



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr. Teresa Hunt  
C/o 110 Wolsey Drive  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey  
KT2 5DW

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007

**My Ref: JH/050307/Hunt, T**

Please quote the above in any correspondence

Dear Dr. Hunt,

**Re: Kingston Council – consolidation of day care provision**

Thank you for your recent emails to me on the above topic.

Whilst I do understand your concerns, it is important to view these proposals within the context of the current budgetary situation which Kingston Council is facing – due to a significant reduction in the size of the grant given to the Council by central government (which was already far below the national average), the administration is being forced to make savings of 20% from its overall expenditure.

However, the Council still believes that they will be able to provide a valued service to users on the one site and stresses that this service will remain available to all current users. Furthermore, I have been assured that no decision will be taken until a full and comprehensive consultation has been carried out with users and staff members, and have also passed on your concerns about the quality of the consultation to make sure this process is as effective as possible.

Kingston currently claims to have the best social services in the capital (based on a number of independent assessments), due to the fact that the administration has continually invested in care in the community, thereby providing for all levels of care - a practice which many other boroughs have steadily cut back on or even eliminated entirely. Unfortunately, due to the drastic reduction in the level of the grant provided by central government, this commendable practice is no longer sustainable, hence cuts of £22 million will sadly have to be made over the next four years.

**CONSTITUENCY OFFICE**

**Suite 302, Parkway House, Sheen Lane, East Sheen, London, SW14 8LS**

**Tel: 020 8876 8914 Email: [info@susankramer.org.uk](mailto:info@susankramer.org.uk)**

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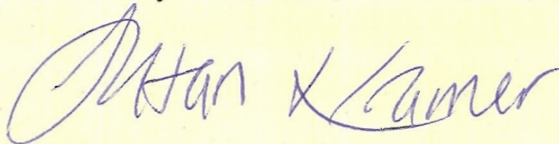
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As you noted, the Council's consultation process over these cutbacks will take place from March till June and, whilst I have passed your concerns on to the Council, I would strongly urge you to take part in this process further by making known to them any additional comments and concerns you have on this topic.

Finally, I would stress that, whatever changes are made; the Council has assured me that all existing users in Newent and Hobkirk Houses will continue to receive the care which they require, even if not in quite the same way as has happened in the past.

I hope that I have at least been able to clarify matters a little, but if I can be any further assistance to you with regards to this or any other issue of concern, then please don't hesitate to let me know.

Yours sincerely



**Susan Kramer**  
**Liberal Democrat MP for Richmond Park and North Kingston**

P.S. Please send all correspondence regarding this matter to my constituency office, at the address set out below.

CC Cllr. Penny Shelton, Executive Member for Housing and Adult Services

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