

**HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**15 MARCH 2018**

**MEMBER'S ITEM: FUTURE OF THE RVS  
OLDER PEOPLE'S CENTRE**

Report from: Ian Sutherland, Director of Children and Adults' Services

Author: Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer

**Summary**

This report sets out a response to an issue, raised by Councillor Murray, concerning the future of the RVS Older People's Centre.

**1. Budget and Policy Framework**

1.1 Under Medway Constitution Overview and Scrutiny rules (Chapter 4, Part 5, Paragraph 9.1) Councillor Murray has requested that an item on this matter is included on the agenda for this meeting.

**2. The Issue**

2.1. Councillor Murray has requested that an item be placed on the agenda and the reasons set out by Councillor Murray are as follows:

2.2 Although half of the funding for the RVS Older People's Centre was restored in the Council's budget, I want to explore how the centre can plan for a sustainable future. To do I will work with users and volunteers to ensure Members have a detailed understanding of the breadth of services provided by RVS and the extent to which the centre helps the Council to achieve its priorities.

2.3 There is also a need to find a more cost effective location and I want to give users and volunteers a formal opportunity to share their ideas. An undertaking was given in the budget to work with RVS on identifying a sustainable way forward and it is important that O&S support this process.

2.4 It is important that Members and officers have an opportunity to hear from service users and volunteers before a plan to ensure future sustainability is

developed. The public campaign to save the centre was very well supported and opportunities for local people to speak directly to Members about their experiences have been few and far between. I have been impressed with the determination and creativity of the RVS staff and users and believe that Scrutiny is the correct forum for this exchange to initially take place as well as ensuring that those who use the centre have a formal opportunity to plan for the future and reassurance that their ideas will be taken into account.

### **3. Director's comments**

- 3.1 Council officers will be working with the officers at RVS nationally in the coming months to develop a longer term plan that is sustainable. A meeting has already taken place between Council officers, the Director of Social Action and the Southeast Regional Manager for RVS to discuss options for supporting a sustainable model of delivery in Medway.
- 3.2 RVS have communicated that they wish to adopt the sustainable model that they are delivering nationally. This will involve a volunteer led approach that is independent of the need for a building facility. Officers have reassured RVS that the Council will support efforts to help bring about the changes to the service in Medway.

### **4. Risk Management**

- 4.1 There are no specific risk implications for Medway Council arising directly from this report.

### **5. Financial and Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Work is due to be undertaken in relation to future sustainability of the service. Otherwise, there are no direct financial or legal implications for Medway Council directly arising from this report.

### **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes and comments on the Member's item.

### **Lead contact**

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### **Appendices**

None.

## **Background Papers**

None.