

Adult Social Care Day and Overnight Respite

Consultation summary

*Better Lives in our
Communities*

Our vision

We want adults with care and support needs to access high quality day opportunities and overnight respite services so that they can live well and independently as part of their communities.



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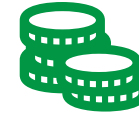
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1. Introduction

We currently have seven council-run and owned Adult Social Care day centres. One of the day centres (Seeleys House) also provides overnight respite.



Council-run centres support **128** adults



The budget for the centres is **£3.4 million**

Our current service model is not sustainable.

Our council-run day centre buildings are underused, some are in poor condition, and the service is not providing value for money.

We know that there is a demand for more community support for younger adults with learning disabilities and less of a need for traditional building-based services.

We also must make savings in Adult Social Care. Improving how we deliver day opportunities and overnight respite services will help achieve these savings.

1. Introduction continued

Our council-run day centres are highly valued and provide a social environment, increase independence and provide respite to carers.

In 2020 there were 330 people accessing the short breaks service and now there are 128. This is a 61% decline in attendance.

The reduction in people using the service is because of several reasons:

- Adult Social Care increasing community-based external services to support independence
- providers of residential and supported living improving their day activities so people don't need to travel to a separate day centre to access support
- a trend in people wanting more personal choice and community-focused services

2. Our vision

We want adults with care and support needs to access high quality day opportunities and overnight respite services so that they can live well and independently as part of their communities.

Our **Better Lives Strategy** sets out our overall vision and approach to supporting adults to live well and live better lives.

Our day opportunities and overnight respite service helps deliver our aspirations for adults:



Better services

Adults are supported to live independently and well.



Better facilities

Council-owned day centres will have high-quality facilities to support adults.



3. Overview of the current service

Overall



83% of adults accessing the council-run day centres have a learning disability and 83% are aged 18-64.



The council's day opportunities and respite service has 97 staff across seven centres.

Day



457 adults are supported to access day opportunities. 76% via local providers and 24% at council-run day centres.



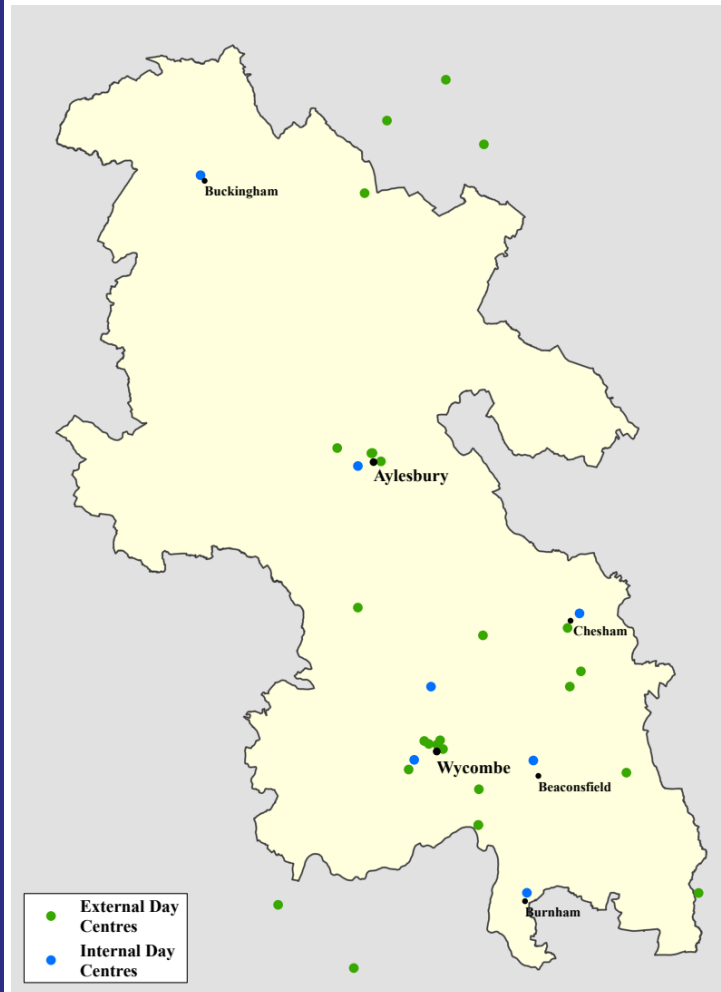
On average each adult supported at the council-run day centres attends for 3.5 days per week.

Overnight



192 adults were supported to access overnight respite in 23/24. 91% through external provision and 9% at the council-run Seeleys House.

3. Overview of the current service – day opportunities



Day Opportunities

Services are delivered from 34 sites.

The majority are in Buckinghamshire.

Some sites are in neighbouring areas where this would better meet needs and be closer to home for those that we support.

7 day centres are council-run.

27 day opportunity providers are externally run.

3. Overview of the current service – overnight respite



Overnight Respite

Overnight respite is supported at 66 sites. This includes delivery from 1 council-run site (Seeleys House) and 65 externally-run sites.

We have used 53 providers for delivering overnight respite over the last year, this includes 6 providers who provided overnight respite for adults 18-64.

We are working to increase specialist respite provision in Buckinghamshire with providers to ensure there is more available to meet needs.

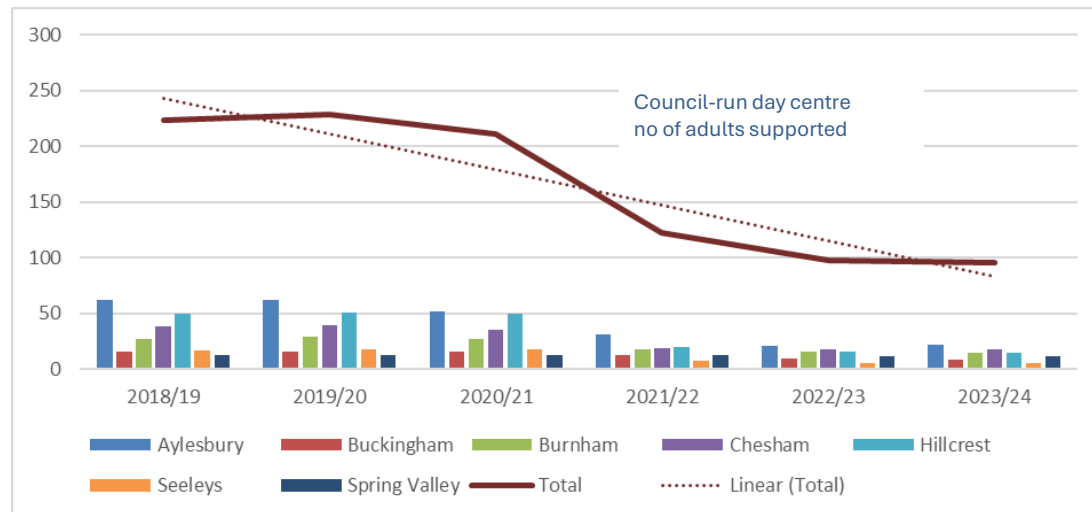
3. Overview of the current service – change in demand

Since 2016, Buckinghamshire has continued to see a rise in the number of children with special educational needs and disabilities. This rise is expected to continue.

A proportion of these young people will continue to need support when they become adults.

We know that there is demand for support to young adults to access mainstream services and live well in the community.

There is a reducing demand for building-based traditional day centres for younger adults at council-run centres.



4. Options for change

We have considered three main options for change:

Option 1: Do nothing/keep all 7 council owned day centres

Option 2: Combine council day centres with more external services

Option 3: Close all council day centres and provide external services only

We have considered each change option against the following key factors:

- **Quality** – to provide high quality services and facilities.
- **Sustainability** – to deliver our long-term vision for the service and meet future needs.
- **Value for Money** – the cost-effectiveness of the service delivery options.

4. Options for change – option 1

Option 1: Do Nothing/ Keep all council day centres

Pros

- No disruption to current staff or adults supported

Cons

- Service model not optimum for meeting the needs of different cohorts
- Continuing poor quality environment at some sites with buildings underused
- Requires capital of £1.75 m for building improvements
- Council-run services are higher costs compared to external ones

4. Options for change – option 2

Option 2 (recommended): Combine council day centres with more external services

Pros

- Higher quality environment by investment in council buildings and improved specialist service
- Easier to recruit and retain staff at the sites
- 30 extra places for young adults in the north of the county with special educational needs and disabilities
- Increased external provision
- Strengthening our community outreach offer for adults with learning disabilities, including supported employment
- Savings of approx. £740,000 per year

Cons

- Impact of changes on those affected by proposed location changes for services
- The Council would no longer have an in-house overnight respite offer at Seeleys House, so would require an increase in external market provision to meet needs

4. Options for change – option 3

Option 3: Close all council day centres and use external services only.

Pros

- Increased capital receipt from sale of buildings
- Increased revenue savings in short term from reduction in staff headcount
- No investment required in centres

Cons

- Impact of changes on families and carers and staff
- Local providers unable to meet all statutory care needs
- Higher costs from a lack of sufficient local provision and increased out of county placements

5. Our preferred option (Option 2)

Option 2: Combine council-run specialist day centres with more external services.

This approach would mean:



We meet the diverse needs of adults by offering different specialist services.



We draw upon a wide-range of external services to meet the needs of adults with less intense support needs and overnight respite.



The council-run day centres would provide high-quality specialist care for adults with complex needs.



One of the day centres (Spring Valley) would continue to support adults with profound autism, as well as learning disabilities.



5. Our preferred option (Option 2) continued



Better services

- Combining our day centres will allow us to provide better specialist care and a more social environment.
- We propose to achieve national autism accreditation at our existing specialist autism day centre (Spring Valley).
- We would work with providers to increase day opportunities and overnight respite.
- We would look to strengthen community outreach, including supported employment for adults with learning disabilities.
- We propose to provide 30 extra educational places for young adults with special educational needs and disabilities in the north of the county from repurposing the Buckingham site.

Better facilities

- We propose to invest in significant improvements at our remaining sites to provide excellent facilities.

5. Our preferred option – proposed sites to keep

Our preferred option is to invest in three high-quality council-owned sites spread across the county, and increase external services.

We have identified the following council sites as preferred for keeping:

- Aylesbury (Aylesbury Opportunity Centre)
- High Wycombe (Spring Valley Day Centre)
- Chesham (Chesham Short Breaks Centre)

A variety of factors have been considered including:

- geographical spread to meet needs
- building condition
- recruitment and retention of staff

5. Our preferred option – sites proposed as no longer needed by Adult Social Care

Sites no longer required by Adult Social Care

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 Furze Down School Sixth Form. The other sites are proposed for sale or other alternative use.

We will continue to provide care and support to everyone to meet their needs, with the location of where services are delivered from changing.

Care might be provided at an alternative council or external run day centre, shared lives or through a direct payment offer.

5. Our preferred option – number of adults supported

Under the preferred option we would invest in our council-owned sites.

We can support more people at the sites we are proposing to keep with the right extra staffing and investment in the buildings.

The table below shows that we can support approximately the same number of adults at a reduced number of buildings.

Preferred Option Sites to be Kept	No. current adults supported	Extra No. adults supported	% increase per centre	Potential optimum No. adults supported
Aylesbury Opportunity Centre	26	24	92%	50
Chesham Short Breaks Centre	19	21	111%	40
Spring Valley Day Centre (High Wycombe area)	17	3	18%	20
Total Adults Supported	52	58	112%	110

5. Our preferred option – number of adults supported continued

The table below shows the overall capacity for day opportunities now and under the preferred model:

	Now	Preferred Option (2025)	Difference
Council-run day centres	110	110	0
External day centres	347	357	+10
Total adults supported	457	467	+10

The table below shows the overall capacity for overnight respite now and under the preferred model, with a focus on extra placements for adults aged 18 to 64 years old:

	Now	Max capacity per night now	Preferred Option (2025)	Max capacity per night preferred option	Difference per night capacity
Council-run overnight respite	18	7	0	0	-7
External overnight respite	174	6	195	16	+10
Total adults supported	192	13	195	16	+3

6. How to have your say

We want to hear from adults who use the service, their families and carers, staff, community groups, and our partners and providers on our proposals.

Events

People who use the council-run service and their families and carers, as well as staff, have been contacted directly with details on events.

We are also holding an online public meeting on Tuesday 19 November 2024 at 6 pm. To sign-up, visit buckinghamshire.gov.uk/better-lives-in-our-communities



6. How to have your say continued

How to have your say

Visit [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/better-lives-in-our-communities](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/better-lives-in-our-communities) where you can:

- complete the survey online
- download, complete and return a printed version of the survey
- download, complete and return an Easy Read version of the survey

People who use the council-run service, and their families and carers, can pick-up an Easy Read survey at the day centres.

You can also:

- email betterlivesinourcommunities@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- write to us at Better Lives in our Communities consultation, Adult Social Care Transformation, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street Offices, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA.

Please tell us your views by 11:59pm on Tuesday 7 January 2025.

7. What happens next

What happens next

- We will consider all of the responses we receive.
- We anticipate that Cabinet will make a decision on the proposed changes outlined in this consultation in June 2025.
- Any changes to how we deliver day opportunities and overnight respite services, if agreed, will be implemented after this decision and phased to ensure that every adult supported has the right suitable care in place to meet their needs.

If you have any questions about this activity, or require this information in another format or language, please email us at betterlivesinourcommunities@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or phone us on 01296 387904.