

Care not Cost!

Stop Somerset Council cutting costs in Learning Disabilities Services

The background

For over 25 years Somerset Council has been delivering a high level of personalised social care and support for adults with learning disabilities through the Learning Disabilities Service. In April it is proposed that this service will be transferred to a new Somerset Social Enterprise run by national care company Dimensions.

What was promised

Somerset County Council promoted the transfer as a means to ensure sustainable high quality services for people with learning disabilities into the future. Service users and their families were consulted with and were promised a focus on quality rather than cost and a

continuity of staffing to maintain close bonds between service users and staff.

The reality

A cost-cutting exercise.

Somerset County Council are using the transfer to save money which can only impact on the quality of care. The Social Enterprise is proposing to:

- **Employ more casual workers**
- **Make staff redundant**
- **Cut terms and conditions**

The focus on quality care appears to have disappeared and it is vulnerable people who may pay the cost.



What you can do

Let the council know that they must keep their commitment to quality care.

On the 15th of February UNISON will be attending the Council Meeting at County Hall, Taunton, to demand that the council honour their promise to service users and their families. Come along to support us at 9.15am and hold the council to account. You can also write to your local councillor or MP and **demand a commitment to the focus on care.**

If you would like more information about the Council meeting, would like a UNISON rep to attend your carers meeting, or would like a template letter to send to your local councillor then contact Daniel Waghorn at d.waghorn@unison.co.uk or on 07903 846 415.

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