

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 16 October 2024

AGENDA ITEM 7 – PUBLIC QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

1	<p>Question from Mike Forster to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care – Councillor Addy</p> <p>“According to the Cabinet figures, Castle Grange and Claremont House homes currently cost £1290 (per person per week) to run, but the Cabinet is suggesting the private sector will be able to run them for £853! That will leave a shortfall of £437. Who is expected to make up the difference?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>The difference is accounted for by independent sector providers having lower operating costs than the Council. In any event, residential care is means tested and so individuals using services only contribute up to the maximum that they have been assessed as being able to pay, regardless of the actual cost of the service.</p>
2	<p>Question from Sarah Newton to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care – Councillor Addy</p> <p>“Currently most care homes in Kirklees that say they provide dementia care, only accommodate dementia residents. This often means that those with dementia are in a locked suite with limited movement reducing their quality of life. If the Council continue to transfer ownership to the private sector how will they guarantee the same quality of freedom, dignity and care for our loved ones receive in Castle Grange and Claremont House as a solely Dementia Care Home?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>The vast majority of people living with dementia who need residential care receive this through independent sector care homes who have considerable experience and skill in meeting their needs and are regulated through the Care Quality Commission.</p> <p>In addition, the Council works with care providers to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A person centred, human rights approach to care which ensures the dignity and rights of people with dementia are promoted and upheld• Personalised Support Plans which address the specific needs, preferences, wishes and risks of each service user. This ensures that care is personalised to the individual in a way in which freedoms are respected• Safeguarding and Mental Capacity – the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards protect individuals who lack capacity to consent to their care arrangements, ensuring that any deprivation (such as the impact

	<p>of living in care homes with locked suites) are in the service users' best interests and are considerate to the least restrictive option of support available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular monitoring and inspection through the Care Home Quality partnership arrangements between the Council, NHS and other partners; as well as through regulatory inspections through the Care Quality Commission. Both of which assess the quality, safety and environmental approach to care to ensure care standards are met <p>The Council and the ICB have a robust process of contract monitoring and quality assuring care homes in Kirklees. A range of professionals visit care homes on a daily basis. There is also a schedule of visits planned throughout the year carried out by the Council's Care Home Contract and Quality Team alongside NHS partners. All these, and of course family and friends, are in regular contact with residents and staff and can flag up any concerns.</p>
3	<p>Question from Sarah Newton to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care – Councillor Addy</p> <p>“If the Council continue to transfer ownership, how will they guarantee that the new owner will not change its use from solely dementia care or that they will say in 6 months time that dementia care is not financially viable and close the home to reopen as adults with learning difficulties, as your report to cabinet, that was approved last week, states as a possibility?”</p> <p>Cabinet Member Response</p> <p>Reference to learning difficulties provision entered into discussions when closure of the care homes was discussed – however as we are now talking about selling the homes as a going concern providing dementia care the Council are only engaging with providers interested in operating the care homes as dementia homes.</p> <p>This will form part of the Council's engagement and negotiations with interested providers where the Council can apply a range of protective measures to mitigate the risk described in the question. These measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due Diligence from the Council to ensure that the care home provider(s) have a good track record and a viable business plan • Consultation with families and key stakeholders to ensure feedback is captured and that any concerns are shared with the care home provider(s). The Council has started the six-week non-statutory consultation process to capture this information • Contractual Agreements in the form of clauses/conditions in the transfer contract which may involve the Council requiring the care home provider(s) to continue operating the care homes, to support people with dementia needs, for a specified period • Ongoing Monitoring and Oversight to provide the care home provider(s) with support to ensure a positive transition for residents, staff and families as well as ensuring ongoing compliance with standards of care

	<p>I reiterate that we will only be engaging with a quality provider whose core business is dementia care and negotiating the continued use of the sites for this purpose. In addition, it should be noted that the dementia care market is expanding and the market for this kind of care is expanding not contracting.</p>
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