



Dorset County Council

Official - sensitive

Adult and Community Services
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Date: 08 February 2017
My ref: HC/JH/LR

Dear Mrs Cottingham

Re: Petition

We are writing in response to your covering letter of 19 January, received 23 January 2017 with an attached petition.

Firstly we are sorry that you did not get a satisfactory response to your first enquiry regarding the use of the Hanham Centre. We can see that you did talk to the East Dorset Area Manager but hadn't appreciated that you were looking to meet with the Assistant Director Adult Care, Harry Capron. Harry Capron is happy to meet with you in person to listen to your views and discuss what has happened over the last few years, and thoughts for the future.

The Hanham Centre as a building over the last few years has primarily been used as an Independent Living Centre where visitors can receive advice on what equipment and aids can assist with daily living. This included having an assessment from an occupational therapist. The extra capacity in the building was made available too, for other purposes. This included meetings and use on a sessional hire basis. Such use has never covered the cost of running the building. The agencies using the building on a sessional basis were aware that this would only be a short term arrangement whilst a longer term view was taken on the use of the property.

On the broader point about loss of day services for older people in Wimborne, we can confirm that we were not providing or commissioning day services from the Hanham Centre from the point when Street Meadows was built.

The way services are delivered and policy in adult social care has changed significantly over the last five years and more. The emphasis on supporting older people with significant level of needs has been to plan this individually with the person and their family. This is particularly reflected in the relatively new Care Act 2014, where personal budgets are used to put support in place by the person themselves or with our help. This has changed the demand and use of a day care model of supporting people. So, for example, if there is a demand for people to use their personal budget or direct payment for a day care type service the agencies that can deliver those services can respond. As an example Tricuro, who operate the Ferndown Centre, are not looking to create or establish an additional day centre in the Hanham property.

There are many ways of responding to people's needs and Harry Capron and a member of the commissioning team would be happy to meet with you to discuss this.

Helen Coombes, Interim Director for Adult and Community Services

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We have a responsibility to make the best use of our assets and the Hanham Centre has formed part of a wider review of our use of buildings. A decision was made to retain the previously established equipment centre and access to an occupational therapist assessment in recognition of the distance of travel required to get to Ferndown. The use of the other part of the building for office accommodation was made as part of this wider review of buildings in the area.

Finally, your petition will be considered, and you will be invited to be part of that process.

We hope this information is helpful

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Helen Coombes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Helen Coombes
Interim Director
for Adult & Community Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, clearly legible as 'Jill Haynes'.

Cllr Jill Haynes
Cabinet Member
for Adult Health, Care and Independence

cc Cllr Robin Cook