

Appendix A: Covid-19 delegated decision-making form

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COVID 19 DELEGATED DECISION MAKING UNDER PART E 3.3 OF BCC'S CONSTITUTION

Decision Maker:	Director Adult Social Care
Service area:	Adult Social Care
Cabinet Member(s) briefed:	Councillor Hamilton
Date of Decision:	14 th April 2021
Key Decision (Y/N)	Yes

1. Summary of the decision including relevant background

Following the governments national guidance in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, centre based day opportunities services were closed from March 2020.

In line with the relaxing of restrictions announced by Government on 22 February 2021, and published Covid 19 Response – Spring 2021 'Roadmap out of Lockdown', **it is proposed to reopen both internal and external centre based day opportunity services on a phased approach commencing on 26 April 2021.**

Although the roll out of the Covid19 vaccinations is progressing at speed, it is recognised not everyone has elected to receive the vaccination to date and as a result, implementation of robust infection control measures will underpin the re-opening plans. These measures will mean that centre based day opportunity services will look very different for the foreseeable future such that the number of people that centre based day opportunities services can accommodate daily will be reduced, how transport and meals are provided will be changed, citizens will be required to socially distance and handwash regularly and may be allocated to small groups (bubbles) when accessing centre based services.

It is anticipated that Covid 19 infection control restrictions will be applied to the provision of centre based day opportunity services for some time in line with government guidance on social distancing, therefore reopening plans will involve managing risks and being flexible to adapt to changing requirements. Social distancing restrictions will require day centre providers to be flexible in their approach to the provision of day opportunity services, providing access to a mixture of both centre based, online and outreach services for their service users.

The reopening process to be followed acknowledges these challenges and is informed by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) Guidance: Delivering safe, face-to-face adult day care, published on 1st February 2021. The Director of Public Health has been consulted about the proposals.

Risk Assessment:

To support re-opening, robust risk assessment processes are in place for each day centre. Trade Unions and BCC Safety Officers have supported the process for the BCC internal centres. Some BCC internal and external providers operate across multiple sites and these risks have been considered in the risk assessment process. The key issues emerging from risk assessments include access to PPE, safe and

efficient use of transport, provision of meals and refreshments, cleaning regimes, signage, size of rooms to be accessed and impact on daily attendance numbers due to social distancing requirements.

Phased reopening: To support phased re-opening each provider is required to operate robust plans for their service to safely reopen and provide appropriate covid compliant services within centre based day opportunity services that involves the input of families, social workers and service providers. When considering how to safely operate the service within the current and potential future restrictions related to covid guidance, providers and social workers will need to reassess citizens needs.

Vaccinations and Testing:

Since February 2021, both internal and external providers have been able to register for testing through the National Testing Programme and have been sent details to access national testing webinars designed for day centre providers.

The DHSC have recently completed a 3-week rapid lateral flow testing pilot in 13 adult day care centers across England, for staff and service users. The purpose of this pilot was to understand the usability of lateral flow self-tests for day care centers and to identify any improvements that could support centers and staff to follow a testing regime to support safer services. On 8th April 2021 the Adult Social Care NHS Test and Trace notifications service announced that they are still in the process of evaluating the pilot findings including considering improvements to the current testing experience and will provide further updates over the next few weeks. PCR testing remains available for staff, including volunteers.

As of 13th April 2021, all people over the age 50 have been offered or may have already received the first Covid-19 vaccination and increasingly the second, including health and social care staff and those who are classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable as well as carers. This will include the majority of day centre service users and their carers.

The decision to accept a vaccination offer is not compulsory and the Council has no way of identifying which citizens have been vaccinated and those who may not be able to have the vaccine due to medical reasons. In addition, even when staff or service users have had both doses of the Covid 19 vaccine, there remains no absolute guarantee that they will not become ill from Covid 19. The situation remains one of unpredictability due to the risk from variants which could arise at any time therefore, there will remain an unquantified level of risk to be managed when adults return to centre based day opportunities services.

Re-assessing needs and preferences:

It is recommended by SCIE that conversations about the support citizens and their carers will need takes place as soon as possible after a date for reopening is confirmed. BCC and external provider teams have been maintaining regular contact with citizens and their carers throughout the lock down period and as the government 'Roadmap out of Lockdown' guidance for re-opening was published, a process for re-assessing needs and preferences was started to be implemented in anticipation of the re-opening of centre based day opportunity services. Any support needs identified for reassessment will need to be flexible and in line with the Care Act (2014). It is recognised that since centre based day opportunity services were closed, new needs may have emerged for some individuals whilst other individuals may not wish to return to face-to-face services while the risk of COVID-19 persists.

Supporting individuals with transition back into a service:

Consideration of how to support citizens to transition back into a service will be necessary and built into the re-opening plans. Outreach support will continue to be provided for citizens when not attending the centre based day opportunity services because of restrictions, and those who choose to delay returning to their centre. During lockdown outreach support included the provision of phone and online activities, supply of meals, safe and well checks, door-step and garden visits which were Covid 19 compliant, support to carers, assistance with medical appointments and shopping deliveries.

Communication and engagement:

All citizens using services and their families and carers, and key stakeholders will be kept informed of the plans for re-opening.

2. Reason for Decision

Since the closure of centre based day opportunity services in March 2020, insights gathered from cases where additional support has been required, feedback elicited from families and providers, as well as national reporting and research has shown significant increase in:

- reduced social interaction for citizens and carers
- poor physical and mental wellbeing of citizens and carers
- lack of cognitive stimulation for citizens
- breakdown of routines for citizens and carers
- self-harming behaviours of citizens
- aggressive and destructive behaviours by citizens
- fatigue, stress, lack of sleep for carers

As national restrictions ease, vaccinations are rolled out and testing remains available; it is an opportunity to start reopening centre based day opportunity services to support those citizens and carers who require this service and that have been impacted adversely, with a view to reducing, slowly and safely, the negative impacts of closure.

3. Total Value of the decision and Budget Implication

Day Opportunities services have an allocated baseline budget.

Client contributions, assessed in line with the statutory guidance on charging for care and support under the Care Act 2014, have been suspended since March 2020. It is not proposed to reintroduce charging until the reduced model of day care is assessed in terms of long-term impact.

The planned reopening will create some dual running costs and loss of income although it is currently forecast that this will be contained within existing Adult Social Care Budgets. This will be monitored as part of normal budget monitoring processes.

4. Any further risks / issues to note

Risks:

- Delay to reopening will exacerbate further the adverse impacts listed in section 2 above.
- Risk of legal challenge if the Care Act 2014 and the Equality Act 2010 are not adhered to.
- Due to reduced capacity in buildings they will not be able to accommodate all those who have been assessed as needing centre based day opportunity services
- Birmingham is subject to further lock down measures

Mitigations:

- Continued use of infection control measures – social distancing, enhanced cleaning, use of PPE, reduced numbers in attendance

- Increased availability of accessible face to face community-based activity, including access to personal assistant support.
- Risk assessments for all citizens and reassessment if required. Carers continue to be eligible for a Carers Assessment.
- A continued online and outreach activities and support programme by day care and other providers.
- Flexible care packages being supported for as long as building-based day care is subject to restrictions
- Funding for additional care needs because of reduced day care attendance

Monitoring of both centre based and outreach activity will continue.

As the reopening of centre based day opportunity services progresses it will be important to continue to gather insights from citizens and carers to understand the impact of the Covid 19 responsive model of centre based day opportunity services.

5. Approvals

Please provide details of the Finance and Legal Business Partners who were consulted and approved this proposal.

Finance BP name:	Mark Astbury	Date approved:	14 th April 2021
Legal BP name:	Charmaine Murray	Date approved:	14 th April 2021

Formal authority

Signature

Louise Collett

Date

Director Authorisation
Louise Collett

14th April 2021