

FED: Centre for Independent Living response to Budget EIA consultation

Not about reduction in services but about doing things differently

- Personal budgets
- More independent living

Although we agree with these sentiments the reality of the situation is that personal budgets currently do not offer the sort of flexibility to allow people to make the decisions they need to achieve independent living this is particularly the case for adults and older people, payments are mainly about pay for personal care and the bare essential.

- Targeted services to those with most complex needs

Services also need to be targeted at people who have moderate needs to prevent their needs becoming more complex. If the drive is to allow people to living independently preventative services are key to the council achieving this.

There are concerns regarding the use of Telecare in homes which could cause older and disabled people to become even more isolated, however it is recognised that more assistive technology can support people to live more independently this should be view as enhancement to service not instead of.

- Activity rather than building based services

There should be choice as there will always be individuals that will need building based services, one size does not fit all.

We welcome a more integrated approach to transport.

Rent and service charge increases.

This will have an adverse effect on disabled people and their families and could drive them further into poverty.

- Less subsidised bus routes
- Closure of less used public toilets

Specifics:

Less spend on preventative highway maintenance and reduction in street lighting and street cleaning

These proposals will make part of the city inaccessible for older and disabled people particularly the closure public toilets. Some roads and pavements in the city are currently in poor repair and are inaccessible and poorly lit, there are concerns that this will effect outlying parts of the city in particular. The loss of some bus routes will also badly affect disabled people as in most cases this is the most accessible and cost effective way people can travel.

The council does not currently "subsidize" Churchill Square the withdrawal funding will the **closure** of the scheme. There are no other alternative schemes in the city to meet this need. This will mean less independence and choice particularly for older people who currently do not have complex needs becoming

more housebound and more reliant statutory services. It would also make the city inaccessible to many disabled visitors.

Reduction to Benefits Service

- This would appear to a false economy when the benefit system is going through such great changes and there is the need for more help not less and when in parts of the city residents are already financially excluded and 46 percent of families are living in poverty.
- RNIB subscriptions for individuals
- Access Manager post
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(The RNIB will make a response with regard to withdrawal of subscriptions). Here again there is an assumption that people will be able to access this service through their personal budgets but again our experience there is not this sort of flexibility within current budgets. Personal budgets are not the only panacea to ASC budget cuts if you wish disabled and older people to achieve independent living flexible and preventative user-led service are essential.