

DEPUTATION TO FULL COUNCIL

Social care's funding crisis as it affects Barnet

1. Cllr Rawlings' declared at Cabinet that there is a financial crisis in social care resulting in unmet and undermet need. He went on to say there is no way of knowing the level of unmet need. However, the absence of information about unmet and undermet need in Barnet is further evidence of the Council restricting what it considers to be need to only that for which it has resource. Access to social care resources is through individual assessments of need. That Barnet's assessments have not identified a single unmet need for any person is clear evidence that resources, not the person's wellbeing, are determining how need is seen. This is in direct breach of the Care Act which requires the Council to acknowledge **all** needs as defined by the Act calling for Council resources regardless of its resources, and to be honest with individuals if its resources fall short of meeting their needs. The Act then requires the Council to set budgets in full knowledge of the true extent of need in the Borough.
2. Cllr Rawlings' belief that there is a financial crisis due to unmet need rests entirely upon national projections. He quoted Age UK who report 1.5 million older people are without the support they require. That would mean there are approximately three people not getting support to every one that is in Barnet. But they will be known to various services, including the Council. They will be amongst the 1,345 older people (reported by the Council to NHS Digital) who requested support last year alone and who were turned away on the basis they did not have needs that the council accepted any responsibility for.
3. The clear and obvious contradiction in Cllr Rawlings' position, his failure to recognise and address it, is a failure in his responsibility to the Barnet residents in need of the Council's care and support.
4. We call upon full Council to require Cabinet to either;
 - Declare that all the needs the Care Act requires Barnet to meet are being met, meaning there is no funding crisis in Barnet and that national projections of unmet need do not apply in Barnet

Or

- Honour Labour's Manifesto pledge to develop a '*new model of social care that puts the person at its heart*', meaning that all of each person's needs calling for council care and support resources are identified regardless of availability of resources and recorded for strategic and budget planning purposes.

Signatures:

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