

FIGHT AGAINST CUTS IN CARE AT HOME SERVICES: WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Edinburgh Council intends to privatise 75% of the care at home services within the next six years.

At present the split between Council home care and private agencies is 50/50. This proposal means another 25% going to the private sector. They say this will save money.

Experience shows that agencies promise to deliver the service cheaper but when they have the contracts, they demand more money. The Councils often end up paying much more.

Meanwhile, Agency staff are paid appalling wages; are sometimes untrained and unvetted. There is a high turnover of staff. Everyone suffers!

As if the above wasn't bad enough, this proposal follows a package of cuts implemented at the end of last year which included;

- Care at home to be restricted to those who meet critical criteria and for hospital discharge. Once seen as not critical, the service is withdrawn.
- Only 1 hot meal a day - a

frozen meal - 30 mins

- The use of short 30 min and 15 min visits to be maximised. Less time for care.
- Shopping service withdrawn
- A new care home built by the Council is now run by a private company Four Seasons Two new care homes have also been contracted to Four Seasons

Rushed service

Since these cuts have been implemented, staff are under even more pressure to provide a service which is rushed, leaving service-users with less choice and a service that barely maintains a basic level of care.

The workforce is frustrated and demoralised as their professionalism is being continually compromised

UNISON believes we need to campaign for a quality service for our most vulnerable citizens.

We know that once these cuts and the increasing privatisation is made, we won't get the service back.

We need your support.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Write or email to your local Councillor telling them about your concerns or experiences about these cuts.

- Go to your councillor's surgery and speak to them directly.

- Write to Cllr Paul Edie, Convenor of Health, Social Care and Housing at the City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ

- Email the ruling parties
Liberal Democrats
libdem-group@edinburgh.gov.uk
Scottish National Party
snp-group@edinburgh.gov.uk

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

If you are concerned about the future of our Health and Social Care services, then please be part of this campaign that will make people start to listen and try to build and maintain a service that meets people's needs.