

**Manchester City Council  
Note for Information**

**Note to:** Overview and Scrutiny Human Resources Subgroup – 5 October 2010

**Subject:** Etrop Way

**Note from:** Head of Corporate Property

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**Contact Officer:**

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**Purpose of the Note**

The note is to update the Subgroup on accommodation issues at Etrop Way

**Summary**

Following a report to the Subgroup in July 2010 in which it was reported that the accommodation at Etrop Way was currently not fit for purpose the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources, the Head of Property and a representative from Children's services have investigated possible temporary solutions for the service up to the opening of the new District Centre at Etrop Court in 2011.

Corporate Property and Children's Services undertook a review of the current accommodation and working with the District Manager it became clear that the problems were primarily to do with access to the first floor offices and not the offices themselves as these had recently had £100k of investment to upgrade them.

Corporate Property and Children's Services have visited a number of local sites in order to develop a possible solution to the current access issues at Etrop Way,

**Proposals**

A number of possible temporary solution within Wythenshawe area to the access issues were identified:-

- Wythenshawe Forum - we met with the head of the forum to discuss the opportunity to use a large meeting room at the front of the forum to develop a private client meeting room and also include the space for eight desks which would be available for admin support and social services officers. There would be an annual cost for the service to pay the forum for this space (approx £15,000) plus a small capital amount for the creation of the private meeting room

- Terry Dowling Centre - this option was to relocate the whole service to the centre which would then provide the customer access needed. However the centre would require a large amount of refurbishment and removal of some asbestos. The project may take up to 8/10 months and require funding of approx £250,000 of capital.

Both of the above were discussed with the District Manager who has confirmed that the service would be best served by staying at Etrop Way until the new build at Etrop Court is complete in 2011. The District Manager is concerned that two moves within 12 months are not in the best interest of the service as it would have a fundamental impact on both staff and families accessing the service. The upheaval for staff of moving twice in a year and the impact of the move on families accessing the service would counter the benefits of occupying a more suitable building.

The offer of meeting space at Wythenshawe Forum is much appreciated and will be taken up but the nature of the service is such that there would be no benefit to locating an individual team elsewhere. Children's Services already offer families accessible alternative venues for planned meetings. The accessibility issues impact on families most who visit on an unplanned basis. An alternative solution has therefore been recommended which is supported by the District Manager, these improvements are:-

1. Provision of a new intercom system linked from the front entrance to the first floor reception area
2. The District Manager would also like some of her staff to undertake some health and safety training (Lifting and Access) on assisting the customers with buggies etc on the stair well – this has been arranged with Health & Safety

The above improvement can be undertaken immediately and will enable the service to continue to operate until they move to the new District Centre at Etrop Court in 2011.