



have  
**your**  
say...

# ...on the future of Ampthill Day Centre for Older People

Find out more about the consultation process and how you can have your say on the future of Ampthill Day Centre

Find Central Bedfordshire Council online at



[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations)

**Central  
Bedfordshire**

## Why do we consult?

Councillors are responsible for making decisions for the Council. Holding a consultation gives those directly affected by a proposed decision the opportunity to have their say and influence the decision that is made. Those directly affected, community organisations and the general public are encouraged to review the proposals and feedback their opinions and ideas to the Council.

During the consultation process you can request further information, ask questions and request that the Council looks into alternative options that have not been identified.

All comments made during the consultation process are recorded. The Council will publish its response to these comments and this information will be considered by Councillors, so they can make an informed decision.

## What we are consulting on:

Central Bedfordshire Council wants the best possible quality of life for all its residents and is committed to developing and enhancing day services for older people and adults with disabilities. The Council owns and operates seven day centres, four of which are for older people and the remaining three for adults with disabilities. The Council also operates a smaller hub for older people within Priory View in Dunstable.

In early 2016 the Council began the process of developing the future day offer for older people and adults with disabilities. This is a two-stage process and stage one involved agreeing Key Components and Principles<sup>1</sup> which outlined what the Council wants to offer day service customers and their relatives based on the feedback they gave.

Stage one of this project is now complete and the Council are now in stage two which involves looking at each of the seven centres individually. The Council has started this process by reviewing Ampthill Day Centre and have run several pilots trialing new activities and basing day services from alternative venues in line with the agreed Key Components and Principles.

The Council believes it can offer better opportunities to Ampthill Day Centre customers and is therefore consulting on the future of Ampthill Day Centre. Having reviewed a number of options for the future of the centre, the Council's preferred option is to offer alternative day service venues across the catchment area for all existing customers. This service would have a main 'day hub' or base with several 'spokes' in community venues more local to the people who use them. The Council would then close Ampthill Day Centre.

If you would like to take part in this or would like more information about what we are proposing for this service please see the information at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations) or contact us using the details at the end of this document

### Consultation Timetable

Key Date	Activity
20 <sup>th</sup> August 2018	Consultation opens
12 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	Consultation ends
4 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Report to Executive for decision on the future of Ampthill Day Centre
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Implementation of Executive decision

<sup>1</sup> [Consultation](#) on the future day offer 2017, [Components and Principles](#)

## How we will consult

Everyone can respond to the consultation by reading this factsheet, which has a summary of the proposals, and completing the consultation questionnaire. There is more information in the document 'Options Considered for the Future of Ampthill Day Centre for Older People' which we encourage people to read before responding.

If you have any questions about the options, need more information or would like the Council to consider other ideas these would be welcome. The ways you can contact the Council are explained at the end of this factsheet.

For those people who are most directly affected by the proposal – customers at Ampthill Day Centre, their relatives and the staff who work there – we will organise meetings and events to enable everyone who wants, to participate in the consultation.

We will take special care to ensure that the customers who access day services at Ampthill Day Centre are consulted, without causing distress to those who may have difficulty understanding what is happening. We will discuss this with the people who know the customers best – their relatives and the staff at the centre.

For those customers who may need help, we will offer support through advocates provided by POhWER, an independent organisation, who will assist them to ensure that they can express their views.

The consultation activities with customers and relatives will be tailored to individual requirements and the options that will be offered include:

- Meetings held at Ampthill Day Centre for customers, relatives and staff - either in small groups or one to one.
- Meetings held in areas local to relatives for those who find it difficult to get to the centre.
- Communications via post or email to customers, relatives and staff to inform them of activities and the progress of the consultation.

In addition, members of the consultation team are available to meet with other individuals and organisations who would like to hear more about the proposals. Our contact details are at the end of this factsheet.

## What the proposals are trying to achieve

A number of options in relation to the future of Ampthill Day Centre have been considered and evaluated against four important questions. These are:

- Improved quality of facilities/services – would the option improve the facilities and activities customers are able to access?
- Value for money – would the option represent good value for money– both in the short and longer term?
- Minimal disruption – what degree of disruption to the lives of current customers would result from the option in question and what will the impact of this be on their health and wellbeing?
- Key Components and Principles of the enhanced offer – would the option meet the Key Components and Principles agreed in 2017, summarised below?

### Key Components:

These have been identified as important outcomes that should be achieved through day services for both customers and their carers.

- Meet customer outcomes for social interaction and physical and mental stimulation.
- Meet carer outcomes for respite and peace of mind.
- Meet care and support needs.

### Key Principles:

These have been developed based on the outcomes identified within the Key Components and provide an overarching set of principles through which the day services should be delivered.

- Promote and maintain independence in a way which is personalised, flexible and responsive.
- Promote learning in a stimulating and supportive environment
- Deliver greater integration and partnership with local communities
- Maximise the use of community facilities that can be accessed by older people and adults with disabilities

### The options we have considered

The Council has considered the following options:

- Do nothing – continue to run Ampthill Day Centre in its present form.
- Offer alternative venues for customers attending Ampthill Day Centre through the delivery of a 'Hub and Spoke' arrangement and close Ampthill Day Centre.
- Move customers to other Central Bedfordshire Council Day Centres and close Ampthill Day Centre
- Refurbish Ampthill Day Centre so it meets modern standards
- Commission an independent service and close Ampthill Day Centre.

These options are set out in more detail in the document 'Options Considered for the Future of Ampthill Day Centre for Older People'.

### How we have evaluated the options

In the table below, we have summarised how these options have been evaluated.

Outcomes	Options				
	Do nothing	Hub & Spoke	Move to alternative centre	Refurbish	Commission new provider
Improved quality of facilities/services	x	✓	x	✓	?
Minimal disruption for existing customers	✓	✓	x	x	x
Value for money	x	✓	✓	x	?
Meets Key Components and Principles of the enhanced day offer	x	✓	x	✓	?

## Preferred option

Having considered these options for the future of Ampthill Day Centre, the Council's preferred option at this stage is to offer alternative venues across the catchment area for all existing customers. This would be delivered through a main 'Day Hub' and several smaller 'spokes' in community venues. The Council would then close Ampthill Day Centre.

This is the preferred option because:

- **Improved quality of facilities/services:** it would enable existing customers to access more personalised facilities whilst still meeting their care and support needs. Facilities would be integrated within the community therefore encourage growth of personal friendship networks and prevent isolation.
- **Minimal disruption for existing customers:** any change in day services would mean some disruption for customers, however during investigation of alternative day services the project team have fully involved customers from Ampthill Day Centre. The majority of customers have been involved in pilots so have already experienced what the hub and spoke model would offer including accessing services from alternative facilities. If those pilots become part of the final offer, there would be very little disruption for most Ampthill Day Centre customers. Where there may be others who have not been as involved in new activities, measures would be put in place to mitigate any risks to their health and wellbeing.
- **Value for money:** moving to the hub and spoke model and closing Ampthill Day Centre would mean the building running costs of the centre would be saved. The 'new' main day hub is already an existing service (Silsoe Horticultural Centre) which would be used more efficiently and effectively. The other facilities and potential future developments in the Ampthill area that could be used as 'spokes' would be in existing buildings that have available space or new buildings where the ability to offer day services would be only a part of the service offer. This would represent better value for money to the Council and council tax payers than the existing arrangements.
- **Key Components and Principles of the enhanced day offer:** development of a hub and spoke model of service would increase levels of social interaction and physical and mental wellbeing of customers and their carers by providing more personalised and local services. Delivering more services in the community with local people would enhance partnerships with local organisations and promote access to services across the area.

Although this is the preferred option we want to hear your views before coming to a decision. This is why the consultation process is so important.

## Have your say

We want to know the views of current customers, their relatives and others who have an interest in the future of the day service at Ampthill Day Centre. We also want to understand what the positive and negative impacts will be on individuals and how we might best manage these issues.

This factsheet and a more detailed document - 'Options Considered for the Future of Ampthill Day Centre for Older People' are available on the Council's website and printed copies will be available on request.

You can ask us any questions or tell us your view through the methods on the next page. We are particularly keen to get your answers to the following questions:

- What are your views on the Council's preferred option?
- Do you think all options have been correctly evaluated?

- Are there any options listed that you think the Council should investigate in more detail?
- Are there any other options that you think the Council should consider that are not in the document?
- What could the Council do to minimise the impact of any changes on the existing customers at Amphill Day Centre?
- Do you have any further comments about the proposals?

## For more information

- Visit our website for more information and complete our online questionnaire:  
[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations)
- Email us at: [day.offer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:day.offer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)
- Write to us at: FREEPOST RSJS GBBZ SRZT (you do not need a stamp)  
Day Offer Consultation  
Central Bedfordshire Council  
Priory House, Monks Walk  
Chicksands, Shefford  
SG17 5TQ
- For advocacy support contact: POhWER on 0300 456 2364 or [pohwer@pohwer.net](mailto:pohwer@pohwer.net)

The consultation is open until 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018

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## If you need information in alternative formats or languages...

Email: [consultations@centralbedfordshirecouncil.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@centralbedfordshirecouncil.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0300 300 6609

Website: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations)

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**Central  
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# **Central Bedfordshire in contact**

## **Contact us...**

by telephone: 0300 300 8000

by email: [customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

on the web: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Write to Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House,  
Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ