

To: Tower House Service Users and Family Carers

From: Naomi Cox General Manager Adult Social Care Provider Services

Date: 22nd February 2016

Update: Tower House Consultation

As you know we are currently in a 3 month consultation which ends on **26th February 2016** where we are seeking your views on the following options: The options (agreed by Members of the Policy and Resources Committee on 4th November 2015) are as follows:

- 1. To maintain the existing day centre service at Tower House, reviewing options to deliver this in a more cost effective way, including, if necessary, reducing the level of provision;***

This means the Council would explore whether savings can be made in the Tower House budget – possible examples of this could mean that some people reduce the number of times they attend Tower House and/or we only open 3 days per week and/or we stop providing transport and people arrange their own transport. There may be other ways to make savings, these are just examples of some of the options the Council could explore.

- 2. That people are supported to receive a personal budget and choose alternative activities if possible;***

This means people who attend Tower House receive a personal budget which is calculated according to individual needs and are supported to choose alternative day activities in the city that are affordable within their budget allocation.

- 3. That people are supported to move to an alternative day service that meets their needs and can be provided in a more cost effective way***

If people are assessed as needing a day centre based service to meet their needs then a less expensive day centre is found for them.

- 4. For Council Officers to explore opportunities to cross subsidise the service by using the facility for other uses on evenings and weekends;***

That the council will look to see if there are ways of bringing in more income to Tower House by hiring out the building at evenings and weekends and thereby reduce the cost of the service.

Thank you to those of you who have already returned your questionnaires – we are looking at the feedback you have given us and this will be part of the Report that will go back to Committee for a decision.

Many of you have now had the opportunity to find out more about Personal Budgets. The FED have run small group sessions for Tower House service users and their families.

A Care Manager from the Assessment Team has been based at Tower House. She has been meeting with people and family carers to talk about people's individual needs and what is important to you.

Many of you have said you don't know what other day time activities are available in the city. We have organised a **'What's Out There Fair' for 25th February 11am - 3pm at Tower House**. Organisations who run activities in the city will come along and tell people who attend Tower House (and their families) what they do and how people can get involved. These include: CareLink/Living Well, Ralli Hall, Somerset Day Centre, Crossroads Care, Alzheimer's Society, Carers Centre, Barford Court, Stroke Club, Hop 50 Plus, FED.

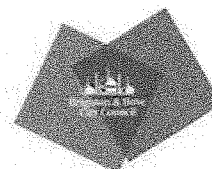
It has now been confirmed that a Report which makes recommendations about the future of Tower House will be going to the following meetings:

Health & Wellbeing Board - 19th April 2016
Policy & Resources Committee – 28th April 2016.

These are public meetings and we will let you know times and venue when these are confirmed. The Report will go live on the Council website approximately one week before the meetings. We will send you a copy of the Report when it is made public.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Update for Tower House Service Users.

Meeting at Tower House on 3rd December 2015. Attended by Tower House service users, Karen Barford, Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care, and Karin Divall, Head of ASC Provider Services.

Thank you everyone who attended this meeting, and I noted four actions that I agreed to take away from yesterday and they are set out below with my responses:

1. Can clarification be given about the legality of stopping hot meals at Tower House?

Adult Social Care has a legal duty to meet assessed social care needs and in some cases this can include ensuring someone has a hot meal. The consultation that took place at Tower House included individual meetings with everyone to see whether their assessed needs provide that they require a hot meal at lunchtime. For those individuals whose assessed needs include a hot meal at lunchtime a meal is brought in and heated up for lunch. A number of options are now available for people at lunch-time dependent on their assessed needs including a hot meal heated up by staff at the Day service, hot meals are delivered by a private businessman and packed lunches can be brought in.

2. Can the accounts for Tower house be made available?

The budget for 2015/16 for Tower House is:

Staffing £314,270

Premises- insurance, cleaning, grounds maintenance, rubbish clearance
£11,390

Vehicle running costs £19,030

Supplies and services – stationery, computers, training £14,710

Re-charge for borrowing (vehicles) £9,000

Overheads (Council corporate costs) £145,000

Income: £67,260

Plus the average annual cost to the council for the lease service charge, maintenance and utilities is £44,435.

3. Can the name of the Tower House freeholder be provided? The freeholder is Holding & Management (Solitaire) Ltd

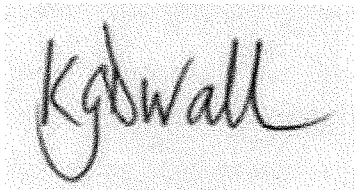
- 4. Can details of the Policy & Resources Committee and the Health & Wellbeing Board be made available plus the process that the consultation feedback would take including timescales? And can a service user representative be involved in the consultation discussions before a final recommendation is made?**

Details of all Committee dates, membership, agendas and decisions are available on the Council's website at

<http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

And I agreed that I would come back to Tower House before a report goes back to Committee with further information about the committee process, the outcomes of the consultation plus information about how service user representations might be fed into the committee process. At this stage the planned timescales are that a report will go back to committee at the end of March or early April 2016.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kgdwall', on a light-colored background.

Karin Divall
Head, Adult Social Care (Provider Services).