

Better Care Fund cuts in Staffordshire

This Council notes that Staffordshire County Council is facing a £15m shortfall as a result of Staffordshire CCGs removing their contribution to the Better Care Fund and that Staffordshire County Council's response to this shortfall is a series of swingeing, unfair and potentially damaging cuts which will disproportionately affect older and vulnerable people in our communities.

This Council further notes that the cuts identified by Staffordshire County Council are focussed on:

- Scrapping the 'Casserole Club' which supports at home hot meals for older people
- Reducing funding to prevent 'Social Isolation & Loneliness' in Staffordshire, inc. Newcastle
- Cutting funding for Carers Services – affecting 14,731 people in Newcastle alone.
- Ending 'Crisis Support' meaning Newcastle BC will no longer be able to assist the most vulnerable people who have been offered a home due to homelessness to gain support from the Crisis Support Fund towards food, fuel and white goods.
- Restricting support for Direct Payment and ending the 'Self Advocacy' service which provides help and support to disabled people in Staffordshire to make the most of their direct payments and have a voice to tell Staffordshire County Council what isn't working well.

This Council believes that these changes, which the County Council claim are necessary because of funding shortfalls, will have an severely adverse impact on the older, disabled and vulnerable people in Staffordshire.

This Council further believes that the saving achieved by these savage cuts (£3.725) represents a false economy whereby the overall cost to the public sector will increase due to the more acute services the older, vulnerable and disabled people may access as a result of being abandoned by the County Council.

This Council resolves that:

1. the Council Leader write to the Leader of Staffordshire County Council to set out our opposition to these changes as outlines above.
2. the Cabinet and Executive Management Team investigate repatriating the Disabled Facilities Grant funding to Newcastle Borough Council from Staffordshire County Council in order to be able to continue to support Newcastle residents in need of adaptations.
3. The response from Newcastle Borough Council to these changes reiterate our objection to these changes.

Proposed: Councillor Gareth Snell

22nd August 2016

Seconded : Councillor Dave Jones

22nd August 2016