

9. Chard Healthy Living Centre Project – The Future of the Boden Centre

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Purpose of the Report

To update members on progress made regarding the new management arrangements for the Boden Centre that were agreed at the March 2007 Area West Committee.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the delay in implementing the new arrangements is noted.

Background and Summary

In March 2007 members received a report on the achievements of the Chard Healthy Living Project. Lottery funding for the project will cease at the end of March 2008. Members agreed measures to maintain use of the Boden Centre for the promotion of healthy living activities. The proposal agreed involves the separation of responsibilities for the Management of the Boden Centre, which it is suggested should be retained by SSDC, from the development of Healthy Living initiatives and activities that will become the responsibility of Somerset Health Initiative Enterprise (SHINE).

Essentially SSDC will manage the building, and encourage appropriate health related long term and casual users to take up space there. It is anticipated that SHINE Ltd. will also become a key tenant. If this can also be achieved, then we will have created the best possible conditions for the key elements of the Healthy Living Centre Project in Chard to continue beyond 2008.

Centre Use since March Report

The Boden Centre has continued to be used by a wide variety of groups and activities. Some activities are by nature short term and have come to an end, and others have started up.

The ground floor IT suite has been let on a long-term lease to Yeovil College since the Centre opened. Unfortunately due to funding and curriculum changes they had to terminate their lease in July, and instead rent a room for one afternoon each week during term time. Despite expressions of interest it has not been possible to find a new tenant for the suite so far. This has led to a reduction in income.

Progress on Establishing SHINE Organisation

It is taking longer than anticipated for SHINE to establish as an active, staffed organisation. At the time of the March report, it was hoped that SHINE would have a manager in place and be a tenant at the Boden Centre by June 2007.

SHINE (Somerset) Ltd has been registered at Companies House, and SHINE directors have concentrated on attracting funding to ensure SHINE is able to employ staff and so deliver its proposed outcomes. One year funding is now in place for SHINE from the Primary Care Trust, Local Strategic Partnership and South Somerset District Council (via

the South Somerset Health and Wellbeing Partnership). This funding is sufficient to support the appointment of dedicated staff to further the organisation's work.

SHINE is actively applying for charity status, and hopes to be registered by the end of March.

Tony Hampson started work as SHINE's Project Manager on 2nd January 2008. Part of his role is to cover promotion of healthy living projects and programmes at the Boden Centre.

SHINE's Occupancy of Boden Centre

SHINE are renting office space at the Boden Centre from 2nd January 2008. The proposal to lease the office space on a long term basis is being considered at the next SHINE board meeting, which is due to be held on 17th January. If the proposal is accepted, then SHINE will have an active base in the Boden Centre starting in January. Promotion of room use for healthy living activities should increase due to SHINE's promotional work.

Financial Implications

Two further scheduled payments have been received from the Big Lottery Fund, with a small final payment of £1,919 due in May 2008 following their acceptance of our report on the completion of the project.

Income from rent and leases for the year was anticipated at £17,390. Room letting income is running in line with target at this time. If SHINE become tenants in January they will have a positive effect on income through their rent payment and promotion of the Centre to potential users.

Lease income will be down some £2,500 following the loss of the anchor tenant for the IT suite. It is felt that the financial provision already made will be sufficient to accommodate these changes in income.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Improve the health and well-being of our citizens – work in partnership with others to improve the health prospects for all.

Other Implications

No other implications.

Background Papers: *Healthy Living Centre Project File
Report to Area West Committee – 21st March 2007*
