

CABINET – 26 September 2017

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Public Questions

Question 1: Brenda Greenslade - for Waverley Tenants Panel

"In relation to the Housing Related Support proposal, have Members of Surrey County Council's Cabinet taken into consideration the comparison between the costs of continuing the funding for the Managers of Waverley Borough Council Sheltered Housing Schemes and the cost of some of the residents having to go into full time care homes if they no longer have the support of a manager in their unit? The cost of 24 hour care in a care home would not only be very much more but also there are fewer and fewer places available for an ever growing older population which is forecast to grow considerably in Waverley in the coming years.

Reply:

Continued cuts to funding, rising costs and increasing demand for key services means the need for Surrey County Council to find savings has reached unprecedented levels. Housing Related Support funding is no longer ring fenced and our future practice will be guided by our duties under the Care Act 2014. Surrey County Council (SCC) will ensure everyone is treated consistently under the Care Act and is assessed based on their current need. These proposed changes mean a shift from the current universal offer, to target the limited funding the County Council has available on those adults with eligible needs.

Providers meet the costs of employing a scheme manager through various income streams, including rent, service charges, charitable funds and by the minimum contribution made by the County Council's Housing Related Support. Withdrawal of Housing Related Support funding will not necessarily mean the service will end or that the scheme manager service will be withdrawn. It will very much depend upon Waverley Borough Council's response to the County Council's decision. Waverley may find alternative funding streams to retain the service unchanged, they may reduce or remodel their offer.

If residents who are currently in receipt of Housing Related Support have an on-going need for support they will be able to request an assessment of their needs. If, as a result of this assessment they qualify for support under the Care Act eligibility criteria, they will receive funding through a personal budget from Surrey County Council. It is anticipated that personal budgets will be used in a variety of ways to meet individual needs. It might for example, include support from a home based care agency alongside informal support from family, friends and the local community. It would be unlikely to mean a move into a care home with 24 hour care although this may be the right choice for some people.

Mr Mel Few
Cabinet Member for Adults
26 September 2017

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