

Improving Day Opportunities for adults with a learning disability



easy
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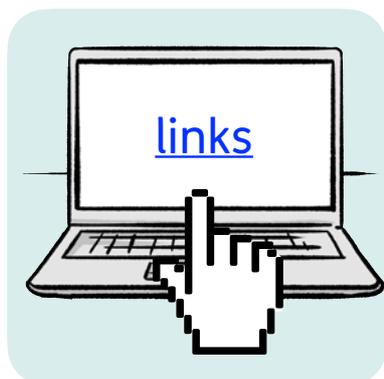
Contents

Page

Introduction	3
Day services at the moment	5
The 100 day challenge	8
Ideas to improve day services	15
3 ideas for the future	20
What next?	25
For more information	26



In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction



The Royal Borough of Greenwich Council is looking to improve our day services for people with a learning disability - called Day Opportunities.



This Easy Read information explains:

- our day services at the moment.



- what we learnt from speaking to people who use day services and provide day services.



- ideas to improve day services.



- 3 ideas for the future.



We will be asking people what they think about the ideas for the future between January and March this year.

Why we want to improve services



We want to improve day services for people with a learning disability as part of our promise to make Royal Greenwich:

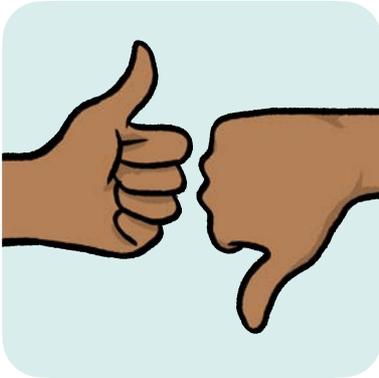


- a healthier place.
- a place where people can afford the things they need and want.
- a great place to be.
- a strong, exciting and well-run borough.

Day services at the moment



The Royal Borough of Greenwich runs day services for people with a learning disability.



People like using this service, but it doesn't always help people to do the activities they want to do.



Other people use **direct payments** to take part in activities in their local area.

A **Direct Payment** is money given to you by the Council to pay for your own support.

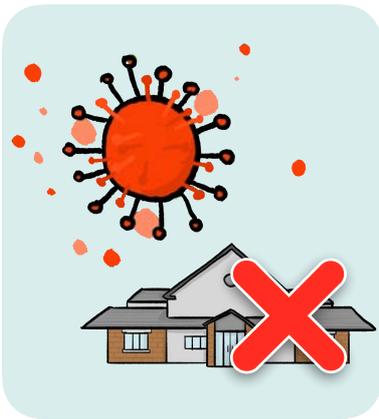


At the moment, there are not enough different things for people to do in their local area.



Fewer people

Fewer people are using The Day Opportunities Service.



COVID-19

COVID-19 is an illness that has spread around the world. It can affect your lungs and breathing.

We had to close our Day Opportunities Service buildings to keep people safe from COVID-19.



Instead we ran other types of activities, like:

- walking.
- visiting gardens.



- online video meetings.



- collecting medicines and shopping for people.
- arranging for people to meet up together so they didn't get too lonely.



These other activities helped us to think about what day services could be like in the future.



People's needs

In November 2020, our Community Learning Disabilities Team (CLDT) talked to the 97 people who use the Council's day services.



36 people needed to go to a building for their support in the day.



61 people were able to go to activities in their local area.

The 100 day challenge



We asked **Ideas Alliance** to support us to look at how we can improve day services in the future.

Ideas Alliance is an organisation that supports other organisations to work together with local communities.



They supported us to work together with over 100 people, including:

- adults with a learning disability.
- families and carers of people with a learning disability.
- organisations that run day services for people with a learning disability.





- groups that support people with a learning disability or their families.



- advocacy groups. These help people to speak up for themselves.



- people who work for the Council.



- other local people who are interested.



Ideas Alliance held 3 big meetings where people could all talk together about what they wanted from day services in the future. This was called the ‘100 day challenge’.



What is important for people

People talked about what was important for them.



This included:

- friendships, relationships and meeting up with friends and family.



- getting a job.



- taking part in things.



- being able to travel.



- support to do good activities in the daytime.



- staying safe and healthy.



- having hopes and dreams for the future.



- having your own interests and making your own choices.



- feeling strong enough to:
 - say what you think.
 - do what you want to do.



- giving everyone a chance to be involved.



- getting the help and support you need to make a change.



Young people with a learning disability want different things than older people.



Young people want a different kind of day service.



What should change?

During the 100 day challenge people said that day services should change so that:

- there is a building which can be used by lots of different people.



- people should be able go out from this building to take part in activities in the local area.



During the 100 day challenge people also said that:

- the Council should set up places that people can go to get any council service. This would be instead of having to go to different places for different services.



- there should be a group that carries on meeting to make sure there are no problems when making the changes.



- council staff should carry on working together with people with a learning disability, families, carers and organisations that run services.



- there should be regular meetings for people who care for people with a learning disability.

Ideas to improve day services



To improve day services we want:

- people to be able to use day services at the times that suit them.



- services to be right for each individual person.



- people to be able to do things that they want to do.



- people to spend their days doing things that are important to them.



A new base

We are thinking about having a **multi-use hub** at Sherard Road.

A **multi-use hub** means a building where lots of things take place and can be used by lots of different organisations and services.



We are thinking that 100 people will use this new day service. 40 of these people will use the hub and 60 people will go to activities in the local area.

The hub would also be open in the evenings and at weekends.



There would be a garden project which would be great for people with a learning disability.



The Council would run the hub and other organisations would run the activities in the local area.



Direct payments

With a direct payment you can choose support that is right for you.

You can have more control over the support services you use.



We want more people to have a direct payment.

We think that more people will be using direct payments in the future.



More different services

We are helping organisations set up more services for people with a learning disability in Greenwich.

We want services that:

- help you to get ready for a job.
- support you when you are starting a new job.
- help you to be volunteer - this means you give your time and help without getting paid for it.





We are also looking at activities that help you meet other people, like:

- drama groups.
- arts groups.
- music clubs.
- learning new skills.



People have also said they would be interested in:

- gardening.
- swimming.
- horse-riding.



- a disco.
- dancing.



- cooking.
- relationships.
- going to concerts.



Services for carers

We want health services to meet up with carers to look out what help and support they need.



Transport

We are thinking about what transport people will need to be able to use day services.



We also want to help people learn how to use public transport, like buses.

3 ideas for the future



The Council has 3 ideas for day services in the future:



Option 1

To have a multi-use hub run by the Council with activities run by local services.

What is good about Idea 1?

Idea 1 is good because:

- it will give people the services they asked for during the 100 day challenge.
- it is flexible and open in evenings and weekends.
- it offers a different type of service to young people.
- you can choose what you want to do.



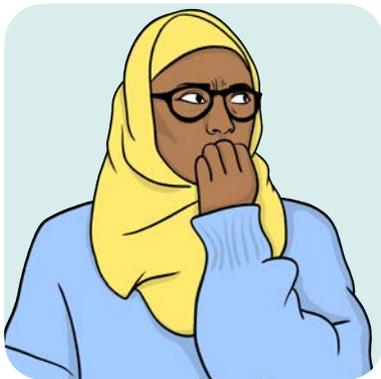


- it involves more people from the local community.
- it helps people have their own direct payment.
- there are more options to choose from.
- you can learn new skills and train to get a job.



What might be difficult?

With Idea 1:



- people might be worried about the changes.
- it may cost more money in the beginning.
- it might need fewer council staff.



- it will be a lot of work setting up the new activities in the local community.
- some families are not interested in direct payments yet.



Idea 2

To give everyone direct payments so they can go out and find the activities and support services they want.

What is good about Idea 2?

Idea 2 is good because:

- it is easier to set up.
- it gives people the chance to choose what they want.



What might be difficult?

With Idea 2:

- it doesn't give people all the things they asked for during the 100 day challenge.
- it would be a big change for some families. Some families may find it very hard.





Idea 3

We do nothing and keep day services the same as they are now.

What is good about Idea 3?

Idea 3 is good because:

- people will carry on getting the service that they are used to.
- people won't be worried about change.



What might be difficult?

With Idea 3:

- we will not be giving people what they want.



- we will not be offering a new type of service to young people.



- people will have less choice.



- people won't be able to get out and about in the local area so much.



- we won't be working so much with other organisations.



- people won't be able to get a service in the evenings and at the weekend.



What do we think?

Now that we have listened to people, the Council agrees that Idea 1 is better.

What next?



Between Wednesday, 5 January 2022 and Thursday, 24 March 2022 we will ask more people what they think about Idea 1.



Big bosses at the Town Hall will accept the idea that most people want The Day Opportunities Service to be like in the future.

Big bosses means the people who run and manage the Council.

For more information



You can look at our website here:

www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk



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