

Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

Friday 10th January 2025

Present:

Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Jane Rylah
Councillor Habiban Zaman

Co-optees

Helen Clay
Kim Taylor

In attendance:

Councillor Beverly Addy, Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care,
Michelle Cross, Executive Director for Adults and Health,
Saf Bhuta, Head of In-house provision, Adults Social Care,
Kevin Mulvaney, Service Director, Finance,
Jon Haigh, Finance Manager.

Apologies:

Councillor Jo Lawson

1 Election of Chair

RESOLVED-

That Councillor Alison Munro be appointed Chair for the meeting.

2 Membership of the Panel

Apologies were received from Councillor Jo Lawson.

3 Declaration of Interests

No Interests were declared.

4 Admission of the public

RESOLVED-

That the public be excluded from the meeting for part of the discussion as exempt information under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) would be disclosed in respect of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular information (including the authority holding that information).

5 Call-in of the Future of Council Operated Dementia Care Home Provision (Castle Grange and Claremont House)

The Scrutiny Panel considered the grounds of a call-in request, in respect of a Cabinet decision taken on 10th December 2024 in relation to the future of Council operated dementia care home provision (Castle Grange and Claremont House).

The two validated decision making areas which were the focus of the call-in review meeting were:

- Openness - A lack of transparency over the financial rationalisation for privatisation.
- Relevant Considerations - Financial Discrepancies and Opaqueness.

The Panel had submitted a number of questions in advance of the meeting relating to the notice of call in and responses were provided by the Cabinet Member and Officers during the meeting.

At the review meeting, the Scrutiny Panel considered verbal submissions from Councillors who were signatories to the call in, Councillors who were not signatories to the call in, and members of the public. The Panel also considered the responses of the Cabinet Member and Senior Officers of Adults Social Care to the areas of focus.

During discussion of the Call In, the Panel questioned the information that had been available to members of the public, along with information available to Cabinet Members in their decision making on 10th December 2024. A five-year financial analysis report was provided to Panel members prior to the call-in, which Officers confirmed had not been provided to Cabinet Members in their decision making on 10th December 2024.

The Panel considered everything that had been submitted in writing and verbally at the hearing. This included information that had informed Cabinets final decision.

The Panel considered the three decision options set out in the Council's Constitution, that were available to it:

- (1) To take no further action and free the decision for implementation.
- (2) To refer it back to Cabinet with recommendations for amendment.
- (3) To refer it back to the next Council, if the Panel considered that the decision was not made in accordance with the budget or policy framework.

RESOLVED-

That the decision taken in relation to the Future of Council Operated Dementia Care Home Provision (Castle Grange and Claremont House) be referred to the Cabinet with the following recommendation in relation to the areas of focus as follows:

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That the decision be put on hold and that Cabinet be provided with the full, multi-year financial analysis in a further report and reconsider the decision on the basis of that information.

The Panel also highlighted the following learning points:

1. In order to ensure openness and transparency, full and complete information should be provided to all Cabinet Members and published in Cabinet reports, such as the multi-year financial analysis, wherever possible, restricted if necessary due to being private information.
2. That pre-decision scrutiny by the relevant Panel should be undertaken to inform significant Cabinet decisions.