

**DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes. Two deputations have been received.

**(ii) Deputation: New Larchwood**

When staff and unions met with management of the New Larchwood service (Karin Divall and Kim Philpott) they outlined their plans for the future of the service; that all services users would fall into the category of "reablement" or hospital discharge. This then would mean that a service such as that provided at New Larchwood would be outsourced as it would no longer be part of "core business". To both employees affected by the proposals for NL and to union representatives, this was yet more of the same, dating back several years when the service of Independence at Home was "restructured" to provide reablement and hospital discharge only.. It was not successful, hence the need for management to look at this once again and now here we are years later being asked to accept yet another version of this. Meanwhile, both service users and staff alike have to live with the consequences of this. Clearly these proposals are budget led and home care services in house are deemed too expensive but there are reasons for this:

Home Care Support Workers across Independence at Home consistently report to us that too much "deficit" time exists; this means that instead of being fully utilised on a daily basis for their contracted hours, many of them are sitting around waiting for a call to attend a service user. Management would seem to refute this idea; it is difficult to give a view as to why this problem exists but exist it does. Planning of rotas for HCSW staff would seem to be problematic, possibly the systems in place need reviewing? If savings are to be made within this budget then this should be the first place to look.

Many of the staff working at NL also work within the community providing home care. They do not wish to be out-sourced to a private organisation but to continue working for the council; many home care providers do not provide the terms and conditions that our staff currently enjoy (this is well documented); many do not provide the excellent and first class training that BHCC provides and which current service users receive the benefits of.

The savings being made regarding these proposals is very small. This should be considered alongside what out-sourcing such a service would mean for both service users and staff alike. The proposal to cease charging for short term home care services should be reconsidered so that any savings not made by outsourcing NL could be offset against income from continuing to charge for the service from Independence at Home.

I have been informed by affected staff that some of the information contained within the report submitted to you is inaccurate with regard to latest information around service users/staff numbers etc. I am happy to answer any questions on this at the time of the deputation to committee.

Thank you

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