



## Adults and Communities Directorate

**Our reference:** A&CD/SD/PH/SML/2647

19<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Manjit Singh  
Heart of Birmingham Action Group  
Birmingham LINK  
c/o Gateway Family Services CIC  
Radclyffe House  
66-68 Hagley Road  
Birmingham  
B16 8PF

Dear Manjit

Thank you for your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

The City Council does not have a Heart of Birmingham area. The area structures for Social Care disappeared in 2006 when we moved into an Adult and Childcare functional directorates. Since this point we have been structured on the basis of service specialities.

Although I recognise the HoB PCT area for the purposes of liaison with the NHS we have no way of dividing our service down into the HoB area. Equally as the HoB area does not form a recognisable entity for people receiving services we either work on a city or constituency basis.

For the purposes of your response I felt it best therefore to respond on the basis of a whole city approach. Some people who live within the Heart of Birmingham PCT area will receive services from locations outside of that area and vice a versa.

To deal with your specific requests:-

### Service Reviews

Adult Social Care Services under review are:-

1. Elderly Persons Residential Care (details below and associated day centres)

Please reply to:

### **Adults and Communities**

Level 5  
Louisa Ryland House  
44 Newhall Street  
Birmingham B3 3PL

Telephone : 0121 303 2992  
Facsimile : 0121 303 4383  
[www.birmingham.gov.uk](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk)

**Peter Hay**, Strategic Director, Adults and Communities

2. Mental Health Day Centres modernisation (details below)
3. Learning Disability Residential Care Closures - where the proposal of the City Council has been to close Learning Disability Residential Homes and replace them in line with the wishes of service users with supported living arrangements.
4. Meals on Wheels – where the City Council is procuring an alternative supply to the traditional Meals on Wheels offer from the City Council. Full details are available on our City Council website as they are for all cabinet papers. It is however worth pointing out that in this area the take up of Meals on Wheels within the constituencies which make up the HoB PCT was particularly low. Although the City Council's previous in house arrangement catered for all specialist diets, racial and cultural requirements the perception is clearly different. This has led to a traditional under use of council services within areas of highest need.
5. The entire structure of the Adults and Communities Directorate is currently under review and we are consulting with our staff on a redesign of the organisation the way in which we deliver assessment care management and support services.

As you will know this is based on a very significant move by the Directorate to approve the choice and control and experience by people using services and to promote a model of individual care with the high use of individual budgets.

#### Elderly Persons Homes

I attach for your information as requested the cabinet papers which list the closures of older person homes and the current proposed closure order.

#### Mental Health Day Centres

I attach a copy of the cabinet papers on the modernisation of mental health day centres which gives you full details as requested. In both cases you should find that the cabinet paper gives you clear information on the alternatives being made available through the closure programmes in both older people's care and mental health day centres. In the heart of Birmingham area we have built the Norman Power Care Centre which is operating on the basis of providing 32 additional beds for specialist dementia care and 32 beds which are now operated by HoB PCT for intermediate and interim care. As you will also be aware we have particularly targeted the development of new independent sector residential care within the HoB area including the new facilities now operated at Winson Green.

#### Demand

Your final point is to ask for the information on the strategy to cover the increased demand in Adult Social Care. Birmingham City Council has undertaken detailed work with the London School of Economics which I am happy to provide further details on if requested. We use the techniques developed by the review to map demographic change and Wanless demand. We then looked at what this would cost and have been very clear that because Birmingham has significant issues linked to the overall level of deprivation and poor health of its population its costs of care escalate at a significant rate. We have in our

full business case (again available via our cabinet web site) outlined how we will use individual budgets, enablement, prediction and prevention and a range of other techniques to close the gap between the demand for services and available resources. Clearly this is a complex and difficult area and I have a range of presentations available if that would help and would be more than happy to discuss these with Link if required.

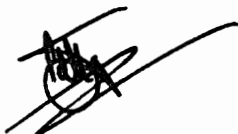
Equally I should point out that the funding for Adult Social Care is a matter for government. As you will be aware a white paper was published by the now last government in March 2010 outlining proposals for a new National Care Service. The funding of Adult Social Care and the solutions to it are to be determined at a national level. Nevertheless the City Council has been very clear that it must do all it possibly can to utilise resources in a different way to offset the major challenge posed by increase demand for services. Consequently all of the change programmes have not been about removing resources for Adult Social Care but about using the money differently. This has produced a dramatic and difficult programme of change but one which is essential if we are to meet the objectives.

Finally I should assure you that there are in place a number of things to satisfy ourselves as to the affect of all this change on the very people who use services. In relation to Older Adults Care Homes we have commissioned independent research from the University of Birmingham which has helped us both devise the method for moving people, review how that movement occurs to report next year on the outcomes experienced by older people post movement. This will be the largest ever independent survey done of the movement of older people in care. In relation to the use of individual budgets we have commissioned further work from DEMOS and the University of Birmingham to provide us with independent research on the experience of people receiving personalised care services. We would again be happy to share this research as and when it becomes available with Link to assist you in your work. I hope that its existence assures you of our concerns that we are very sighted on the impact of change upon the people who receive services.

I am aware this is a great deal of information and that you are asking for information about change programmes such as Older Adults which have a long and at times difficult history. As I have offered above I am more than happy to arrange for either myself or members of staff team to engage in discussions with you to help you understand or discuss any of the issues which arise from this correspondence.

I look forward to hearing from you further as required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Hay', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**PETER HAY**  
**Strategic Director**  
**Adults and Communities Directorate**

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