

**Council: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016**

**OPPOSITION Motion in the name of Cllr Reema Patel**

Social care crisis in Barnet

As Barnet's Graph of Doom so clearly expressed, there is a crisis in social care in Barnet caused by an increasingly ageing population with more complex needs, more demand for social care services and less funding to pay for it.

Demand for assessments and support under the Care Act is rising in Barnet, with 42,039 calls to Social Care Direct in 2015/16 - 7,755 more than the previous year, although so far this has not resulted in an increase in the number of service users.

Barnet has increased cost pressures from residential care placements (there are 80 residential care homes and 23 nursing homes registered with the CQC in Barnet), delayed transfers of care from hospital and deprivation of liberty safeguards.

Because of the increase in demand for care services overall, Barnet's adults' social care budget is regularly overspent - currently by around £4m;

Social care providers are also under pressure, and are increasingly subsidising people paid for by the Council who have complex needs that are not recognised in the way social care is paid for.

The lack of resources is adversely impacting stability and capacity in the social care workforce, and the quality of care. The burden of unmet social care need is falling on unpaid family carers, and the NHS.

Everyone agrees that the situation is not sustainable.

In a recent statement responding to the Care Quality Commission's State of Care 2015/16 report which finds that the sustainability of the adult social care market is approaching a tipping point, Margaret Willcox, Vice-President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, said:

"We have been arguing for some time now that adult social care needs to be given adequate recognition and resourcing. Services are being cut and the outlook for future care is bleak. We are at a tipping point where social care is in jeopardy and unless the Government addresses the underfunding of the sector, there will be worrying consequences for the care market, the NHS and, most importantly, for older and disabled people, their families and carers."

Council believes that a decent society provides the necessary resources to care for its older and disabled people.

Council welcomes the possibility of additional funding through the social care precept, but notes that in one year the maximum barely covers the current local overspend in adults social care, and will not cover future demand for services.

Council therefore asks the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition to jointly write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer calling on them to address the widening social care funding gap.

Council also asks the Adults & Safeguarding Committee to establish a time-limited sub-committee or panel to review the social care market in Barnet, with the involvement of health partners and social care providers, in order to make recommendations by July next year on a sustainable local way forward.

*Under Full Council Procedure Rule 23.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting*