

NOTICE OF MOTION**GREEN GROUP****SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CARE TOGETHER (SFCT)**

“This council notes the Green paper Shaping the Future of Care Together, concerning the funding of social services, both residential and home-based, and welcomes the opportunity to comment on emerging government policy.

City care services are in a period of transition - moving toward personalised budgets at the same time as experiencing increasing budgetary pressures. The combination of insufficient funding, increased demand from an ageing society and escalating costs is already placing an immeasurable strain on adult care.

The Local Government Association believes councils already contribute a significant amount to total local adult social care expenditure through Council Tax. They estimate that local government contributes 39%, or more than £5.3bn to total adult care spend of over £13bn.

The Green paper;

- Points to current geographic inequalities both in services provided concerning both the level of need of the recipients and services provided and proposes a National Care Service (NCS) be formed to coordinate standards.
- The Green paper proposes that the work of the NCS and the benefits it provides will be funded through one of three options, Partnership, Insurance or Comprehensive. All of these options require means-tested personal contributions – (apart from the Partnership arrangement where people with less than £23,000 (or an amount to be agreed) would get basic services free.
- Rules out services being wholly funded by the state.
- Proposes a realignment of ‘disability benefits’, which is widely understood to mean that Disability Living Allowance be ceased (DLA), and its funds be diverted to services arranged via NCS.

Such a comprehensive reorganisation of social care payments would affect thousands of Brighton & Hove residents - 12,460 people claimed DLA alone in the year ending August 2008. Added to this are the significant number of people receiving home and residential care packages. Withdrawal or reduction of benefits payable to the most vulnerable will cause real hardship and further widen the poverty gap.

The recent publication of the 'Green New Deal' proposals by the Green party argued for non means-tested free universal social care for all. The cost would be met from, among other things, the abolition of tax havens (a total of £10bn a year could be raised in this way), improved tax collection and cancellation of expensive and wasteful projects such as Trident renewal and the ID cards scheme.

Bearing in mind the importance of these issues to residents and the Council itself; this Council therefore asks:

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health to consider submitting a consultation response to the green paper reflecting the council's views, informed by this discussion."

Proposed by: Cllr Keith Taylor

Seconded by: Cllr Georgia Wrighton