

Appendix One **Capital Spend- Barnstondale Proposal**

Together for Disabled Children issued guidance with a set of prompts to support the planning of the capital element of the project.

This has emphasised the need for a '**Strategic approach to needs and provision**', for which they have listed 8 key elements to. By considering each of these elements will assist each local authority with planning how to spend their allocation appropriately.

BACKGROUND

The agreed short break strategy included the explicit desire to invest capital funds in to a larger scale initiative to provide a sustainable legacy for short breaks provision on Wirral, developing a short breaks provision to meet the needs of young people and their families.

PROPOSAL

The Barnstondale Centre became a registered charity in 1988. It provides residential and recreational centre which, in particular, seeks to enrich the lives of socially disadvantaged young people.

The proposal is to develop a third 'log cabin' on the site which will contain bedrooms for young people who require a carer to be present with them during the night, appropriate changing facilities for those with a high level of personal care needs and development of a soft play/sensory area.

Below is an account of the planning process taken in order to reach this proposal following the 8 elements listed in the guidance from Together for Disabled Children.

1. Needs Assessment

Barnstondale is the only facility of its kind based in the Wirral. The site is currently used for some activities for disabled children including activity days, over night stays and school residential trips. This usage by groups of young people with disabilities has increased significantly over the past few years, this has however identified areas of need for developments.

Elements of the facility are not fully inclusive. In particular the changing facilities are not appropriate. A young person with specific personal care needs cannot attend Barnstondale as the facilities would not enable them to be changed in a safe and dignified way.

There is no accommodation that can be used for a young person who requires an over night carer.

The are also limited activities for young children (aged 0-5) and children with complex disabilities and limited mobility; a soft play would be ideal for both groups.

2. Long Term Sustainability

The advantage of investing in this facility is the sustainability it can offer. The charity has evidenced the ability to provide a high quality service with a robust

financial model. The local authority will contribute a maximum of £450,000 to the proposal and Barnstondale will contribute the remaining figure (to be confirmed). All maintenance and running costs will be their responsibility and of no further charge to the local authority. The Aiming High for Disabled Children project will support with the advertisement and promotion of the facility/services and the usage development group will devise a clear usage strategy to ensure it is utilised to full capacity and the model is sustainable. This will enable Barnstondale to build up a core market of users.

3. Link with Revenue Funding

Through the commissioning process for the revenue allocation we awarded a contract to Crossroads for Carers to deliver 6 residential weekends per year at Barnstondale. The feedback from families has been excellent. These weekends have identified two needs:

1. More of these are needed- They have been extremely popular and currently capacity can't meet demand.
2. As detailed above the need for improved changing facilities and accommodation for young people with high personal care requirements is needed to ensure the site is fully inclusive and the weekends can be offered to all young people. At present some young people have not been able to attend.

Some of the feedback from young people has been:

'I done things I thought I could not do'

'I have a rocking time and I wont to come back'

'It was a great experience I got myself a girlfriend'

Cost/Benefit analysis

A further design meeting has confirmed that Barnstondale trustees are agreed to do further fundraising to create the best possible facility to meet the needs assessment. This will exceed the original expectations of this proposal.

A full cost/benefit analysis can not be done at this point but the the £450,000 investment from the Aiming High for Disabled Children capital grant will achieve maximum benefits as the facility will be solely used to offer short breaks to young people with disabilities.

Expenditure must enhance Short break provision

This proposal clearly develops short breaks. The usage development group will finalise this but the original ideas are to offer a portfolio of short breaks, offering choice and range. This will include a mixture from 2 hour sessions to full residential weekends. There will also be mixture of young people attending

independently for which appropriate care will be provided and the opportunity for families to partake in activities as a whole.

Timescales

Timescales for the project have been discussed with the management of Barnstondale Centre and the Local Authority Technical Services team who will manage the project delivery. Both parties are confident developments would be completed by March 2011.

Consultation

Three stages of consultation have been carried out for this proposal:

Phase One- initial outlines

The need for outdoor and residential provision such as available at Barnstondale was first highlighted as a priority for families during the planning phase of the overall project. Families highlighted the following key points:

- Local Authority residential provision is not always appropriate depending on the age, ability and interests of the young people.
- Families find it difficult to find residential stays that can accommodate all of the family.
- The benefits of the site as in location, it is on the Wirral and very near to the local hospital.

Phase Two- Family Fun Day

In July 2009 we held a family Fun day at Barnstondale, at which a total of 55 families and 94 children attended. The feedback on the facility was very positive but highlighted some of the needs for development. Some of the key comments included:

- Well laid out, easily accessible.
- Wonderful, easy to access, well kept and well designed for all abilities.
- Excellent facilities
- 77% of people thought the venue was very good.
- This is an excellent place

- Childs name would like to live here.
- A few more activities for 0 – 5 years old children, soft play would be good.
- More activities for those with more complex disabilities, for example soft play.

Also on this day it was required to transport equipment including hoists and changing beds to the site as some of the care needs of the young people were not available.

Phase Three- Wirral Family Consultation Forum

After a meeting with Barnstondale and the Capital working group an outline of the proposed development was presented to the Wirral Family Consultation forum. The minutes from that meeting stated:

'It was felt that the Barnstondale development best fitted the funding criteria, was an appropriate use of capital and best met children's and families needs.'

On going consultation

This consultation will continue ensuring the key stakeholders are involved in this development through the governance.

The proposed structure to oversee these developments is:

Design Planning Group, members will be:

- Local Authority Technical service representative
- Occupational Therapist from children with Disabilities team
- Local Authority Access Officer
- Special School Headteacher representative
- Parent representative
- Aiming High for Disabled Children Project Manager

Usage Development Committee, members will be:

- Representatives from Barnstondale
- Aiming High for Disabled Children Project Manager
- Aiming High for Disabled Children Project Development Officers
- Special School Headteacher representative
- Parent representative
- Extended Schools representative
- Young person representatives

These two committees will feed into an overall project management committee which will consist of:

- Business manager for Barnstondale
- Aiming High for Disabled Children Project Manager
- Project Manager from Technical Services team

This committee will report to Barnstondale Board of Trustees and Aiming High for Disabled Children Executive Group.