

## Parent/Carer Response

- The Green Paper Independence, Well-being and Choice 2005 states that central government is looking to develop an evidence base of social care models, in order to determine which approach is the most cost-effective. I have not read any evidence that Councils which offer only the substantial and critical eligibility criteria are operating in a more cost-effective way. Is there any evidence available?
- The Inspection of Social Care Services for People with Learning Disabilities 2003 concluded that *'more needed to be done to win the hearts and minds of carers'* and that *'carers often need to see evidence that new services worked before they could have confidence that changes to existing services were in users' best interests'*. I do not think that the Council has achieved this. The proposed 'prevention strategy' is not clear. I and others have commented that it needs to be in place before any consideration is given to a change in eligibility criteria.
- I do not think that details of these proposals reached everyone who ought to have been reached. Why was a decision taken not to inform the parents of disabled children under 10? These families are future service users. What is the point of a consultation exercise if a pertinent group is not directly consulted?
- If your day to day life does not involve disability issues to any degree, I think it is extremely difficult to have a real appreciation of what life is like for these families and individuals. Where are our priorities? People should be supported to live life as fully as possible at the expense of other Council services.

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