

Devon County Council Covid support fund

This fund, which helps finance community groups that are supporting vulnerable people in their communities is likely to return, I understand from senior officers. Hopefully, by this time next week we will receive confirmation. I will keep you posted.

Devon County Council's Cabinet in talks with local MPs over adult social care funding cuts

Devon County Council's cabinet has initiated talks with local MPs, following my recommendation agreed at the November Adult Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee.

Adult social care has been in a hugely precarious financial position, following what is now a decade of government funding cuts. As a result far fewer people are in receipt of personal care and unpaid carers are more stretched than ever before. The pandemic of course, has made a very hard situation even tougher.

The papers at the November scrutiny meeting quoted from a national survey of councils.

The key messages from the survey were:

- *Without significant financial intervention from the government, the lives of people who use social care and their family members will be seriously impacted in terms of their lives and wellbeing*
- *Only four per cent of respondents are fully confident that their budget will be sufficient to meet their statutory duties this year, down from 35 per cent in 2019/20*
- *The actual costs to local authorities and adult social care providers of the pandemic will far outstrip the Emergency Funding made available by the government to date*
- *The risk of already fragile care markets failing has significantly heightened as a result of the impacts of covid-19*

The papers also stated that Adult Care and Health was showing an overspend of £2.276m before management action and strategic savings.

I proposed that the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee recommend that the council write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care requesting an adequate social care settlement. This was seconded by Cllr Martin Shaw.

This recommendation was considered by Cabinet last month and it was resolved that the portfolioholder for Health and Social Care raise the issue with local MPs during a series of meetings - and write to the Secretary of State for Health if this was necessary.

This is an incredibly important issue and one that I will continue to monitor and raise.

Here's the latest information and advice on support, including financial, available during the pandemic and lockdown...

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/support-for-people-and-families/>