

23 January 2020

Brighton & Hove City Council

Dear Geoff;

I am submitting the following letter under Council Procedure Rule 23.3 to be included on the agenda for the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 23rd January 2020.

A planned £1.97m cut to the 'Community Care' budget line under the Families Children and Learning budget has been put forward in this year's budget proposals. From the outset, the size of the cut is concerning to me and has been raised as such by members of the community and voluntary sector.

As I understand, £0.600m of this cut relates to savings made from the 'Move On' programme. I am aware this concerns the review of services provided to adults with learning disabilities - and that the savings proposed will be achieved by reviewing what services are provided to individual people.

I am worried that these reviews, regarding the care of some of our most vulnerable residents, may mean that the service given to those people is no longer sufficient. I would hope, and have confidence in the staff reviewing these services, that these are done with full consideration for what is right for the person.

But one case of a review going too far would be enough. I would like to ask the committee to consider requesting a briefing that enables members and the public to understand more about what the review of services means in practice. I also feel such a briefing needs to cover what opportunities there are to reverse any change, if it is found to be inappropriate.

My concern is to ensure information is made available on whether there are sufficient checks and balances to the system being used, such as:

- whether people reviewing services have a target to meet
- how frequent the reviews are with individuals
- what check-ins are done following service change

I would welcome the opportunity for committee members to receive such a briefing or report – whichever is appropriate – prior to the budget process. I feel it is essential we provide such information to members and to concerned residents who may be worried about their level of service provision. Following on from this briefing, should it appear that the outcome of this cut will result in more disruption for service users, I ask that this council reconsider the proposals for this service as part of the upcoming budget setting process.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Hannah Clare
Brunswick and Adelaide

