



Meeting of the City Council

4 November 2015

Report title	Petition 148-15 Save Elderly Care in Wolverhampton	
Referring body		
Councillor to present report	Councillor Elias Mattu	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Elias Mattu Cabinet Member for Adults	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, People	
Originating service	Commissioning, Older People	
Accountable employee(s)	Paul Smith Tel Email	Head Of Commissioning - Older People 01902 555318 Paul.Smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be considered by	Cabinet	11 November 2015

Recommendation for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Formally receive the petition
2. Agree that the petition should be taken into account as part of the analysis of the outcome of the consultation exercise on Better Care Technology which ended on 26 October 2015 and which will be separately reported to Cabinet on 11 November 2015.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 On 14 July 2011, the Council approved revisions to its petitions scheme to make it compliant with new statutory guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government. One of the principal changes to the Council's scheme was the setting of a threshold for triggering a full Council debate where a petition contains a significant level of support. A threshold of 2,500 signatures was approved for this purpose.
- 1.2 A petition has been received from Mr Adrian Turner containing 5,637 signatures from residents of the City. The petition opposes the recommendations made in the Cabinet report of 22 July 2015, Better Care Technology and Strengthening Support at Home.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Council is progressing an ambitious development of its services in line with the Care Act policy drivers. The objective will be to intervene and support people earlier, reduce, defer and delay the need for more intensive support by having better information, increased alternatives of less intensive care to help our people maintain their lives.
- 2.2 Prior to approval at Cabinet in July the report was presented for a pre decision scrutiny to the Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel on 14 July 2015. The report received cross party agreement and the panel supported all the recommendations in the report.
- 2.3 In July 2015 Cabinet approved the following recommendations;
 - The transformation of community based services and the creation of a new community offer, with the delivery and development extended and enhanced Reablement and other services, including telecare, to support people to live independently in their own homes.
 - The formal consultation process on the proposal to decommission services at Merryhill House and Nelson Mandela House and transfer to external market providers.
 - The formal consultation process on the proposal to decommission services at Woden Resource Centre and re-provide high dependency day care in the external market through a personalised approach.
 - The progression of the externalisation of community reablement and the commissioning of a specialist dementia reablement service.
 - The development an ambitious telecare offer at scale to increase the independence of vulnerable people in Wolverhampton and to agree to be a national pilot for a proactive telephone service to reduce isolation and enhance wellbeing.

- 2.4 The consultation has been undertaken relating to the following in-house services;
- Merryhill House – residential long stay and residential respite
 - Nelson Mandela House - residential long stay and residential respite
 - Woden Resource Centre - residential rehabilitation (up to a period of six weeks) and high dependency day care
- 2.4.1 Based on an average occupancy rate of 61%, the average cost of a long stay residential placement at the council run residential care homes is on average £1,013 per week. This compares with the independent sector which has an average cost of £419 per week.
- Placements in council run care homes account for 1.7% of all residential placements funded by the Council
 - Taking the average cost of a long stay residential placement, council run placements account for 4.3% of total residential care spend
- 2.5 The consultation was completed on the 26 October 2015. The Cabinet report on 11 November 2015 will outline the outcome of the consultation, provide further analysis and recommendations and the progress made to date on the development of the Better Care Technology offer across the City.
- 2.6 It is recognised that these services are valued by service users, carers and citizens. The opportunity for engagement and feedback on these proposals to all stakeholders has been extensive and widely publicised through a range of marketing and media channels.
- 2.7 There have been seventeen consultation events, attended by service users relatives, the public and external stakeholders. Two provider engagement meetings have been held. A number of employee sessions have been facilitated which have included representation from Unison and at which employees were represented in large numbers.
- 2.7.1 The stakeholder meeting was well attended by a range of partner organisations and individuals. Attendance at the three public meetings consisted of a combined total of nine members of the public.
- 2.8 In addition to the meetings held, 95 feedback forms have been received and 35 responses received through an online survey.
- 2.9 The emerging themes that have been expressed during the consultation will be included in the Cabinet paper on 11 November 2015.
- 2.10 Two reports have been submitted as part of the consultation. The Association for Public Excellence (ASPE) were commissioned on behalf of Unison. Woden Resource Centre has submitted their own proposals for alternative options for the provision of preventative and rehabilitation services at Woden Resource Centre.

- 2.11 This petition will be included in the analysis of the outcome of the consultation exercise that will be reported to Cabinet on 11 November 2015. The concerns of the petitioners will then be given due regard alongside other comments and concerns expressed by other respondents to the consultation exercise before Cabinet decides on how it wishes to proceed.
- 2.12 These proposals will be an integral part of the transformation of older people's services, from 'care home to care at home', providing increased choice and control for service users and carers and assist in meeting the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

3.0 Details of the Petition

- 3.1 A petition was received on the 15 October 2015 from Mr Adrian Turner, Branch Secretary for Unison. The petition, containing 5,637 signatures, from residents of the City opposes the recommendations made in the Cabinet report of 22 July 2015, Better Care Technology and Strengthening Support At Home.
- 3.2 The petition states that

'Save Elderly Care in Wolverhampton'

We the undersigned call on Wolverhampton City Council to oppose the recommendations made in the Cabinet report of July 22nd 'Better Care Technology and strengthening support at home'. We believe the citizens of Wolverhampton value the high standard of care currently delivered at Merry Hill House, Nelson Mandela House, Woden House and Bradley Resource Centre which already best meet the needs of service users including the provision of residential care, respite, rehabilitation, CICT, HARP and day care.

Therefore, we oppose any move to close these establishments and/or outsource elderly care provision to the private sector and call on our elected members to do the same.

The Councils proposals to restructure elderly service provision in Wolverhampton are not based on improving the service but to make financial savings, the dismantling of what we believe are excellent services in the pursuit of savings is counterproductive and not in the best interests of the older people of the city'.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The subject of this petition is linked to a savings proposal included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 'Reducing costs within in-house services for older people of £2.3 million'.
- 4.2 A further savings proposal linked to this subject of £820,000 for 'Re-shaping older people services' was approved for further development as part of the Draft Budget and Medium

Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 – 2018/19 report approved by Cabinet on 22 July 2015 and 21 October 2015 (Draft Budget 2016/17).

[AS/22102015/L]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 Whilst there are no immediate legal implications arising from the petition the Council is required to consult regarding changes to these services.

[RB/26102015/P]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 A full equality analysis will be undertaken, following the outcome on the consultations on Merryhill House, Nelson Mandela House and Woden Resource Centre and will be reported back in the report presented to Cabinet on the 11 November 2015.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 There are human resource implications associated with this report, if approval is given. The recommendations will be implemented in line with the Council's Human Resources Policies and Procedures following consultations with employees and Trade Unions. If any of these services are subject to TUPE implications there may be associated costs.

[HR/JF/TI/007]

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 Corporate landlord is actively involved in the assessment of the asset implications relating to the service model proposals in this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 Appendix One – Schedule of consultation meetings

Appendix 1 Schedule of consultation meetings

Date	Venue	Participants	Numbers attended
Monday 8 th August 2015	Civic Centre, CR3	9.30 Provider forum	0
		11.30 Provider Forum	2
Tues 25 th August 2015	Nelson Mandela House	9.30 – 10.15 Employees	20
		10.30 Service users and family/carers	24
Tues 25 th August 2015	Merry Hill House	1.30 – 2.15 Employees	18
		2.30 Service users and family/carers	29
Weds 26 th August 2015	Woden Resource centre	9.30 – 10.15 staff	22
		10.30 - 11.15 Service users and family/carers	7
		11.30 – Day care users and family/carers	10
Thurs 27 th August 2015	Bradley Resource Centre	9.30 – 10.15 Employees	21
		10.30 Service users and family/carers	9
Mon 28 th Sept 2015	Civic Centre, public meeting	10.30 public meeting	6
Tues 6 th October 2015	Civic Centre - Stakeholder meeting	2.00 – stakeholders	21
Tues 13 th October 2015	Civic Centre – public meeting	5.30 – public meeting	1

Thurs 15thOctober 2015	Warstones Resource Centre	2.00 – All staff	17
Tuesday 20th October 2015	Civic Centre – public meeting	7.00 – public meeting	2
Wednesday 21st October 2015	Woden Resource Centre	2.00 – staff meeting	Included above in previous Woden staff meeting