

Annexe 1

Community Overview and Scrutiny Day Centres Review Sub-Committee – 26th August 2008

Visit to The Vyne (Day Centre) 14th September 2007

Brief notes of visit

1. The Vyne is Woking Borough Council's flagship Community Centre it was built in 2000 on a site in Knaphill on the edge of the borough close to the border with Surrey Heath.
2. The Vyne is managed by two full-time members of staff employed directly employed by Woking Borough Council (until recently there were three full-time members of staff). There are also a Care Assistant, Caretaker, keyholders and kitchen staff. They are managed by Woking Borough Council.
3. The net budget of the Vyne is £240,000 per annum. Income of between £25,000 - £28,000 is received annually from the hire of the facility for functions, events, classes, hairdressing etc. The membership also raises funds but these are used to subsidise outings and trips etc.
4. The Centre relies for its operation on 100 or so volunteers many of whom became volunteers after originally joining the centre as members/users of the facility.
5. In total there are between 1,400 - 1,500 members of the Vyne (the statistics provided below indicate a membership of 1322 at that time).
6. The centre operates a Day Care Group ("Buddies") which caters for 16 – 17 people per day under the supervision of a qualified Day Care Assistant funded by Surrey County Council assisted by a volunteer. The Buddies Group is made up of people with physical disabilities, frail elderly, learning difficulties or with chronic mental illness. The Vyne takes referrals for this service but maintains its own criteria.
7. Woking Community Transport is used to collect and transport many of the Vyne's users.
8. At times there is a waiting list for the day care service and this has been up to 9 months.
9. Consideration is being given to charging for membership – currently membership is free.
10. The average age of members is 75 the majority of members being aged between 71 and 80. There are 300 members between the age of

61 – 70. 77.4% of members live within the borough. The gender breakdown is 937 (71%) women to 385 (29%)men.

11. Approximately 40 lunchtime meals are served each day Monday – Friday the charge for a meal is £3.45 – main course + sweet (£3.35 for day care members). Catering is provided by Woking directly employed Meals on Wheels staff. A monthly lunch party is held and this caters for 100.
12. The facility provides a bathing facility for clients provided they meet the centres manual handling criteria.
13. Overall impression was of a vibrant and well used facility. The building is modern bright and attractive the building is well finished and all at ground floor level. The users seen at the visit were largely very active individuals who seemed to be having a good time!
14. Attached is a handout which gives an indication of the range of activities provided by the Vyne.
15. The centre is also used by other age groups during the day and activities include baby clinic, childrens dance clubs and pilates.
16. The café is open to anyone of any age.
17. The one downbeat aspect of the visit was a potential concern for the continued development of the Vyne in the light of cuts to the service that may arise as a consequence of a 10% reduction in Woking's overall staffing which is to be achieved by March 2008.