

11th March 2007

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Hobkirk House Resource Centre
109 Blagdon Road
New Malden
Surrey
KT3 4BD

For the attention of Lorna Vanson - Resource Centre Manager

Dear Madam

Budget Proposals for Day Care

I am writing to express my concern in respect of the proposal to close the day centre for older people at Hobkirk House.

My mother - Mrs MW - attends the day centre for two days a week and benefits enormously from this. If she is deprived of this opportunity it will possibly have a detrimental effect on both her physical health and her physiological well being.

This is almost certainly true also in respect of all the other attendees as well.

I note that your consultation process advises that the aim is to provide services which improve the promotion of good health and well being but it cannot be ignored that changes of routine have a dramatic and adverse effect on older people. Old people like what they are used to and do not welcome changes to their lives.

I also note that Phase Two of the Consultation Process states that those on a lower level of need will be subject to a choice of non-building based services. I am not sure what exactly this means but it seems to me to imply that people in this category may not be given the opportunity to attend a day centre in the future.

Although I realise that the consultation process is still in its initial phases it is often the fact minds have already been made up despite any so called consultancy exercises.

I would therefore like, as a concerned relative, to bring the following points to the attention of both yourself and others involved in the process:-

- Any move will have a detrimental effect on Hobkirk House attendees.
- Any move will involve additional traveling etc to those who presently attend Hobkirk House.
- Local facilities should be utilised for those living locally and for future generations.
- Changes to routine affect older people adversely.

It is also regrettable that whenever Councils are put under pressure it appears that the already meagre service available to older people are eroded further rather than looking at other areas of expenditure.

The people affected by the proposed changes have paid their rates and taxes for a lifetime and should not be affected by money restraints caused by circumstances which are outside of their control and for which they are not responsible for.

Yours faithfully

GW