



Nottinghamshire UNISON
39-41 Loughborough Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7LJ

18 January 2011

Press release....Press release.....

CARE PLANS OF THOUSANDS NOW AT RISK BY NOTTS COUNTY CUTS SAYS UNISON

UNISON has today (Weds 12 Jan) warned that thousands of vulnerable people who rely on Nottinghamshire County Council day care centres stand to see their care packages cut or terminated. Care plans are already being reviewed despite no Cabinet decision to close centres.

The union has reacted to sight of the latest internal briefing papers to care staff, which confirms the Tory-led Council intends to:

- Close all existing 35 day care centres providing specific care support
- Replace them with just 10 'generic' centres providing 'one service for all'
- Only open new centres for 46 weeks per year, not 52
- Cancel meals and drinks provision unless this service can break even in each centre
- Reduce staffing by half from 377 to just 192
- Cut access to the centres for elderly care home residents to just 2 days per week maximum

The council currently supports 3300 service users all year round. UNISON wants the Council to come clean on the number of users the new centres will accommodate, and the location of the centres. Neither pieces of information have been publicly consulted on.

The union is urging the public to contact the council before 21 January when its consultation period ends.

Martin Sleath, Joint Secretary for Nottinghamshire UNISON criticised the Councils political choices, saying:

"The consultation has yet to close, but all 3300 existing service user support plans are being reviewed. The council is pressing on regardless of Cabinet approval, and thousands will see their support cut or be told they no longer have access to council services. These cuts will target the poor and vulnerable. The Council's politics mean they would rather spend £60million making 2,500 staff redundant than protecting care services."

UNISON is also coordinating a major lobby of County Hall, West Bridgford on Thursday 24 February when the full council meets to set its Council Tax budget. ENDS

Contacts:

Martin Sleath, Joint Secretary, Nottinghamshire UNISON – tel 0115 9810405
Mike Scott, Branch Organiser, Nottinghamshire UNISON – tel 0115 9810405

Tel: 0115 9810405 Fax: 0115 9815697 Email: branch.office@nottsunison.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

Nottinghamshire County Council currently runs the following 35 day care centres, each providing 1 of 4 areas of specialist care:

7 Learning Disability centres (Willow Wood, Sutton; Greenacre, Worksop; Barncroft, Beeston; Ernhaile Lea, Gedling; Red Oaks, Rainworth; Friary, Newark; Whitewater, Boughton)

21 Older Persons centres (Bishops Court, Boughton; James Hince Court, Carlton in Lindrick; St Michaels View, Retford; Grove Street, Retford; Westwood, Worksop; Woods Court, Newark; Jubilee Court, Hucknall; Kirklands, Kirby in Ashfield; Maun View, Mansfield; Beauvale Court, Eastwood; Bramwell, Bramcote; Braywood Gardens, Carlton; Leawood Manor, West Bridgford; Leivers Court, Arnold; Thornhills (at Red Oaks), Rainworth; Hollybrook (at Willow Wood), Sutton; Three Spires, Southwell; Moorlands, Bingham; ASRA (at Barncroft), Beeston; Mathew Holland Centre, Selston; New Outlook, Sutton)

4 Physical Disability centres (in Ashfield, Balderton, Worksop, and West Bridgford)

3 Mental Health centres (Rokerfield, Sutton; Community Resource, Worksop; Middle Street, Beeston)

These will be replaced by just 10 'one service for all' centres located on some of the existing sites.