

CABINET

17 JULY 2008

AGENDA PART I

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS (ITEM 6)

Fifteen minutes will be allowed for Members of the Council to ask a Portfolio Holder a question on any matter in relation to which the Executive has powers or duties.

1.

Questioner: Councillor Margaret Davine.

Asked of: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing.

Question: "In relation to the Part Two item on the tonight's Cabinet Agenda, Item 17 Adult and Housing Transfer of Residential Homes, can you give a categorical assurance that whichever option is adopted by the Cabinet the position of current users will be protected and that there will be full consultation with them and their carers before any changes in their individual living arrangements made".

Answer: Yes, I want to give you a reassurance that, without going into the specifics of the Part II report, that Harrow Council is committed to ensuring that the services we provide to our users, and the carers that support them, match the carers' and, more importantly, the users' needs, that they are appropriate to them, and that we provide a range of services to reflect the fact that no one is the same and that at different times and different stages of life they have a different needs spectrum.

We will make sure that the users are paramount in our deliberations and, secondly, in any move forward, we will ensure that there is consultation that includes the relevant people, that brings them on board and that we consider what they think and listen to their suggestions because their ideas will help us better tailor services to their needs.

I plan to make sure that I, my Cabinet assistants and my officer team are engaging with users and other organisations involved to ensure that we have the widest possible consultation on this.

Supplemental Question: Can you also give an assurance that whenever changes to living conditions may be made, the service user concerned will be given full support according to their individual needs, including advocacy if it is felt necessary for their accessibility?

Supplemental Answer: Again, yes I can. And again it fits very closely with the “personalization of care” agenda to make sure that people are getting the services that they need and which are appropriate to them, to assist them in taking more responsibility and control over decisions as to what services they need, what are their needs and how these needs are to be met. We want to empower our users to have a better standard and quality of life. We want them to be choosing how their care is delivered.