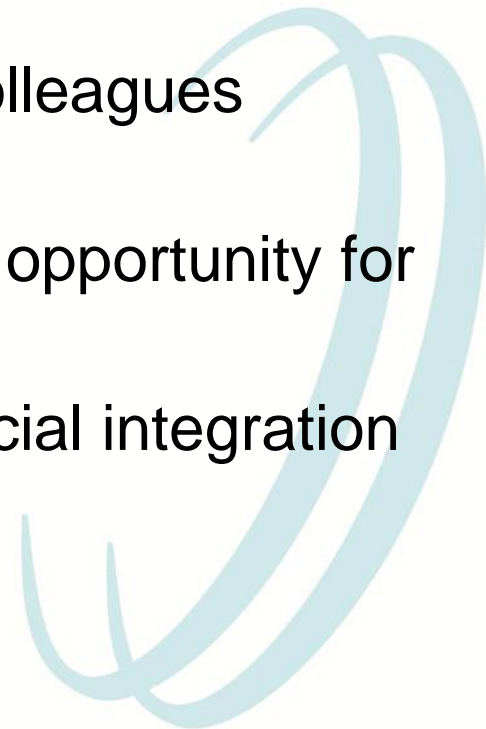


Southern Health
and Social Care Trust



Key components of vision

- Partnership working with service users and families in planning and achieving high quality person centred outcomes
- Identify barriers that restrict true access to community activities
- Establish systems to overcome barriers
- Maintain close working relationships with colleagues across multi disciplinary/agency settings
- Highlight, promote and establish equality of opportunity for disabled persons with all relevant bodies
- Truly embrace principles of enablement, social integration and inclusion



Pathways

- Buildings based day care – regulated services (RQIA)
- Community Access/Day Time Opportunities
- Specialist services



Current building based Day Care

- Newry & Mourne Locality – Windsor Day Centre, Newry; Laurels Centre, Newry; Crossmaglen Day Centre (plans for replacement centre)
- Craigavon Locality – Bannvale SEC at Gilford; Eden SEC in Portadown
- Banbridge Locality -Banbridge SEC (new con joined centre in progress)
- Armagh & Dungannon Locality- Appleby SEC, Armagh; Mc Cague Day Centre in Aughnacloy; Coalisland Day Centre; Oakridge SEC in Dungannon (plans for replacement centre)



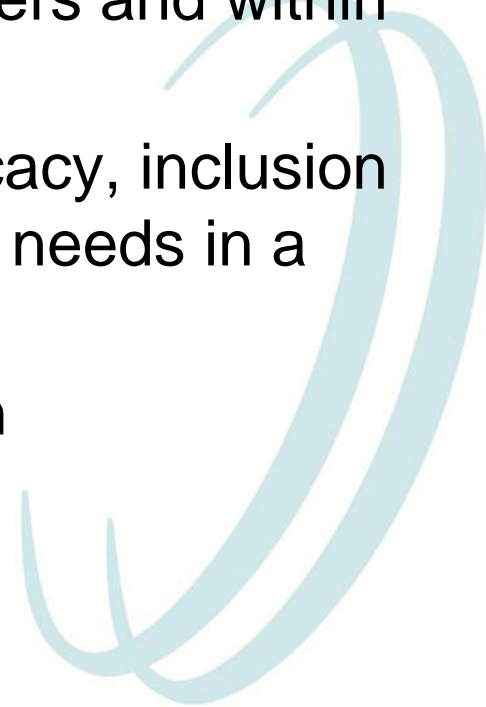
Future plans for buildings based day care

- Day Care services will be for those persons assessed as having the most complex care and support needs requiring intensive rehabilitation, on-going care and support in a specialist environment.
- Staff skills mix in day care services will extend to support implementation of rehabilitative and maintenance programmes.



Philosophy/principles of building based day care

- Person Centred Model of Care
- Needs led service
- Partnership working with service users, carers and within the Trust
- Promote independence, develop self advocacy, inclusion and meet physical, personal and emotional needs in a dignified, private and fulfilling manner.
- Look beyond traditional models of provision



Community Access

The Community Access Service aims to establish and maintain links with Service Users within local communities who can support a person with a disability to fulfil their wishes and ambitions whether these be Work, Leisure, Training, Volunteering, Social or Education.



Community access

The Community Access Generic Service promotes:

- Valued inclusion in the Community
 - Equality of Opportunity
 - Choice for Service Users



Community access

The Community Access Generic Service

- Plans and develops community-based opportunities to link persons with disabilities with leisure, social training, supported employment, education, volunteering and enterprise opportunities in their local area;
- Maintains close working relationships with colleagues across other departments in the Trust, Private, Voluntary, Community and Statutory Organisations in creating and maintaining a range of person-centred community-based activities for persons referred to the service;
- Works in partnership with Service Users and their families in achieving high quality outcomes within Day Time Opportunities Programmes;
- Highlights and promotes equality of opportunity for disabled persons with all relevant organisations.



Community access

Examples of opportunity

- Clanrye IT, Clanrye Training for Success Programme, Clanrye Retail
- Mencap
- Appleby Print It; Appleby Trust
- Southern Western College; Southern Regional College
- Artscare
- Partnership opportunities with local councils
- Leisure/physical activity programmes e.g REACH and Active Communities



Challenges Encountered

- Funding streams – post 19 funding
- Inter agency partnership challenges
- Transport
- Boundaries and catchment areas



Having a Good Day

- Developing the community infrastructure is essential: community changing facilities, better transport, accessible public spaces, and relevant college courses, and so on. But it has to be accompanied by support provided by people with the right skills and approach to achieve community inclusion.'

ADULTS' SERVICES: SCIE GUIDE 16 How we can help people to 'have a good day'



Finally

- **“You are not here merely to make a living. You are here to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, and with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget this errand”.**
- Woodrow Wilson

