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FOI Ref: 02385

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www.greenwich.gov.uk

Dear Anne Novis

RE: Internal Review of FOI Response

Thank you for your request on 5 October 2010 for a review of our response [dated 4 Oct 2010] to your original request dated 3 September 2010 (logged as RFI/02385).

Your original request and our initial response have been reviewed and it is our view that our original response was not satisfactory on two counts:

- The response incorrectly stated we hold the information you requested
- The response incorrectly suggested that the information would be published towards the end of October.

I would like to apologise for the errors.

I set out the amended response to each of your questions below. However, it is important to take these responses in context. At the time of writing, the Council is unclear as to the scale of budget reductions that will be required across the authority.

Even after the initial Budget Review announcements on 20 October further announcements from Government are required before the council can assess its position and the options. The response below is, therefore, correct at this time. Your questions are set out in *italics* and our responses in **bold**.

Updated Response to you questions

Dear Greenwich Borough Council,

Could you please inform me about all plans that will impact on disabled people due to budget cuts in the council.

Particularly any proposed plans to change;



2003-2004
Removing Barriers
to Work
2004-2005
Proposing
Sustainable Solutions
2005-2006
Affordable Housing
2006-2007
Making People
2007-2008
Delivering Cleaner Air
2008-2009
Reducing
Health Inequality
2009-2010
Improving Accessibility

Charges for social care, residential, day centres and domiciliary care as well as Direct Payments. Will these be increased or changed in any way?

The Council, as part of developing the budget for 2011/12 is reviewing some aspects of its services.

Will the rate for Direct Payments be increased per inflation next year?

There are no specific proposals as yet, but any proposals will be subject to consultation as appropriate.

Will it affect disabled peoples rights to have a holiday when in receipt of care services?

Services will continue to be provided on basis of assessed need.

Will you pay extra direct payment, when appropriate, for disabled people to have a holiday particularly to give a break to family carers?

There are no specific proposals as yet, but any proposals will be subject to consultation as appropriate.

Currently it is a legal requirement to undertake yearly care needs reviews will these be affected in any way by your budget cuts?

We intend to continue to review care needs annually.

Will disabled people face reviews where they will be told their care packages will have to be reduced due to the budget cuts?

Services will be changed according to changes in assessment and evidence on the best ways to respond to the needs identified.

Why have you reduced one disabled persons care package to four hours a day when they are assessed as needing 24 hour care?

This was responded to in initial response. No change to that response.

Social Care eligibility criteria is currently reduced to only those with 'substantial' or 'moderate' care needs is this planned to change in any way?

There are no specific proposals as yet, but any proposals will be subject to consultation as appropriate.

Adaptations to local authority homes for disabled people; will the budget for this be reduced? If so by how much? Will all current agreed adaptations be carried out?

We do not yet know the budget for adaptations, we will, however, continue to meet the commitments we have already made.

Funding to Greenwich Association of Disabled people which provides essential services to disabled people, will this be reduced in any way? or made harder to access?

A Corporate Review of Third Sector Funding is to be undertaken which will inform budget options and decisions.

Will any other funding to disability organisations in the borough also be affected/reduced?

This will be covered by the review.

How will you be processing an Equality Impact Assessment on all such plans?

EIAs will be conducted and published wherever a significant change in policy or service delivery is proposed.

How will you ensure you meet your legal 'duty of care' to those clients already assessed as needing substantial or critical care?

We will continue to support our existing service users, meeting or duty of care but reviewing their needs and services to ensure we continue to provide appropriate services.

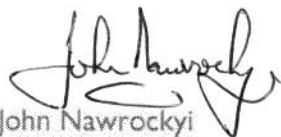
I would like to see all proposals for budget cuts in full that will have any impact on disabled people that I may have omitted like changes to council tax, housing benefit, supporting people scheme?

Any proposals will be published as part of the council's annual budget setting process.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the RFI reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,



John Nawrocky
Director of Adults and Older Peoples Services

