

ITEM 8

MINUTE EXTRACT COUNCIL 21 NOVEMBER 2018

76/18 Motion: Creative Carers and Haven House

The following motion was moved by Councillor Graves, and seconded by Councillor Bettany:

During June-August 2018, the council ran an aborted procurement process to award a contract to an independent organisation to support carers in Derby. Carers save the city an estimated 3 billion pounds in unpaid care yet suffer high levels of stress, anxiety and depression due to the caring role.

Creative Carers is a carer-led organisation, established by carers living in Derby. It was the top answer in the council's formal consultation about what's working well in Derby and available locally. Creative Carers run a large, accessible, carer-dedicated, city-based, community resource called Haven House. It's well used by family carers and loved ones, community groups (e.g. 50 Plus Forum) and Derby City Council (including weekly Social Services advice sessions called Talking Points). Creative Carers successfully provides carers with wellbeing activities, information and resources both at Haven House and across Derby in local community venues.

It's unclear how Derby's carers will now be supported but Creative Carers' council funding is ending in November. That will lead to Haven House closing down unless immediate action is taken. Carers have told the council they want Haven House/Creative Carers to continue. The council must act in carers' local interests and not be diverted by a series of official errors, misjudgements and bureaucratic decisions– the latest being an aborted procurement process due to a 'technical issue'. The council (and/or large organisations with headquarters outside the city) lack the trust and credibility among city carers to provide necessary independent advice and information. These options would be deeply unpopular with carers. Carers have already established a Save Haven House campaign.

Therefore, the council calls upon the Council Cabinet to provide continued funding for Creative Carers, an independent, carer-led, Derby organisation, to support Derby carers (and the council) in meeting statutory preventative duties, needs, and best interests, in ways that can't be done if the council take carers' services in-house and/or outsources them to large organisations with headquarters based elsewhere.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules CP53-CP55, Councillor Graves sought Council consent to alter the motion as printed by deleting the final paragraph and replacing with the following words:

Therefore, the Council requests the Council Cabinet to review the decision to cease funding the main contractor and the consequences of this and provide funding to Creative Carers until at least April 2019.

Council consent was given. The motion was put to the vote and carried.

Resolved:

During June-August 2018, the council ran an aborted procurement process to award a contract to an independent organisation to support carers in Derby. Carers save the city an estimated 3 billion pounds in unpaid care yet suffer high levels of stress, anxiety and depression due to the caring role.

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