

ADULT AND COMMUNITY PDS COMMITTEE: PUBLIC QUESTIONS
21st September 2010

Public Written Question to Chairman at Adult and Community PDS Committee from Mrs Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group

With regard to ACS 10055 “Support Independence in Bromley –Changes to Care Management Arrangements” – Assessing Future Need:

Q1: This report states (para 3.4.9) that a smaller number of users will require Long Term Care.

Earlier studies by Laing and Buisson, commissioned by ACS show a significant increase in elderly population requiring LTC.

Before accepting significant reductions in the Homecare service, will Members require officers to procure an updated study?

Reply

There are no plans to reduce the provision of home care or domiciliary care services to people who meet the Council’s eligibility criteria. The Council currently purchases the majority of that care through a range of independent sector care providers and a decreasing amount has been delivered through an in-house service.

Over recent years there has been a consistent and steady increase in the amount of the Council’s budget used to purchase domiciliary care on behalf of residents and a decrease in the use of long term residential and nursing care. With the continuing projected increase in the elderly population, this is likely to continue.

Our Supporting Independence Programme is helping to address these demands and through reablement is aiming to ensure that as many people as possible are encouraged to regain their confidence and skills following an illness or perhaps a fall, and therefore have a reduced reliance on care.

Public Written Questions to Portfolio Holder at Adult and Community PDS Committee from Mrs Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group

With regard to ACS 10053 “Review of In House Homecare Service – Consultation with Users:

Q1: Cllr Arthur was quoted in the Bromley Times (2.9.10) as saying: “*At the moment, we are finding out people’s views and I don’t want to comment, as I don’t want to prejudice the outcome*”

When will users of the service, who are clearly concerned about these changes, be consulted?

Reply

It is our standard practice that Care Management staff make contact with any service user where a change to their care arrangements is being considered. This includes circumstances where the organisation providing the care is changing. In respect of the changes being considered for the in-house home care service this process is underway and each service user and their family are being contacted in advance of any change being made to their care arrangements

Q2: Will he ask officers to explore the feasibility of setting up a scheme to allow service users to retain their usual carers via personal budgets or Direct Payments if the in-house scheme is to be abandoned?

Reply

With regard to whether existing Home care staff could establish themselves as self employed carers or personal assistants, that is a matter for those interested individuals to pursue independently. There is a vast amount of information available via the internet about how direct payments work for both service users and carers and interested individuals are free to seek advice and assistance in how to explore these options.