

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET  
THURSDAY, 30 JUNE 2011**

Councillors \*Kober (Chair), \*Reith (Vice-Chair), Bevan, Canver, \*Dogus, \*Goldberg, \*Strickland and \*Vanier

\*Present

Also Present: Councillors Jenks and Winskill.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CAB12.	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> (Agenda Item 1)</p> <p>Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Bevan and Canver.</p>	
CAB13.	<p><b>DECISION OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 27 JUNE 2011 REGARDING MINUTE CAB.05 - RECOMMENDED BUDGET SAVINGS DECISION - ADULT SERVICES PROPOSALS IN 2011 - OLDER PERSONS' DROP IN CENTRES, JACKSONS LANE LUNCHEON CLUB AND CYPRIOT ELDERLY AND DISABILITY PROJECT</b> (Reference from Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Agenda Item 3)</p> <p>We noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 June on consideration of a Call In had referred back to us for reconsideration our decision of 7 June 2011 vide Minute CAB.05 (3) relating to the Recommended Budget Savings Decision – Adult Services Proposals in 2011 – Older Persons’ Drop In Centres, Jackson’s Lane Luncheon Club and Cypriot Elderly and Disability Project. We noted also that the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee had recommended that we defer a final decision and continue to fund drop-in services for a further 6 months in order to allow the completion of the detailed exploration of alternatives and of possible extra support and finance on which the Adult and Housing Services Directorate was already working.</p> <p>With the consent of our Chair a paper submitted by the Haringey Federation of Residents’ Associations (Vulnerable Groups) was tabled.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services commented that the proposed closure of the Older People’s Drop-In Centres (OPDIC) had to be seen in the context of the need to meet the challenge of very significant reductions in funding required of the Council by the Coalition Government. The popularity of the Centres was acknowledged and the concern caused by their proposed closure was regretted.</p> <p>The Council would continue to maintain and prioritise services to vulnerable people in need of care and support who had had a Fair Access to Services (FACS) assessment, either at the “substantial” or “critical” levels. It is important to be clear that all the drop-in’ services are ‘non-assessed’ services and that the Council had no legal obligation to provide them. In order to produce a balanced budget for 2011/12 the</p>	

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Council had been required to find savings totalling £41 million. The proposed closure of the OPDICs had assumed a full year saving in 2011/12 of £181,000. As a result of the extension of the service until 30 September the saving for 2011/12 was £90,000 but this should not be seen in isolation and in the absence of other identified options there was no alternative but to go ahead with the proposals. It was hoped that through ongoing discussions with other organisations and the users themselves some elements of the OPDIC service might be able to continue in the same or other settings, without an ongoing Council revenue commitment.

In response to a question about matters raised by the Equality Impact Assessment, we were informed that a number had been highlighted including social isolation and the provision of a cooked meal. Where it could the Council would mitigate these and cooked meals would be provided for those people assessed as requiring them. Existing alternatives to the Council run drop ins had been considered and the possibility of offering more localised day opportunities through local independent and third sector providers had been explored including making more imaginative and innovative use of the Trees Extra Care Scheme.

Our Chair pointed out that up until our decision of 7 June the Council had always tried to provide a universal service for older people including through the provision of 'non-assessed' services that the Council had no legal obligation to provide. The decision to end this provision had been difficult and clarification was sought of the practice elsewhere in London. We were informed that all London Borough Councils had been canvassed and of the 21 responses received only 1 had indicated that they continued to provide luncheon clubs. We were informed that other universal services for older people were still available. Also, that there were already similar drop-in services, albeit on a smaller scale, in the independent sector and elements of the OPDIC service were provided by the various faith communities and voluntary sector organisations such as Age UK and the Alzheimer's Society.

The total package of proposals including the Older Persons' Drop In Centres, Jackson's Lane Luncheon Club and Cypriot Elderly and Disability Project had been calculated to generate a total saving of £285,000 to the Council's revenue budget in 2011/12 and in following years and in the absence of any alternative proposals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee comparable savings would have to be made from front line services if any of these elements were not progressed. It was emphasised that the Directorate would continue to maintain and prioritise services to vulnerable people in need of care and support those who had had a Fair Access to Services (FACS) assessment, either at the "substantial" or "critical" levels. All the drop-in' services were 'non-assessed' services and the Council had no legal obligation to provide them.

Discussions were continuing with groups of OPDIC users to determine whether they were interested and/or capable of running their own service

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	<p>at nil cost to the Council, should the decision be taken to close the centres. It was unclear as to the future outcome of those discussions, but plans to re-provide the basic foot care element of the OPDIC service were in train, should they be required. An audit of similar drop-in services to the OPDIC service, elsewhere in the Borough, was in progress. Discussions were in train with a range of voluntary sector organisations in relation to their willingness to support ongoing groups of older people derived from the client base of the drop ins and luncheon club and it was hoped that in the three months remaining before the programmed closure of the OPDICs these might fructify.</p> <p>In response to further questions about the possibility of delaying the closures further to ensure that services could continue and about the shortage of luncheon facilities with the alternative opportunities identified it was re-iterated that while it was clear how much the Drop In Centres were valued by those who used them and that they were a preventative service in the absence of alternative savings there was no option other than to go ahead with the proposals.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>That the decision (vide Minute CAB.05 – 2011/12) to approve the closure of the four Older Persons Drop-In Centres (Willoughby Road, Irish Centre, Woodside House and Abyssinia Court) with an estimated saving of £181,000 saving per year be re-affirmed.</p>	DAHS
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The meeting ended at 16.30 hours.

CLAIRE KOBER  
Chair