

ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE**Item under consideration: ASC BUDGET****Date Considered: 20 June 2013**

At the meeting on 20 June, the Committee considered the Adult Social Care Select Committee Budget, together with its directorate strategy. The Service has indicated that it intends to achieve £15million in savings this financial year 2013/14 owing to the greater use of 'social capital.' Social capital is communities playing a greater role in preventing social care needs and/or helping to meet them. Schemes such as time banks, befriending and community navigators are examples of social capital, but it can also be as simple as neighbours helping neighbours.

While the Committee greatly values the importance and use of social capital and is encouraged that the Service is working to increase the use of it, Members no less had reservations about the ability to meet the amount of savings associated with it. Members commented that some social capital already comes from the voluntary, community and faith sector organisations. As a consequence, Members were concerned that attempting to get more from this already-stretched sector would prove difficult if used as a means of achieving savings.

Therefore the Select Committee recommends that:

1. The Cabinet examine and evaluate the realistic potential for savings via "social capital."

Keith Witham
Chairman, Adult Social Care Select Committee

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