

Frequently Asked Questions– Better Lives in our Communities

Since the launch of the consultation on 15 October 2024 we have received some questions and requests for further information. This document makes available responses to common questions asked. We will continue to update this document as needed if new common questions emerge.

Update 1 - Date of publication: 2nd December 2024

Consultation Process Questions

1. Is it a forgone conclusion? Has the decision already been made?

No decision has been made. We genuinely want all views and are consulting at a formative stage. A preferred option is identified based on initial consideration of options. However, we welcome views on all options and suggestions. We will carefully be considering consultation responses. This will inform a subsequent decision planned by elected members planned in summer 2025.

2. Will there be an Equality Impact Assessment, and will it include the impact on carers?

Yes. A full Equality Impact Assessment will be published as part of the information made available to the Council's Cabinet to inform a decision, which is anticipated in summer 2025.

3. Will you publish the consultation findings?

Yes. A consultation findings report will be produced which will include a summary of all feedback including key themes from consultation events held, email submissions, and online survey submissions. There will also be analysis of the survey results.

4. What are the timescales for any service changes?

The public consultation will run from Tuesday 15 October 2024 for 12 weeks ending on Tuesday 7 January 2025. There are no immediate changes to service delivery and the Council's Cabinet is anticipated to make a decision following the consultation, in summer 2025.

If a decision is taken to proceed with the preferred option in summer 2025, any changes to services provided would be phased, and a high-level timeline for implementation published as part of the Cabinet papers.

Service Model

5. If you reduce the number of council-run centres what are the alternatives for care and support for adults at those centres affected?

The Council is committed to ensuring continuing care and support for all adults who have been assessed as needing support under the Care Act 2014.

The location of where services are delivered from may change for some adults supported if the Council's current preferred option, as set out in the consultation documents, is adopted.

If a decision is taken to proceed with the preferred option, then the adult social care social worker teams would work on an individual basis with carers/families to determine the best suitable care and support services to meet needs for their loved one.

Care might be provided at an alternative council or external run day centre, shared lives or through a direct payment offer, based on the care plan for each person.

6. How would people travel to their new service, how long would it take and what happens if the new journey isn't suitable for them?

At this stage no decision has been made. If a decision is taken to proceed with changes then there would be a detailed implementation plan to ensure the transition of any moves is managed well. Travel would be discussed as part of individual review process with the social work teams and reflected in a care and support plan. We will ensure that travel time is considered as part of this assessment to ensure it is suitable to meet each person's needs.

7. Will you have enough services to meet the needs of adults in the future and how have you taken this into account in the proposals for change?

It is important that we ensure that we are forward planning in adult social care to meet the needs of young people with special educational needs and disabilities so that we have the right provision in place to meet needs now and for the future within the county. A consultation is currently underway on the Council's [SEND Sufficiency Strategy](#). There is close working between adults and children's services within the Council to ensure that there are effective pathways and support for young people transitioning to adulthood.

Planning in adult social care is informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and other information such as operational data from children's services on children identified as requiring support in the future from adult social care. Adult social care will look to ensure sufficient provision is in place through utilising a wide range of provision to meet needs.

8. How have you taken transport costs into account in your proposal?

The costs for transport are variable and therefore high-level modelling assumptions have been made at this stage. Further modelling will take place next year prior to a decision. The assessment of individual transport arrangements and thereby sourcing of transport to alternative venues will be undertaken following a Cabinet decision on the model, and confirmation of suitable alternative care settings in relation to each individual's needs.

9. With longer journeys meaning there would be additional transport costs, how are you making a saving?

The likely additional costs for transport have been factored into the savings estimated to be achieved from the preferred option. We wouldn't know the precise costs until we know which alternative services people were attending based on their individual reviews and what that meant for their journey.

Buildings

10. What are the plans for the sites you are proposing to no longer use by adult social care?

Under the preferred option identified in the consultation, there are four sites proposed as no longer needed by Adult Social Care:

- Buckingham Day Centre
- Hillcrest Day Centre
- Burnham Day Centre
- Seeleys House

Buckingham Day Centre is proposed to be repurposed as a Special Educational Needs College, alongside continuing to use the building for Furze Down School Sixth Form.

The other sites are proposed for sale or other alternative use if those are decided to be no longer required by Adult Social Care.

External Provision

11. Who are day and overnight respite providers mentioned as having been used by the Council in the consultation documentation?

Day Opportunities providers

Please see list below of the twenty seven day opportunity providers who were providing support to adults with care and support needs (as at 15 October 2024).

Provider	Address
Princes Centre	Clifford Road, Princes Risborough, HP27 0DP Wakeman Road, Wooburn Green, Bourne End, SL8 5SX
Bucks Mind Southern Day Services	Nancy Hall Court, The Homestead, High Wycombe, HP12 4NZ

Bucks Mind Day Service	Desborough Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2QR Granville Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2JR Church Street, Chesham, HP5 1HU Gravel Hill, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9QX
Ravenswood Foundation Day Care	Nine Mile Ride, Crowthorne, RG45 6BQ
Wycombe Mind	Easton Street, High Wycombe, HP11 1NT
Talkback	Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, HP6 5AH
Headway (South Bucks)	Wakeman Road, Wooburn Green, Bourne End, SL8 5SX
Macintyre (42a Haddon)	Haddon, Milton Keynes, MK8 9HP
Social Link	Desborough Street, High Wycombe, HP11 2LY
Missenden Walled Garden	London Road, Great Missenden, HP16 0BD
Virtus Care Services Ltd	Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2NQ
LD Outreach Rehabilitation	Borehamwood, WD6 1JN
Innovation	Cowley Business Park, Uxbridge, UB8 2AD
Thrift Activity Farm	Buckingham Road, Whaddon, MK17 0EQ
Caribbean Elderly Day Centre	Lady Verney Close, High Wycombe, HP13 6TB
Step In Cafe	Desborough Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2QA
Step In Arts	Desborough Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2QA
Onward Enterprise Cic	The Broadway, Amersham, HP7 0UT
Nightingale House Day Service	College Road, Hitchin, SG5 1SD
Aylesbury Youth Motor Project	Edison Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8TE
Source Group (Oak Lodge)	Frogmoor, High Wycombe, HP13 5ES
Snap	Bourton Low, Walnut Tree, Milton Keynes, MK7 7DE
Camphill MK Communities	Japonica Lane, Willen Park, Milton Keynes, MK15 9JY
The Chiltern Centre	Chilterns End Close, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1SQ
Communikate	Castle End Business Park, Ruscombe, Reading, RG10 9XQ
Nancie Ross Day Centre	Common Road, Flackwell Heath, HP10 9NS
Pennefather Court Day Centre	Croft Road, Aylesbury, HP21 7RA

The list of providers used changes depending on the needs of individuals who require day opportunities and since we have published the consultation documents Pennefather Court has now closed and we are also currently using a new provider Macintyre Kennington (OX1 5PG). Providers in neighbouring council areas are used where this will best meet an

individual’s needs and where this might be nearer depending upon the home address of the resident.

Overnight Respite providers

The table below details the six providers who have provided overnight respite for adults 18-64 in the last year. There is a huge range and type of need in the 18-64 age group including complex disabilities, conditions such as early onset dementia and neurodegenerative conditions such as Parkinson’s or Huntington’s disease. Providers for respite are used based on evidenced ability to meet the specific needs of the individual. Provision in other local authorities, particularly neighbouring councils are used where this is within reasonable travel distance from home to setting and where specialist needs can best be met.

Provider	Address
Jigsaw	77 Russell Street, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 7XG
Whincup Close	6 Whincup Close, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP11 1TD
White Lodge	Bisham Road, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 1RP
Hampden Hall	Tamarisk Way, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP22 5ZB
Farnham Common House	Beaconsfield Road, Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire, SL2 3HU
Chiltern Centre	Greys Road, Henley on Thames, RG9 1QR

We recognise that current overnight respite market for 18-64 is limited within the county. We are working to increase specialist respite provision in Buckinghamshire with providers to ensure there is more available to meet needs.