



Councillor Dilek Dogus
Cabinet Member for Adult Services,
Members Room
River Park House

Your ref:

Date: 21 June 2011

Our ref: SR/ POC

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dial:

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Dear Dilek,

Recommended Budget Savings Decisions – Closure of Day Care Services

You will no doubt recall that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee expressed concerns at the proposals to close adult day care centres in the borough as part of its scrutiny of the budget process for this year. These proposals are currently being consulted on with a view to a final decision being taken by the Cabinet in June.

At its meeting on 9 May, the Scrutiny Committee received a deputation from the Haynes Relatives Support Group, a group of carers of people with dementia, on the proposals to merge the Haynes and Grange Dementia Day Care Centres and to close the Woodside Day Care Centre. They were very concerned at the implications of the proposed closures and requested that the Council re-consider its proposals.

They were of the view that the Haynes Day Centre provided an excellent service and had transformed their lives, as well as the lives of the people with dementia in their care. Their specific concerns were as follows:

- Merging the Haynes and the Grange, the borough's two current specialist dementia day centres, would overcrowd facilities and reduce the quality of life of current clients;
- Closure of the Woodside Day Centre would exacerbate the problem further due to the high percentage of clients there who also have dementia (80%);
- The current 3 day care centres did not have the capacity overall to accommodate current Haringey clients with dementia. Retaining only the Haynes, with its design capacity of 15 people per day, would mean a gross under provision;
- Proposed re-provision with personal budgets will mean more care at home which is likely to lead to isolation, increased ill-health and stress, both for the client and the carer.

- The proposals will have significant long term financial implications due to the preventative nature of the services. They felt that the savings that would be made were comparatively modest compared to the potential cost of additional people requiring residential care.

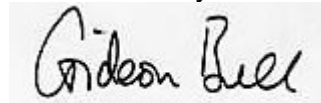
The deputation requested that Council maintain the care of people with dementia and request alternative proposals to achieve these savings. The deputation stated that they had written to you outlining their concerns and were awaiting a formal response.

The Committee has asked me to write to you to re-iterate its previously expressed concerns about this issue. In addition, they have also asked me to request that a speedy response be made to the letter that the carers sent to you on the issue.

The Committee also notes from the Forward Plan that two reports on the results of consultations on the closure of a range of adult care services and centres, including the day care services, are due to be considered by the Cabinet in June. In the light of the Committee's previously agreed concerns on these issues as well as those raised by the deputation, the Committee would like an opportunity to feed in its views prior to decisions being made by Cabinet. The Committee have therefore request that I write to you requesting that an appropriate meeting be arranged with you for this purpose. I would be grateful if you could contact me regarding this.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



Gideon Bull

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee