

East Kilbride & District
DEMENTIA CARERS GROUP

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Our Ref: 071114

14th November 2008

The proposal to not renew the contract with our Group when it expires in June 2009 has been discussed by the South Lanarkshire Committee, and is being discussed further in an attempt to progress it to the next stage. When **Harry Stevenson**, Executive Director of SLC Social Work Resources, was asked about the services that would be provided as an alternative, he assured the enquiring Councillor that any service provided in place of our own would be equal to or better in quality, at no extra cost to the Council.

As we understand it, the Council propose to take our existing Service Users, and 're-provision' them (what a horribly impersonal term!) into their existing centres. Currently, the Council operate daycare in Parkhall, Saltire, Ashleigh Grant and Meldrum, the smallest of which is a 12-place centre (as opposed to our own centre for 6 people). Saltire is currently the Council's only recognised dementia daycare centre.

Council staffing ratios vary from service to service, ranging from 8:1 to 4:1. We operate a minimum 3:1 staffing ratio, and with Students and volunteers, this rises frequently to 2:1. This means that people with dementia who are currently attending the Councils mainstream daycare centres are cared for on up to an 8:1 ratio.

We have our own mini-bus and regularly take people on trips and outings, having had **109** (one hundred and nine) different trips and outings to date this year from daycare. Council centres do not match this personalised service, as their practice is not to offer outings from daycare to people with dementia.

There are other areas in which we believe that alternative services will not be able to offer as good or as personal a service, but it is YOUR thoughts we want to hear.

We asked the Local Authority, *"In line with the Council's own policies, what consultation has taken place with Service Users and Carers"*, allow me to share the response: *"There will be no consultation with service users and carers until the proposed saving is approved by the Council"*.

In other words, if the proposal from the Council is approved, the only say you *may* have in the matter will be what service you use as an alternative to ours once our contract has expired! ***This must be challenged as a matter of urgency, and we need your support to do it.*** You can help in the following ways:

- Contact your local Councillor and ask them to oppose this proposal. Find out where they stand on the issue, and how they intend to vote. Let them know clearly the affect that this proposal will have on you and your loved one.
- Contact your MSP and M.P. to raise this issue with them.
- Contact Shona Robison, Minister for Health, and highlight that this decision is in direct opposition to her commitment to **'make dementia a national priority'**.
- Write to the Local and/or National Newspapers, expressing your outrage at not even being given a voice! Let them know what this service means to you and your loved ones.
- Write to Harry Stevenson and convince him that the daycare at Pine Crescent is a unique service that will not be equalled or bettered in a larger setting.
- Complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to me as soon as possible.

Your support in our campaign is urgent and vital; please help us to fight on your behalf.

Brian Doig
Group Co-ordinator

Q1. What do you think of the Council's decision to stop using our Service and transfer the people who use our centre to one of their existing centres?

Q2. The Council believe that care offered in their own centres will be as good as or better than the care we provide. Please respond to this statement in your own words:

Q3. What do we do to help and support you that is important to you?

Q4. If Pine Crescent Daycare was no longer here to support you, what difference would this make to you?

Q5. The Government have legislation in place that puts a legal obligation on all Local Authorities to enable people to arrange their own services, rather than receiving them directly from the Local Authority. Would you like more details?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Contact Details

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Phone: 01698 453700 **E-Mail:** harry.stevenson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Councillor Edward McAvoy, Council Leader, South Lanarkshire Council,
Council Headquarters, Almada Street, Hamilton ML3 0AA
From SLC website: *(As council leader, his focus has been on improving front-line services – and he is particularly interested in services for older people.)*
Phone 01698 454192 **E-Mail:** Councillor.McAvoy@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

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Shona Robison, Minister for Public Health
C/o Peter Creevy, 1E.10, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Telephone: 0131 244 2186 **Email:** ministerforpublichealth@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Local Councillors
For details of your local Councillor/s, contact: **01698 454542**

East Kilbride News 01355 265000 **E-Mail:** dwynn@s-un.co.uk
David Wynn, East Kilbride News, 2 Olympia Arcade, East Kilbride, G74 1LX

EK Mail 01355 270514 **E-Mail:** editorial@eastkilbridemail.com
Andrea O'Neill, EK Mail, 228 Eaglesham Road, Hairmyres, East Kilbride, G75 8RH

Other Newspapers:
Daily Express; Daily Mail; Daily Record; Daily Star; Evening Times; Metro; Scotland on Sunday; The Daily Telegraph; The Guardian; The Herald; The Independent; The Mail on Sunday; The Mirror; The Observer; The People; The Sun; The Sunday Post; The Sunday Mail; The Times.

Please contact as few or as many people as you feel personally capable of doing.
Publicity and political support need to be gained as a priority.
Please act NOW.