

Subject: Petitions
Date of Meeting: 24 September 2012
Report of: Strategic Director, Resources
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Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 To receive any petitions presented at Council, any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.2 That the Committee responds to the petition either by noting it or writing to the petition organiser setting out the Council's views, or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options, including the following:

- taking the action requested in the petition
- considering the petition at a council meeting
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- holding a meeting with petitioners
- referring the petition for consideration by the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- calling a referendum

3. PETITIONS

3. (i) Learning Disabilities Accommodation

To receive the following e-Petition submitted by Sue Beatty and signed by 521 people:

"We the undersigned believe that a proposal to close some group homes for adults with learning disabilities is wrong. These people are some of the most vulnerable living in our city and often have no voice of their own. They deserve the same rights as any other citizen, that they be allowed to remain in their own home as they choose. to remove them from their own home for financial reasons is morally wrong and any

move would have a detrimental effect on their health and well-being. We call upon Brighton and Hove City Councillors to reject this proposal.

This campaign is supported by UNISON, staff who care for adults with learning disabilities, family members.”

3. (ii) Care Agencies Pay Cut Crisis

To receive the following e-Petition submitted by Kayleigh Beckman and signed by 33 people:

“We the undersigned petition the council to look again at the rates being paid to care providers across the city.

In today’s society carers are as essential as nurses, teachers and policemen, but they are not given the recognition they deserve by Brighton and Hove City Council. Good, experienced care workers are leaving companies across the city because weekend rates have been cancelled within the 15% pay cut to providers. This will affect the vulnerable across the city because the new working conditions will expect people with limited training to carry out duties unsupervised that district nurses have been trained to perform ”.

3. (iii) Request to Review Rates being paid to Care Providers

To receive the following Petition submitted by Ramya Perera and signed 83 people:

“We the undersigned, petition the Council to look again at the rates being paid to Care Providers across the city. In today’s society, carers are as essential as nurses, teachers and policemen but they are not given the recognition they deserve by Brighton & Hove City Council.

The Council pays its own care team £21.50 per hour to run their service but only pays Providers £14.50 to run their service. Brighton & Hove Council have cancelled their incentive to companies to provide consistent care, for example ensuring clients have the same care workers regularly.

Good, experienced care workers are leaving companies across the city because weekend rates have been cancelled within the 15% pay cut to Providers. Care companies who have had a good reputation for supplying consistent care just cannot continue to provide that standard of care to old and vulnerable people. Care workers are now expected to have the skills and carry out a wider range of basic nursing tasks.”

3.(iv) Personal alarms to call the Police for the vulnerable in the power of carers.

To receive the following e-Petition submitted by Nigel Carter and signed by 10 people:

“We the undersigned petition the council to provide every person in the power of carers to be routinely issued with a device which can call the Police - as all of us free people can do - if attacked, abused or neglected by the very people who should be caring for them. We leave no other innocent person at the mercy of all-powerful individuals and we should stop it now, in hospitals, nursing and care homes and home visits.

Also, hidden miniature cameras should be authorised for use when there is any doubt in order to monitor the behaviour of staff towards people in their care and gather evidence. Hopefully, this possibility of discovery will deter abuse of any kind and lift standards of care as well as remove criminals from wards and visiting homes. Our weaker fellow humans deserve no less. It should not be a costly option. We must stop the dreadful events suffered by the vulnerable now. We must do it or hang our heads in shame. Let's get a grip, get serious and refuse to be fobbed off...it'll be us there soon! Nigel Carter Chairman

Devices exist which yachtsman use so that if they fall overboard anywhere in the world a message is sent via satellite giving their position - a transponder. Using the mobile phone network a simple red button device as a necklace or ring could be loaned to any who need it, and checked routinely to make sure it is working and the vulnerable person knows what it is for and how to use it.”

