



Save our Slough Jobs and Services!



SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL IS ATTEMPTING TO CLOSE ADULT SERVICES AND MAKE 58 WORKERS REDUNDANT

This affects:

- Prior Day Service for Adults with Learning Disabilities and Autism
- Phoenix Day Service for Adults with Learning Disabilities and Autism
- Pines Day Service for the Elderly and for people with Dementia
- Lavender Court Residential Care Home for Adults with Learning Disabilities and Autism
- Respond Respite Service Adults with Learning Disabilities and Autism

It is irresponsible to make this change in service provision, which is supposed to shift responsibility towards the charity and private sector. This cannot replace the comprehensive model of service provision capacities of the Day Service.

The closure of the Residential Care Home means residents, some living there for more than 20 years together, are being forced out of their homes and will have to move into accommodation in a completely new environment, with new staff and other new residents. This is highly unsettling and distressing for people with severe learning disabilities and autism.

This is especially problematic considering that Service Users have been living in enforced isolation due to the pandemic for the last 18 months. Their isolation is prolonged through a continued closure of a Day Service, which could provide meaningful and urgently needed activities for people who have been spending most of their time at home and give respite to their families and carers.

It is highly unlikely that a shift to a fully inclusive community care model would function at this moment in time or in the near future, potentially leaving the Service Users and their families stranded.

Some of the reasons for this are:

The level of available individual funding depends on the assessment of needs

Times of financial hardship make it unlikely that people will receive and afford an equal quantity and quality of support from a personal assistant and community provision in comparison to lower priced model for Service User in a Day Service.

The lack of available resources in the community

The recent developments in the pandemic and the reduction in government funding have led to a shortage of funding for the charity sector and the need for businesses to prioritise their investments. On top of this many businesses have also faced bankruptcy. This reduces the opportunities for people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable groups to be able to find work, to volunteer or to have work experience drastically.

The GMB propose:

- The re-opening of all Services as soon as possible, to allow Service Users that have been spending most of their time isolated from the community, back into community and to save jobs for Slough workers.
- The continuation of the service provision at Residential level.
- The Integration of the Day Services into a model of Community Care that allows a safe inclusion into other non-council provider services within Slough to avoid the high risk of people being left without sufficient support at their homes.
- A consideration of the potential of Priors Day Service as a Community Hub, facilitating the resources and opportunities of the new building also for residents that are not attending the Service on a regular basis.
- Using the expertise and experience of existing staff of the Day Service to become coordinators for community care for the Service Users, assuring that person centred planning is really carried out in conjunction with other parties involved.
- The surveying of the current options in charity and private sector and building of a network, to allow creating beneficial partnerships, increasing options for Service Users to live a meaningful and fulfilled life according to their needs and aspirations.

We are hoping that you support the need for a coordinated secure service provision for Service Users.

They haven't had sufficient opportunities to meet friends, to socialise, to learn, to be creative, to be physically active, to experience a different environment than their home, and everything else that they have lost due to the enforced measurements of the Pandemic.

The council needs to act on this and reverse their decision of closure.