

**Council: 31 January 2017**

**Agenda item 14.1 – Opposition amendment in the name of Cllr Gill Sargeant**

Administration Motion in the name of Cllr Lisa Rutter – Volunteering in care homes

Add before first paragraph: “Care Homes are under increasing pressure to deliver services to a growing elderly population. Underfunding, at both government and local level, has left staff stretched and with little time to engage residents.”

Add at the end: “Council will support the individuals and organizations on the list.”

Add after ‘communicate in English’:

“We have a large number of Chinese and Asian residents in the borough - many of whom are elderly and vulnerable for whom culturally specific services are not an option but a necessity, and it is essential that the council listens to those from these communities, and other communities, who understand their own cultural and linguistic needs best.

Unfortunately, recent cuts by this Conservative administration to social care organisations providing services to these residents undermine the importance of independence and user-led services and represent an attack on grassroots voluntary and community services in Barnet who often do fantastic work in supporting and standing up for the local community.

The stark reality is that the Conservative-led council refused in their last budget, despite repeated representations from Labour councillors, to apply the full social care precept which could have mitigated the impact on these groups.

This is being compounded by a legacy of successive cuts passed on to local government services by a Conservative national government that has consistently refused to fund social care properly.”

**Substantive text to read:**

**Care Homes are under increasing pressure to deliver services to a growing elderly population. Underfunding, at both government and local level, has left staff stretched and with little time to engage residents**

Care homes have limited resources, and there are specific areas of staffing where volunteers help and can help further.

Thank you to all those who volunteer in Barnet.

As our population grows more diverse there are language difficulties as people age. They prefer to use their original language or may become unable to communicate in English.

**We have a large number of Chinese and Asian residents in the borough - many of whom are elderly and vulnerable for whom culturally specific services are not an option but a necessity, and it is essential that the council listens to those from these communities, and other communities, who understand their own cultural and linguistic needs best.**

**Unfortunately, recent cuts by this Conservative administration to social care organisations providing services to these residents undermine the importance of independence and user-led services, and represent an attack on grassroots voluntary and community services in Barnet who often do fantastic work in supporting and standing up for the local community.**

**The stark reality is that the Conservative-led council refused in their last budget, despite repeated representations from Labour councillors, to apply the full social care precept which could have mitigated the impact on these groups.**

**This is being compounded by a legacy of successive cuts passed on to local government services by a Conservative national government that has consistently refused to fund social care properly.**

Council wishes to encourage volunteering and specifically those who might help with other languages.

Council call on officers to create a register of volunteers with language skills who might be able to assist and make this list available as required.

**Council will support the individuals and organizations on the list.**