

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

AGENDA ITEM 5

QUESTION 1

HEATHER OSBORNE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SHROPSHIRE OLDER PEOPLES ASSEMBLY will ask the following questions:

QUESTION 1

The Council has already voted to make savings of £500,000 from day care services over the next three years. At the last public Assembly meeting Stephen Chandler advised us that in future people will have a wider choice using personalized budgets and can choose other alternatives as well as day care. However, there may be many older people who would still wish to access day care with their personal budgets. What impact assessment has the Council carried out on the future sustainability of day care services, given the above reductions, to ensure that older people truly do have choice and can still access day care if they wish to?

MRS A HARTLEY Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing will reply as follows:

An equality impact assessment has been completed on the provision of block purchased day care and the provision of in house day care. There are no plans to close specific day centres. However, as people choose to use their personal budgets differently, it is probably inevitable that some day centres may not continue to operate in their current format. The choices of personal budget holders will shape demand and therefore provision of services. We have already observed a reduction in demand in some centres, as people identify other alternatives they prefer. We think the measures that we are taking to promote personalisation will enhance choice and the quality of the services that people receive.

QUESTION 2

The Council also proposes to make substantial savings by reducing admissions to residential care. This will require significant investment in preventative services and services to support people to remain at home with support instead. What investment is the Council proposing to make into preventative services, assistive technology and support at home to ensure this saving is achievable?

MRS A HARTLEY Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing will reply as follows:

The Council has already restructured its assessment and eligibility service into long and short term care, with the focus in the short term team on enablement and promoting independence through intensive initial support. This is being delivered through existing budgets, with the aim of reducing or delaying admissions to residential care, which not only saves money but also supports individuals to remain

living at home for longer. This approach will ensure that sufficient funds are available for those individuals who require a higher level of support.

The most significant change is the investment in and commissioning of a telephone alarm system which vulnerable people can access from within their own homes, a response service and the supply and fitting of assistive technology. Capital funding is available for this key investment in service improvement.

Finally, the recommissioned supporting people services and the development of community hubs around the County, will provide preventative support which will be available to all older people regardless of tenancy status.

QUESTION 3

Finally given the current financial climate does the Council anticipate having to make any further savings from the adult social care budgets than those already proposed?

MRS A HARTLEY Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing will reply as follows:

There are no plans to make further savings from the Adult Social Care Budget within the period of this Financial Plan. However, given the uncertain national and international situation, it is not possible to give absolute guarantees in relation to any of the Council's areas of spend in the longer term. But, the Council remains committed to protecting support for our most vulnerable residents, as a high priority.
