



6th October 2011

RESPONSE TO PETITION – CABINET MEETING 4TH OCTOBER 2011

Firstly, I am most grateful to the Haynes Relatives Support Group for their petition and a further 2800 Haringey residents for letting us know exactly what they think of the Council's proposals for The Haven, The Haynes, The Grange, Woodside and the 684 day care centres.

Rather than wait until Cabinet meets in November (as the constitution would allow), I would like to respond to the petition now if I may.

There is no doubt that current day services, as typified by sheer number of signatories to these petitions, are highly regarded by those who use them. This and the other points petitioners make around the risks of isolation, a lack of stimulation or social contact for people with dementia and the lack or inadequacy of suitable alternatives in the independent sector has been made abundantly clear during the consultation.

I would also like to acknowledge concerns raised regarding the impact for carers if loved ones were not able to attend centres or, in some cases, access other suitable centre-based alternative.

However, it is in response to concerns about the lack of sufficient suitable alternative provision received during the 12-week consultation period, and following individual reviews with users of services, relatives and carers that Cabinet was invited to retain The Haven and keep both the Haynes and the Grange open although finding the money to do this from further 'back office efficiencies' will be challenging but will be done in order to protect frontline services and the help and support we provide to vulnerable adults in Haringey.

Cabinet has however agreed 'in principal' to us looking to some form of alternative management structure for these remaining centres (local authority trading company, staff mutual or an appropriate voluntary or independent sector provider/s) to provide the service in the future, subject, of course, to the outcome of market testing and a further period of consultation before any final decision is taken as to whether things change or stay as they are.

I should say however, that in order to meet our required savings targets as a result of unprecedented government imposed cuts we are still proposing to close two of our day centres (684 and Woodside). The principal reason being that, unlike The Haynes, The Haynes and The Grange where the local market is not sufficiently developed just yet, we can continue to meet the needs of users of Woodside and the 684 Day Centres through our local, existing day services and personal budgets. Moreover, in the case of 684, other funding streams (NHS funding and the Area Based Grant) are no longer available, so the service on this site is no longer financially viable.

In case of the 684 centre, we will be offering an alternative service in the Clarendon Centre and on an outreach basis for two days a week in The Haven; care from The Haven to be purchased via a personal budget given to people to gain increased choice and control of their support packages.

Users of Woodside Day Centre will be offered a service in The Grange, The Haynes or The Haven and their care purchased via a personal budget.

Services earmarked for closure will close no later than 1st April 2012. I would however like to reassure you that vulnerable adults assessed as needing a service will continue to receive such a service which the Council will buy for them or which will be obtainable from one of the centres that it is proposed remains open or elsewhere.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Dogus', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Councillor Dilek Dogus
Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services**