

Dear Hilarie and Michael,

Thank you for your email in which you raise your concerns about the proposals put forward to manage the council's reducing budget, in particular those relating to services to meet the needs of local residents with autism and learning disability. I acknowledge your concerns – indeed we are acutely aware of the importance, and challenge, of minimising the negative impact of any budget reduction while at the same time being committed to improve the health and wellbeing of all residents, including those most vulnerable.

Please note that these are still proposals, a final decision on the Corporate Plan and budget proposals will be made by Cabinet in February 2015. The consultation paper seeks to allow service users, their carers and others with an interest in council run services to have an opportunity to give their views on the proposals, which will be considered before a decision is made. As such, I welcome your feedback regarding the detailed issues that you have described – and I'll ensure this is submitted as part of the consultation process.

Following the Council's decision on the budget in February 2015, there will be additional opportunities for people to respond to more detailed consultations on specific plans. The outcome of these additional consultations will be used by Adult Social Services to decide how services can best be delivered.

As you are aware people who receive Adult Social Care services have an assessment of their needs and the council has a duty to meet those needs – and this will continue to be the case. The Care Act 2014 further provides the local authority with enhanced responsibilities towards carers. What we are looking at is how those needs will be met in the future. Public health is working closely with Adult Social Services in looking at the evidence-base and best practice that is informing the proposals. Adult Social Services will continue to provide quality assurance as to the suitability of all service provision for which they retain responsibility regardless of whether those services are provided directly by the Council or by an alternative method. As part of this quality assurance any changes that are implemented shall be subject to ongoing review to determine the outcome of the changes for our residents.

Cllr Peter Morton, our Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, and Beverley Tarka, our Interim Director for Adult Social Care, Beverley Tarka have invited all of our service users with a Learning Disability, Physical disability and Older people to some sessions to help explain the process and proposals more fully. My understanding is that this is for service users that:

- 1) Receive residential or residential nursing care directly from the Council,
- 2) Reside within the shared lives scheme (internal to Haringey Council)
- 3) Reside with supported living schemes internal to Haringey Council

Two of the consultation sessions are being held on 6 January and a further two sessions to be held on 9th January 2015. This invitation has been extended to carers where applicable. This will be an important opportunity to ask questions of Cllr Morton and Beverley Tarka and talk through the council's approach to the changes to services.

Yours sincerely,

Jeanelle

Dr. Jeanelle de Gruchy, Director of Public Health