
EXTRACT OF CABINET MINUTES

(SPECIAL) MEETING HELD ON 25 JULY 2007

Chairman: * Councillor David Ashton

Councillors: * Marilyn Ashton † Janet Mote
* Mrs Camilla Bath * Paul Osborn
* Miss Christine Bednell * Mrs Anjana Patel
* Susan Hall * Eric Silver
† Chris Mote

* Denotes Member present
† Denotes apologies received

290. **Key Decision - Outcome of Spring 2007 Statutory Consultations on Community Care Services – Fair Access to Care Services:**

Cabinet received the report of the Corporate Director of Adults and Housing Services, which set out the public response to the statutory consultation on the proposed changes to the eligibility criteria under Fair Access to Care Services (FACS). It also set out options for Cabinet to consider in response to the consultation exercise.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Services set the report into context and highlighted the challenging financial position of the Council, which had led to the consultation process on altering the provision of care services for people whose needs currently fell into the 'critical' and 'substantial' criteria. Cabinet received an outline of the various financial pressures facing the Council, including the cost pressures from Harrow and Brent Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Northwick Park Hospital.

The Portfolio Holder stated that if the Council stayed within the existing eligibility criteria, a deficit of £1.5m - £2.0m was likely on the Care budget for 2007/08.

The Portfolio Holder

- outlined the extensive consultation process undertaken by the Council which had lasted 13 weeks, a week longer than the statutory period, and thanked Harrow Mencap for holding three additional public meetings;
- set out the options available to the Council and spoke in favour of concentrating the Council's resources on the vulnerable people of Harrow who were most in need of care;
- read out the actions that would be put in place to address the concerns expressed in the consultation about increased risk, as set out in paragraph 2.4 of the officer report;
- stated that the Council appreciated that the proposed measures might create difficulties for some people and that the Council would do all it could to alleviate these difficulties.

The Portfolio Holder responded, in detail, to questions from Members of Cabinet on eligibility, safety, preventative work and the impact the proposed change in criteria would have on people with Alzheimer's disease and Dementia.

In summary, the Chairman referred to the deliberation that had taken place on this matter and assured those present that areas of concern would be addressed. He drew attention to the guidelines available when dealing with victims of abuse and the help that would be available from the Council to those with personal care needs.

RESOLVED: (1) To proceed with the proposal to meet only needs that fell within the 'Critical' FACS band;

(2) that the proposed actions to mitigate this, as set out in section 2.4 of the officer report, be agreed.

Reason for Decision: To consider the consultation results undertaken on the criteria the Council would apply, to determine who qualified for social care services under FACS. To set the level eligibility criteria for Harrow.