



COUNCIL CABINET
12 JULY 2005

Report of the Director of Social Services

Notice of Termination of Funding for Aekta Carers Group

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To confirm the decision to give notice to end funding for Aekta Carers Group from 1 October 2005.
- 1.2 To agree that if, in the 3 months notice period, the group is able to demonstrate that the current problems are being satisfactorily addressed, discussions will take place with a view to resuming funding for services.
- 1.3 To confirm that if by the end of the notice period the Management Committee is still unable to work together to resolve the current difficulties, funding should cease.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The department currently provides funding to Aekta Carers Group of £11,148 for an Asian Day Care Service, which runs from Morleston Street Day Centre on a Saturday. There is also joint funding of £13,870 for a Carers Support Service, of which 50%, or £6,935, is from the department and 50% from the PCT.
- 2.2 Aekta Carers Group has experienced difficulties for several months and the problems have increased over recent weeks. It is evident that the Management Committee is no longer able to manage the organisation, its staff, finances and services effectively to the extent that this is now affecting the organisation's ability to deliver a safe service. As a result, the department has requested that the organisation suspends the Day Care Service immediately, and has given the organisation 3 months notice of termination of funding for both the Day Care Service and the Carers Support Service. We have advised that the current difficulties need to be resolved within that period if funding is to be re-considered.
- 2.3 It will only be possible for the department to support the organisation to move forward if and when the difficulties within the Management Committee are resolved. A number of policies and procedures need to be produced and implemented to ensure that the organisation is run effectively and that services provide a safe, healthy and stimulating environment, which promote the independence and well-being of service users and their carers.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4. Doing nothing would potentially leave service users at risk from an ineffectively managed service and has been discounted for that reason.

The terms of the Service Agreement do not allow for suspension of the funding without following this process.

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Background papers:	None		
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications		

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. The funding for this grant is contained within the budget for grant funding for voluntary organisations.

Legal

2. Notice to terminate the service has been given in accordance with the Service Level Agreement.

Personnel

3. None.

Equalities impact

4. Service users supported by this group are from minority communities. If the difficulties are not resolved it will be necessary to consider an alternative way of meeting those needs.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. This accords with the Council's objective of **healthy, safe and independent communities**.