

The Case for No Change: submitted by Denbighshire Voice

This document has been developed to summarise the evidence that has not been considered before reaching the stage that a decision should be taken not to go to public consultation using a task and finish group with an overload of biased views, and no inclusion of lay and service users input to the group.

This case needs to go further than these two opening paragraphs, as the evidence in the case for change is strong and clear that no provision has been made when the privatisation goes pear shaped.

We have plenty of evidence that the Private Sector is not able to sustain a safe level of care and consequently we are witnessing the closure of Private Care Institutions one by one!!!

The Case for Change has no evidence of how they intend to provide care in emergency situations when the Private Sector is not an option, then it will be very expensive for the Public purse, and prove once more that this council is not capable of making responsible decisions re budget allocations.

Six main factors spell out the disaster that will follow the recommendations of the Modernising the provision of care.

1. The referral to the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, which doesn't focus on the increasing amount of people who are not able to remain independent, and therefore need good residential 24 hr care.
2. The review of National research into the benefits of Extra care is not relevant to this case as every area and authority is different.
3. Local evidence of the authority failing to meet the growing demand for standard residential care and for day services in Denbighshire, due to the intentional winding down of services and refusing places in order to bulldoze the officers recommendations.
4. Local evidence of demand for existing Extra Care Housing in Denbighshire, alongside residential care not as a replacement. The demand for both is high.
5. The cost factor shows a lack of business plan and bad management, as a home running on full occupancy should be a good business venture, and no consideration has been given to the work of Friends of Dolwen etc who do so much for the welfare and support of the homes.
6. This report will make every effort to show that we are dealing with vulnerable people here and focus on their needs, not a balance sheet exercise to win points for an authority and council who are becoming a public disgrace.

The Social Services and Well- being (Wales) Act

This Case for No Change highlights the need to address continuing hard economic realities, shows that the Case for Change document does not give a greater freedom to

decide, and proves that we already have a consistent high quality which is not as freely available in the private sector.

The continuing care provided at Cysgod y Gaer, Awelon, Dolwen and Hafan Deg provide a service that doesn't need improving other than building maintenance and up grading.

National Research

The facts provided in the Case for Change (DCC) refers to low demand is not a true picture as there has been clever management of places to present evidence of decline.

Again the Case for No change has no doubts that Extra Care is an excellent amenity but as an option in the welfare of our older generation but not a replacement.

We have evidence that there still remains a great need for residential and day care in Denbighshire.

The argument is far greater than the costs to the public purse, from these hard working good living people we have inherited most of our excellent services and traditions today, and if they are a cost on the public purse, they deserve it.

Demand for Residential Care and Day Services.

It is a true fact that people supported by the council in residential care has been reducing, but we need to ask why. Because the closure of several privately run homes, and secondly people not being offered due to the intention to close the authority homes.

The argument in the Case for Change (DCC) is a report containing figures but no breakdowns or supporting evidence. It does not address the continuing need of our authority run homes.

It certainly needs an audit of the work and management of our homes and to convince us that our well paid officers are making every attempt to make sure these homes are good business ventures alongside providing the much needed care.

If the energy placed into driving this Case for Change was put into ensuring the future success of these excellent care homes, this consultation would never have needed to take place.

Time could then be well spent to move ahead with more excellent care projects which we stress again are much needed alongside our residential care homes.

Conclusion.

All of this information in this document has led us lay people but more importantly ratepayers and people to whom the county council have a responsibility to listen.

To form a view and provide evidence that standard residential care is still needed to meet the needs of frail elderly people, who live in fear of arriving in privately run care homes, who more often than not are not up to the standard a client could expect.

The focus of provision should be as follows.

- Where an individual's needs can be met when the Social Services are allowed to make the appropriate referrals and provide a service to all elderly people having no bearing on what their financial situation is.
- Where an individual cannot be cared for safely in their existing home or Extra care Home and the demand for this is much higher than in Extra Care.

The offer from the Council should therefore be in Awelon, Cysgod y Gaer, Dolwen and Hafan Deg.

There is no Case nor sufficient evidence that the Council have researched this matter fully, and with the proposal to develop more Extra Care Sites and EMI these will compliment our existing excellent care homes, not replace them.

The Council needs to re visit its Corporate Plan to allocate Capital Funding to secure the future of these Care Homes and bring them up to a standard that are fit for purpose.