

Councillor Dale Birch
Executive Member for Adult Services,
Health & Housing and
Deputy Leader of the Council



DPB/CAM

15 May 2009

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Dear Councillor Leake

Letter dated 6 April – Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities

I am pleased to respond to the above referenced letter also on behalf of Councillor Alan Kendall.

We are aware that the original terms of reference and timescales for completion of a full report have changed considerably since you were first engaged to conduct the review back in early 2008. However, we thank you and your group for the work undertaken and the letter drawing our attention to a number of issues that you felt might still be of value.

The following comments are given to each of the points raised within the letter:-

1. We are of course well aware of the condition of the Eastern Road site and we keep the possibility of disposal under constant review, however the site is on a long lease so there are economic factors that affect any disposal.
2. We continue to work closely with the College and other partners in this important area and will ensure the concerns of the group are passed on, as we continue to develop the transformation of adult social care and implement the 14-19 Years Education Plan.
3. As more and more of our LD clients become independent under both In Control and TASC initiatives, they will have greater choice as to where they would like to attend courses. We agree it would be desirable for Bracknell and Wokingham College to provide the courses our young people would want. Establishing local friends and networks will enable transforming adult social care to become a reality for those people as they move on from college. Whilst we will continue to work with the College and other partners to seek new courses and activities, we recognise that they are an independent organisation operating under the same limited resources as we are.

4. The points raised in your letter will now be subsumed into the separate workings of the Adult Social Care panel through the TASC workshops and through the Children's Services and Learning Panel through its monitoring of the 14-19 Years Education Plan.

On behalf of both Councillor Kendall and me we once again thank the group for its work in this very important and sensitive area.

Yours sincerely



PP Councillor Dale Birch

cc Richard Beaumont