

Mayor and Cabinet			
Report title	Response to Comments from the Healthier Communities Select Committee on the Recommissioning of building-based day services for older adults		
Contributors	Mayor and Cabinet	Item No.	
Class	Part 1	Date	30 October 2019

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee arising from discussions held at its meeting on Tuesday 8 October 2019.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to note the views of the committee as set out in section three of this referral and agree to provide a response.

## 3. Healthier Communities Select Committee views

- 3.1 At its meeting on Tuesday 8 October 2019, the Healthier Communities Select Committee received a report on the outcome of the consultation on proposed changes to building-based day services for older adults.
- 3.2 The committee received reports from council officers and took evidence from members of the public, including a Professor of Caribbean Literature and Culture at Goldsmiths University, Professor Joan Anim-Addo.
- 3.3 After questioning and discussion the committee resolved to refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet in the following terms:

- *The committee noted that travel modelling on the proposed changes shows that no current service user would need to be in transport for longer than an hour each way in order to get to the Calabash Centre, but the committee expressed concern about the potentially severe impact of increased journey times on frail and older people, including those who have not previously needed to travel or use transport to access this service.*
- *The committee noted that an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) had been carried out as part of the consultation on the proposed changes, but requests that the EIA is revisited to have regard to the points made in evidence to the committee about the significance of the day services at the Calabash Centre to the African and Caribbean community and ageing well.*
- *The committee noted that some service users had strongly objected in the consultation to any relocation of services and noted the concerns expressed in the evidence to the committee from members of the public, and expressed concern about the potential impact on service users' wellbeing and the inherent potential for incidences of racism from moving and combining the various groups of service users.*

- *Therefore, the committee requests that the Mayor and Cabinet delays taking a decision on this matter until the points above have been fully considered and the EIA revisited.*

#### **4. Response**

##### ***Transport***

- 4.1 The report set out the maximum travel time for routes if the whole transport offer to the single service proposed at the Calabash Centre were to be delivered by the current transport provider, Voluntary Services Lewisham (VSL). The Council is committed to keeping travel times to day services at a minimum.
- 4.2 The report sets out that current average journey times for people attending Cinnamon Court and Cedar Court day services are between 30 and 45 minutes. This means that some journeys are shorter and some are longer. Therefore, some existing service users are already travelling for just under an hour.
- 4.3 The report references ‘under an hour’ for the purposes of modelling by the current transport providers: this also means that some of the journeys would be shorter but that all will be less than an hour.
- 4.4 It is noted that some of the people who are affected by these proposals do not currently have to travel because they are also resident in the Extra Care services at Cinnamon Court and Cedar Court. It is noted that 7 of the 16 extra care residents who attend day services on site previously travelled to day services. Of the other 9 extra care residents who attend day services on site, 5 are from Cinnamon Court and 4 are from Cedar Court.
- 4.5 The review of Transport which is underway is highlighting that there is capacity in the Council’s fleet which could also be used. Officers will closely monitor travel time and explore individual approaches to minimising travel time using its current transport fleet, its current partner VSL, and commissioning taxis where that is appropriate. Within the bounds of affordability the Council will routinely explore options to personalise transport arrangements around individual choice and needs.

##### ***Equalities Impact Assessment***

- 4.6 The Equalities Impact Assessment relates to the specific change to the commissioned day service for older adults.
- 4.7 The Equalities Assessment Analysis that was completed and submitted with the report to Mayor and Cabinet on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 is 20 pages and considered all of the current data about service users and the wider Lewisham population. This has been refreshed to take into consideration the views expressed at Healthier Communities Select Committee and has been resubmitted with the original report to the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 Mayor and Cabinet.
- 4.8 Professor Anim-Addo’s presentation to Healthier Communities Select Committee highlighted the importance of the Calabash Centre to the African and Caribbean community. However, the recommendations do not affect the Active Elders Groups operating at the Calabash Centre. Therefore the recommendation will not have the impact of increasing social isolation in the general Africa Caribbean population. The Active Elders Groups are well established in the Centre and offer a wide range of activities for people who do not meet the eligibility threshold for adults who do not meet eligibility for Council Funded Services. The Caribbean Social Forum in Greenwich which meets once a week for 3 hours was specifically referenced by

Professor Anim-Addo. Lewisham's existing African Caribbean Active Elders group matches this offer and meets 2 days a week between 10 and 4.

- 4.9 Officers acknowledge the significance of the Calabash Centre to the African Caribbean population and its history. The report sets out ways in which the Council will seek to strengthen the Active Elders Groups. The Centre is already used by a diverse range of organizations from a diverse range variety of different communities. This reflects the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme which sets the Council's objective to increase mutual understanding and respect within and between communities.
- 4.10 The Council has not carried out specific research regarding how well Caribbean Elders (or indeed any group) are informed about care options available in the borough. When people meet eligibility for funded services, the social worker allocated to them will discuss how their needs can be met in a personalized way and talk to them about services that meet their specific needs including cultural needs. This is in line with the Council's statutory obligations under the Care Act.

#### ***Potential impact of combining services and relocation***

- 4.11 The Council recognises people's lived experience of racism. There is no evidence to support the suggestion that there would be an increased potential for incidences of racism from the proposed changes. Across Cedar Court and Cinnamon Court 23% of people using day services are from African Caribbean backgrounds and 13% from other BAME communities. Throughout the consultation with service users and their families no concern about racist attitudes or behaviours have been raised.
- 4.12 Nevertheless, the Council applies a zero tolerance approach to discrimination of any kind and will work closely with the provider and service users to take immediate action should any instances of discrimination arise.
- 4.13 The strong views against the re-location of services were raised by people attending Cedar Court day services. People were satisfied with their current service and were concerned about potential changes. As stated in the report, officers organised a supported visit to the Calabash Centre for service users from Cedar Court and Cinammon Court which provided an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the proposed service location and this familiarisation will continue through any implementation period.

#### ***Deferral of decision from 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019***

- 4.14 As requested by Healther Communities Select Committee in its referral, Mayor and Cabinet deferred consideration of this item at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 The Constitution provides for select committees to make recommendations to the Executive or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.

6.2 Other legal implications are as set out in the report.

## **7. Further Implications**

7.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental or crime and disorder implications to consider. Equalities implications are considered in the report and the accompanying Equalities Analysis Assessment.

### **Background papers**

[Healthier Communities Select Committee Agenda \(8 October 2019\)](#)

If you have any queries on this report, please contact John Bardens (Scrutiny Manager) on 020 8314 9976.