



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 23 OCTOBER 2007

Report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Services

### Petition – Care in the Community

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 A petition was received in July voicing "concerns about the cuts in the Home Help services".
- 1.2 The Department of Health has provided statutory guidance to local authorities on the determination of eligibility for adult social care. This eligibility framework is divided into the following four bands which describe the seriousness of the risk to independence if needs are not addressed: critical; substantial; moderate and low.
- 1.3 In setting eligibility criteria local authorities have to take account of their resources and should do so in line with their budget cycles.
- 1.4 The Council decided it could only provide services to people within the top three bands of risk as from 1 April 2006. We were one of the last authorities to make this decision. No local authority in the country now provides social care to people in the lowest band of risk.
- 1.5 As members will be aware the adult social care budget overspent in 2006/07 and is projected to overspend in 2007/08. The hours of service provided has risen steadily from 14,225 hours each week in March 2005. It peaked at 22,433 hours in January 2007 and in August was 20,025 hours each week. Numbers have fallen largely as a result of reviews which have identified and removed hours dedicated to the meeting of needs which are no longer eligible.
- 1.6 Indications are that demand for home care will continue to rise in the foreseeable future. Two thirds of authorities have gone further than the Council and decided to cease providing services to people who have moderate risks to their independence. The challenge for the Council will be to keep providing services through the moderate band. There appears to be no possibility of returning to providing services to the low band, as the petitioners appear to want, whilst the existing financial position prevails.

#### RECOMMENDATION

2. To note the report.

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Background papers:	None		
List of appendices	None		