

## **Council – 10th September 2007**

### **Notice of motion - Learning Disability Service**

**Service Area:** Social Care & Inclusion – Walsall Integrated Learning Disability Services

**Wards:** All

#### **Summary of report**

This report relates to a motion to Council from Councillors Oliver, Phillips, Coughlan, Wilkes, Sarohi and Creaney.

Councillors were concerned by the challenges experienced in the development of community based services for people with disabilities in the town.

In addition, the need to reaffirm civic leadership responsibilities in the light of Disability Discrimination legislation and the Council's Disability Equality Duty under the relevant legislation.

Finally, Councillors were concerned that through a lack of knowledge people with disabilities could be viewed as a threat to local communities.

The motion commended to Council seeks to re-affirm the Council's long held commitment to the support of people with disabilities

#### **Resource and legal considerations**

There are significant legal considerations within the subject area of this Motion. The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 [DDA] and the Disability Equality Duty [DED] require that the Council ensures that people with disabilities are not discriminated against.

In addition the DED says:

“The need to take steps to take account of disabled person's disabilities, even where that involves treating disabled persons more favourably than other persons.”

There are no specific resource requirements the motion relates to citizenship issues

#### **Citizen impact**

Disabled citizens in Walsall can experience public prejudice and discrimination because of their disability. This can extend to public concern over issues that non-disabled people take for granted including the provision of housing.

The motion will ensure that the Council clearly affirms its support for disability legislation and its disabled citizens. This will also support Councillors in their civic leadership role ensuring that all citizens have life chances which include active and valued citizenship

### **Environmental impact**

The motion has not direct environmental impact

### **Performance and risk management issues**

The motion is significant and impacts on some important Performance Indicators called 'Helped to Live at Home'. These are closely monitored and indicate the Council's support for a number of important White Papers including 'Valuing People' and 'our health, our care, our say'.

When developments for people with disabilities are delayed or do not go ahead this can reduce the support for people helped to live at home and a consequent reduction in the Council's performance and perceived support for people living as independent a lifestyle as possible..

### **Equality implications**

There are significant equality issues regarding this motion and in particular the Disability Equality Duty [DED]. As part of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 the DED for the Public Sector, including organisations providing social care means that any public body must look at ways of ensuring that disabled people are treated equally. A similar duty was introduced on race equality some years ago.

### **Consultation**

No specific consultation was undertaken on this motion. However Social Care & Inclusion provide numbers of consultation events each year, both carers and service users regularly comment on difficulties experienced in the town

### **Background papers**

- Valuing People
- Our health, our care, our say
- Independence well being and choice
- Improving the life chances of disabled people
- Disability Discrimination Act 2005 [DDA]
- Disability Equality Duty [DED]

**Signed:**



**Executive Director**

**Date:** 31st August 2007

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