

CABINET 18 DECEMBER 2012

CABINET MEMBER RESPONSE TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO BUDGET MONITORING

Adult Social Care Select Committee recommendations

Therefore the Select Committee recommends to the Cabinet:

1. The Adult Social Care Directorate has worked extremely well over the last two years to meet very challenging financial savings targets;
2. The Committee continues to champion preventative measures that will affect the long term figures positively;
3. The savings that have been required and will need to continue may now begin to affect the quality of care in some areas;
4. The Adult Social Care Select Committee formally requests that the Cabinet re-consider the savings targets being imposed on the Adult Social Care Directorate, bearing in mind the demographic challenges and increased demand facing it; and
5. The public need to be informed and prepared for possibly difficult announcements and impacts of the funding allocation from central government due in December and in the future.

Reply:

I am grateful to the Select Committee Members for their work in scrutinising the forward budget position.

They rightly recognise the achievements of Adult Social Care Directorate in making savings approaching £90m over the past three years while reducing neither quality of service nor the underlying investment; and I agree that we should continue to invest for the longer term in such programmes as Reablement, Telecare and Supporting People.

I also agree that increased funding would be very welcome. However, we do need to make those decisions within the overall funding available to the County Council, and to make them on a fully informed basis. Accordingly, a substantive response will have to wait until after the Government's settlement has been received and its consequences analysed.

What I propose, therefore, is to feed the Committee's views into the relevant Cabinet discussions, and to attend the Committee's own budget workshop on 15 January to make sure I am fully aware of Members' views as we move towards making the decisions needed to set the budget for 2013/14

**Michael Gosling
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
18 December 2012**

This page is intentionally left blank