

**Oral Questions for the Adult and Community PDS Committee  
25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**Questions from Mrs Jean Stout, Chairman Community Care Protection Group**

**1. (a) What is the existing budget for equipment for free visual aids for the visually handicapped that ACS proposes to cut?**

**(a) What reduction in the budget for the contract with Kent Association for the Blind is ACS proposing to cut?**

**What Services does this cover?**

There is no proposal to reduce this budget

The designated budget in 2010/11 for Talking Books and equipment for people with sight impairments is £9,770. As demand for equipment increases, it is proposed to consult over which items of equipment should still be subsidised by the Council in order to make the best use of the funds available.

It is proposed that the Council continues to fund the provision of information, advice and guidance via the contract with Kent Association for the Blind; so that people with sight impairments are informed about what equipment may be useful to them and how they can obtain it.

**2. The Prime Minister and the Conservative Party promised before the Election, that cuts would not affect the most vulnerable**

**(a) Does this Committee consider that the blind and partially sighted are not in this category?**

**(b) If so, can they please explain what 'vulnerable' means?**

The needs of people with visual impairments are assessed under the same "Fair Access to Care Services" criteria as other people with care and support needs. It is not for this committee to clarify a political statement. Politicians use certain phrases when they are campaigning and these campaigns are then translated into policy documents by Civil Servants and the terminology changes. However, I am satisfied that this Council's adult social care eligibility criteria and budget information for services are made publically available. If Mrs Stout does have any further queries I am more than happy to discuss these with her following the meeting.