

Chris Rider: Hello and welcome to Digital Democracy, the series where we ask West Sussex County Council cabinet members to justify the decisions they have taken, or explain the issues they are considering.

Peter Catchpole is a man with a number of key decisions, probably best summed up is possible day center closures and a change to the point at which people qualify for care. Peter is the Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and he joins me on the sofa.

Peter, the Grange Day Centre at Midhurst is expected to close and there are proposals to close the Brooks in Pulborough and Harwood House in Horsham. Why? Is this all about saving money?

Peter Catchpole: No, although that's part of the story, I have to say. It's mainly to do with changing the way we deliver services, and that's partly because what we need to do is have best practice for all the things we are doing and protect the most vulnerable people in our society.

Chris Rider: But it would be a big saving, wouldn't it, it would be a million pounds in saving of which a quarter of a million will be spent on developing alternatives, so quite a substantial saving.

Peter Catchpole: Oh yes, and that would be reinvested into the third sector and voluntary sector, to supply the services that we need from them which is part of this plan. But the overall model of care is to make sure the most vulnerable people; people with dementia, long-term conditions, acquired brain injury, have a place to go, which is a specialist who meets their needs and also people who might be recovering from staying in hospital; 're-ablement' it's called.

Chris Rider: Our research says that many people, in fact, don't want to use traditional day centers anymore, but want to integrate more in the community. I find that very hard to believe in the case of older people who perhaps - it's their life going to the local day center.

Peter Catchpole: Well, most older people will relate to their social activities not in day centers, but with lunch clubs, leisure activities, arts clubs, that sort of thing which are not run by the County Council, but are run by the voluntary and charity sectors and all the district and borough councils.

Chris Rider: Now you have the job of protecting vulnerable people, but Adults' Services have been asked to cut, I think it's 31 million pounds over 3 years; that's much more than any other area. Why are you getting such a hammering?

Peter Catchpole: Well, we have to take our part of the funding to find some of the funding. Although, if you look at the 31 million, 10 million of that is for what's called joint funding, joint pooled funds for learning disabilities and mental health and from reducing management costs. It's 20 million which is coming out of the adult services budget. That's about 10% of our budget, which is less than some of the other budgets in the county are having to find. So I think that we've been agreeing that the most vulnerable people must be protected and that's the important thing about the changes that we are putting into place.

Chris Rider: And you are also considering doing away with providing care for people with moderate needs; they'd be cared for in a different way and you were looking at only caring for people with substantial or critical level needs. You're asking people in a consultation what they think about that. To me, that seems a fairly meaningless consultation. Obviously, they are going to say, we don't want that, aren't they?

Peter Catchpole: Well, I think there will be an understanding that what we're doing with this change is bringing ourselves into line with 70% of other local authorities from a whole mix of political backgrounds.

Chris Rider: You think there will be an understanding, you think people will say, oh that's fine?

Peter Catchpole: And secondly, the fact that we will be providing a proper assessment of people's needs. We will ensure that there is a transition period so that they can move from - if they are not receiving moderate services then they can be signposted to the new arrangements. We are also putting into place, new health and well-being hubs and information services which will allow everyone to access these new services in a way which I hope will ensure that they know exactly where they were, where they are, and they will meet their needs.

Chris Rider: You're telling me this is what you are going to do, but aren't you having a consultation about this, aren't you asking people what they think?

Peter Catchpole: Of course, and --

- Chris Rider: What if they don't want it?
- Peter Catchpole: Well, I think most people would be saying, we must protect the most vulnerable people in our society and this is the way we can ensure, that in the long term, we can do that.
- Chris Rider: But if you have people mostly saying no, will you scrap the proposal?
- Peter Catchpole: I don't think anyone's going to say no to protecting the most vulnerable people in our society.
- Chris Rider: If people with only moderate needs now will no longer receive care from the County Council, how will they receive it and who will pay for it?
- Peter Catchpole: Well, they will be able to access a number of services across a range of services supplied by the charity, voluntary and district and borough councils. These are universal services and they will be available to people with moderate needs and they will be helped to understand how those needs can be met through these services.
- Chris Rider: Charities, voluntary sectors; these are the words you keep using. Are you sure they are going to be there and supply it in the level that you need?
- Peter Catchpole: Indeed, and as an example lay in Chichester, I know that there are 42 voluntary and charity organizations that we know about; there are others that we don't know about.
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- Certainly, as I went around the day service consultation, these people came forward and said, we want to do this work and they are very good at it.
- Chris Rider: So what about people with moderate and substantial or critical needs?
- Peter Catchpole: Well, if they have got a number of needs, which are in those categories, then they'll continue to receive the substantial and critical needs part of the package.
- Chris Rider: Is that a guarantee?
- Peter Catchpole: That's certainly a guarantee and they will then be signposted to the most appropriate way in which they can access moderate

services through the assessment process and, as I said, there will be a transitional period, so that if there are problems, they will have time to adjust to the new arrangements.

Chris Rider: So you wouldn't just take away the service from people overnight?

Peter Catchpole: Not overnight, it would be part of our plan to offer people a proper plan for them, a bespoke plan which will allow them to access those services.

Chris Rider: Peter, you know what people are like. There's going to be a lot of very upset people with this, aren't there?

Peter Catchpole: I am sure that we need to work with our users of service and the carers and families to ensure that they are helped and supported through what is a difficult period for everyone. But I come back to the fact that what we are aiming to do through this process is ensure that people who are the most vulnerable in our society can continue to receive the services that they need.

Chris Rider: There are new ideas at the moment aren't there, to help people get their independence back and stay in their homes; something you call RISS, which I think is; you use that expression for them and of course it's cheaper for you. Tell us a little bit about RISS.

Peter Catchpole: Well, that's a great success and has been rolled out through the county and what it does is supply --

Chris Rider: So regaining independence.

Peter Catchpole: Regaining independence it's called and it's a rehabilitation service. Basically what it does is for those people who are coming out of hospital, who need rehabilitation, they can access a series of about 6 to 8 weeks intensive therapy which will bring them back to normal living and will allow them to enter back into society as good as new as it were. Certainly, if they have an incident within the community, they can go through a similar pattern and return to their home as normal living arrangement as possible.

Chris Rider: Peter Catchpole, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services, thank you for joining us. The consultation on levels of care is called changes to adult social care and continues until February the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Here is how you can get more information.

DD Peter Catchpole new

I'll also give you the email address if you have a question for any cabinet member for a later Digital Democracy program. Meanwhile, thanks for joining us for this one and goodbye!

Total Duration: 8 Minutes