TRAFFORD LABOUR GROUP

Labour

PRESS RELEASE

Trafford Council to cut support for people in need

The Conservative Executive of Trafford Council has announced that, in order to save £300,000, it intends to reduce the number of people in need who will qualify for care services. In future, it is proposed that only those with substantial or critical need will get help.

The Labour Opposition is strongly opposed to these cuts; especially as they follow recent closures of Elderly Persons Homes and large increases in social service charges by the Council. Although the Council has to consult on these proposals, the fact is that these "savings" were already incorporated in the Council Budget which was set last February.

Councillor David Acton said: "Trafford already spends significantly less on older people than similar Local Authorities and the increase in the Council's budget for these services was only 1.7% - much less than inflation. The Council is encouraging more elderly people to stay in their own homes but now they are proposing to remove the help that many of these residents rely on to enable them to live independent lives. Not only is this very unfair but it is short-sighted as it will only lead, in the long term, to more people going into residential care."

The Labour Group has submitted a resolution opposing these cuts for discussion at the Council Meeting on 28 June 2007.

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