

We outlined the upcoming changes to services for 2021 in our communication dated 3 December.

From this point on we will send out regular communications to everyone involved keeping you up to date with the progress on these changes.

We hope you find this useful and we look forward to your feedback.

Day Services - Astley

The contract with Certitude will come to an end on 31st March 2021.

We will be going out to tender for a new provider to deliver a complex needs day service on the Astley site from 1st April 2021.

The Astley building after this date will continue to be used by our complex needs service users and will also continue to be open 5 days per week. The Mencap service that runs from the Astley site on a Saturday will continue as will the Step Forward work access programme.

We are looking at the possibility of expanding the opening times to include evenings and weekends.

Day Services – Other Building Based Day Services

These building-based services are being developed for our less complex service users. These sites will be the start and finish points for all activities.

Potential providers have been asked to provide a draft proposal of weekly activities they feel they could offer from April 2021.

Once we have this information, we will share this with you to receive your feedback on their proposals.

We are asking providers to create morning and afternoon sessions which could be combined to provide a full day of activities for individuals if they so wish. Some of these activities will take place on site and others in the community as appropriate.

The day service providers will be required to engage with service users, families and carers to understand the services people would like to see in the Borough and to tailor their proposals in line with the feedback received.

These services could be operational from April 2021 subject to the providers having staff and buildings ready.

Again, we are looking at the possibility of expanding the opening times to include evenings and weekends.

Since our last communication we have had confirmation that we should be able to continue utilising Kentwood and Cotmandene as sites where these services could operate from.

We have also been liaising with one of our Extra Care Housing landlords to understand how we could utilise some of the spare capacity in three of their buildings – these sites providing changing facilities.

Respite – 118 Widmore Road

We have started direct negotiation with a provider for them to take over the service from 1st April 2021.

There will be no change in the respite capacity at 118.

The expectation is that, over the two year contract, the provider will be looking to transform this service as the site lends itself to potential dual usage for both respite and day services.

We are also looking at expanding other forms of respite, such as house sitting to broaden the base of respite which could be offered within the Borough.

Supported Living

There are a number of supported living properties currently supported by Certitude. The contract for these will also come to an end on 31st March 2021.

We have gone out to tender for a new provider and will be awarding a new contract in early February.

Care Management

We will be bringing in additional care managers to focus on reviewing individual service user needs in relation to their Day Service, they will be discussing and agreeing with you which service you will attend. It is worth repeating that there will be no change to the current level or frequency of service that you used to access.

FAQ

Staff – for all three existing service areas the current staff will be offered the opportunity to transfer to the new providers

Service User & Parent/carer engagement – Obviously during these difficult times we are unable to engage with everyone as we would want. We are working with Bromley Mencap and the Parents of Astley group to facilitate virtual engagement sessions in the new year.

We would encourage you to participate as we want to hear your views and comments.

In the meantime, you can email LD.Transformation@bromley.gov.uk or pass your comments to either a parent representative or Bromley Mencap who will forward them to us.

Service Users can also contact us directly, or use Bromley Mencap, Advocacy for All or any other organisation to support them in having their voice heard.

Andrew Royle

Strategic Commissioner

Helen Copeland

Strategic Commissioner