

Canterbury DOS - September 2011: Your Update

In 2010 the report 'A new service model for the re-provision of day activities for people with a learning disability in the Canterbury district' was formally approved by Kent County Council. This included all the input gained from the consultation process.

Since then, work has been going on to develop activities that we could offer at venues out in the community in Canterbury.

We appreciate your patience; as you know there have been many changes in and around Canterbury, as well as the appointment of a new manager here at the centre. Shortly we will see the opening of the new Marlowe Theatre and still to come the extended Beaney Institute and Library. All this will bring exciting times for Canterbury and we too will be able to share in this 'regeneration'.

Last year we met with our colleagues at the Swalecliffe DOS to give some thought and share ideas about how we might be able to continue providing you with the service that offers choice and variety.

We will be based at what are called 'Community Hubs' and these will have personal care facilities. We have been working like this to a certain extent from Canterbury DOS, in that we use the building as a 'hub' and have been using venues such as Northgate, Faversham Swimming Pool, Whitstable Bowling, Ashford Road Community Association Hall and Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre Youth Suite (to name a few).

We are pleased to advise that work on Northgate and Swalecliffe with the designated space for our service will be completed in November this year. We are therefore, approaching the time when we will no longer need our Canterbury DOS premises. We are also planning to work in partnership with Westgate Hall Community Centre, where we hope that Kan Kater will run their Community Café from next year.



Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre (TNRC)

Our Unit Manager, Justina Palmer will be based here. A number of our sessions will continue to be based from, and at, here as well as the nearby Ashford Road Community Association hall.



Northgate (& Prince Of Wales Hall)

Already used by us for some of our sessions, this will be our main base as it has the most rooms designated for our use. We have also identified a Church Hall within walking distance so that we can continue to offer cooking skills.



Swalecliffe DOS - Business/Social Enterprise Hub

Concentrating on enterprise Work Experience and training opportunities such as ASDAN qualifications. Art 'n' Progress will be moving here.



Westgate Hall (Community Centre)

Kent County Council has provisionally agreed the proposal for a community cinema and centre at the above hall. This will include a community café which we hope will be run by Kan Kater (our catering project).

As this facility will not be available until 2012, Kan Kater will base themselves temporarily at Swalecliffe.

We will need to make some changes to our Menu of Activities so that you are based from one venue for a whole day. Similarly, we will also need to review our transport routes and individual requirements as needs are identified.

Your Care Managers are, therefore, planning to meet with you to look at what sessions you may like to take part in so that you can help us plan what is happening. If you have any questions please feel free to talk to your link worker here at Canterbury DOS.