

Members of the Learning Disability Partnership Board were distressed to read the recent Cabinet Report under New Saving Proposals 2016/17 stating the following –

*“Additional net reduction of £1.750m in personal budget allocations for LD clients. Including previous years MTFP the total savings will be £3.04m (15% of total purchasing budget)*

*Reducing personal budgets by an average of 15% will significantly impact on the quality of life and additional burdens placed on informal and family carers. Some individuals not be able to be supported within the community within the existing budgets so will need to have their needs met in lower cost residential placements including out of borough. This approach is consistent with the National picture and approach in Adult Social Care.”*

This has caused significantly increased anxiety for many family carers and service users and they strongly oppose this move.

The Partnership Board were disappointed that they and councillors appear to have been misled on the national position as there is no clear definition of the National picture and approach in Adult Social Care stated above.

The Partnership Board also felt that the statement that “personal budgets would be reduced by an average of 15% and that some individuals who were not able to be supported within existing budgets within their community will need to have their needs met in ‘lower cost residential placements’ including out of borough” was either badly drafted at best or ill judged and possibly in breach of the 2014 Care Act at worst.

The Partnership Board understand the financial position that the council faces, but would like reassurance that there will not be an arbitrary cut to people’s personal budgets of 15%, and that the council will continue to support people to live as independently as possible in the local community in line with the real national agenda.

Carer representatives on the Board had written to Cllr. Taylor (copying Cllr. Cazimoglu and Ray James), detailing their concerns, and a response had been received from Bindi Nagra. This response was discussed at the LDLB, and it was felt that it did not fully address the Board’s concerns. Mr Nagra has offered to attend the next LDPB meeting and his presence would be much appreciated, so that this matter may be clarified further.