

Care package funding to be protected by Haringey Council

Protecting funding for care packages that help thousands of vulnerable adults to lead more independent lives has been recommended in proposals to be considered by Haringey Council.

The packages help almost 5,000 Haringey residents to take charge of their own care arrangements – covering costs of services such as respite care, care worker support, transport and leisure activities.

Following government cuts to local authority funding, the council was forced to consider making an across the board saving of around £5.7 million from care package funding as it explored ways to meet £70 million savings that have to be found during the next three years.

But Cabinet papers published this week recommend the proposal be shelved following feedback from the council's budget consultation.

Haringey Council Leader Claire Kober said:

“We wanted to hear from local people on the issues of greatest importance to them as we considered some incredibly difficult decisions in the face of unprecedented cuts to our funding.

“Residents spoke loud and clear about their concerns that the budget cuts would impact on the most vulnerable. Maintaining our investment in care packages is the single most important way we can support vulnerable adults to live independent lives.

“A well-tailored care package can make the difference between isolation and independence – whether that's a simple visit to the shops, some much-needed time in respite care or a trip to the theatre.”

People will continue to have their needs assessed and, where possible, will be supported to live independently.

The council considered in-depth feedback on a wide range of proposals to change or reduce other services but was unable to reverse other proposals without leaving an unbalanced budget.

Other budget proposals, which are pegged to five “Corporate Plan” priorities for improving Haringey, include:

A sixth consecutive year of council tax freeze

A commitment to keep all of Haringey's libraries open

Investment in new homes and better protection for private tenants

Regeneration to bring new facilities and jobs to Haringey

Investment in maintaining roads and pavements

Savings proposals include:

Changes to children's centres with the aim of reaching more families

A review of youth services to consider where improvements could be made

A new approach to street cleaning to ensure resources are targeted at areas of greatest need

Back-office savings to reduce council running costs

A move away from care in day centres and institutions and towards greater independence and support in the community

The budget will be considered by Cabinet on Tuesday 10 February before going before Full Council for approval on 24 February.