

DEPUTATION – FAMILIES OF RESIDENTS OF MANORFIELD HOUSE  
RESIDENTIAL HOME, HORSFORTH

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Please now make your speech to Council, which should not be longer than five minutes, and please begin by introducing the people in your Deputation.

MS J CHAPMAN: Good afternoon. I am Julia Chapman and with me are Patricia and Andrew Holt and Ian and Beth Dawson. We are all here because our relatives live at Manorfield House in Horsforth, one of the Leeds City Council's five Council run homes identified for possible closure.

The consultation process agreed at the Executive Board on 15 February ended on 3 June and the matter will be considered at the Executive Board in September 2013.

There are 21 permanent residents at Manorfield House the youngest, aged 75, having lived there for nearly 20 years and the oldest, aged 102, for nearly six years. The majority of residents are in their late 80s or older.

Manorfield is a general residential care home not a specialist facility. However, all the residents have been assessed as needing 24 hour care and would not be candidates for the Extra Care Housing model presented to the Executive Board in February.

The relatives of the elderly and vulnerable residents at Manorfield are horrified at the prospect of their family members having to move home at this stage in their lives, and this is their home. At least one resident moved to Manorfield as part of the last round of Leeds City Council closures, and they and their family did not expect to be subject to the same disruption again.

Families have praised the care given by the staff at Manorfield, many of whom have worked there for the majority of their careers. As well as that there have been many positive comments about the fabric of the building and significant negative ones about the accommodation provided by the private sector nearby.

However, many of the questions raised by relatives challenging the information provided in support of the proposed closure remain unanswered and need to be addressed before the Council can consider the proposal with the benefit of full disclosure.

LCC's Budget for 2013/14 reflects anticipated savings from closing the care homes. Regardless of what has been said about this being a standard accountancy treatment, it makes a mockery of the consultation process, suggests that it is nothing other than a box ticking exercise and means that the democratic process is a farce. Can the Council please confirm that they are approaching this matter with open minds and taking into account the numerous representations made?

In terms of the detailed questions that have been raised, we have been told that the fabric of the building at Manorfield is not fit for purpose, yet our offers to accompany Members and Officers to view private sector homes in the near vicinity (which we know to be inferior) have been ignored. Is anyone willing to undertake such visits with us?

We are also told that Manorfield's room sizes and corridor widths do not meet the 2002 Health and Social Care Act, but that these standards were dropped by the CQC so no minimum is now required. Despite this, LCC consider it best practice to comply with the Act in its own homes when privately run homes have no such obligation or aspirations.

Manorfield's rooms, most of which have en-suite toilets, are bigger than the majority of the private sector care home stock. Details of private care homes in the area which meet these room size requirements have been requested but not provided.

Extensive renovations were carried out at Manorfield in 2004, yet no-one seems able to confirm what was done. We are asked to rely on a non-disruptive visual survey by the Council's preferred supplier to confirm a figure of £384,000 for unspecified electrical works which apparently need to be carried out in the next one to five years. Would any Councillor undertake works to their own private property based on information like this, and can we please have a more accurate assessment?

The statistics for demand for residential accommodation in Horsforth (now and in 2020) have been based on a model using assumptions about current levels of demand and then projecting forward. The assumptions bear no resemblance to reality, understating the current levels of demand significantly, actual residents being around 96 compared to modelled demand of only 38. The forecasts for 2020 must be treated with the same scepticism. This data could have been checked easily but was not. Why not?

We are told that the weekly unit cost for a place at Manorfield is £735, yet the Quality Framework Agreement put in place with independent care providers means a payment by LCC to the independent sector of £429 per week, and this amount presumably includes profit. Adult Social Care say there is nothing further they can do to reduce the unit costs of running their homes. Given the figures above, has this statement been tested by anyone outside Adult Social Care and, if not, why not?

On 8 May 2013, ADASS stated that almost 60% of members expected private firms that they rely on to suffer financial difficulties in the next two years. If LCC pay so much less than market rates to private providers, this is hardly surprising.

We have been told that "no-one will be financially disadvantaged as a result of a home being closed". Confirmation has been given that no-one will have to pay any more than they do now if they have to move, so presumably either LCC will have to meet significant top up costs or they will reject private care homes deemed too expensive. Is that correct?

If all five homes closed with around 200 residents looking for alternative private accommodation in Leeds at the same time, where will everyone be accommodated near to their existing homes?

In conclusion, the Council will be judged by how it looks after its elderly residents. Most of us would like to have the option to remain in our own home, but the residents in Manorfield and the other homes cannot do that. Is the Council committed to caring for its residents or is it committed to ticking boxes?

Thank you for listening to us and we look forward to getting answers in the near future to the questions we have raised. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: Lord Mayor, I move that the matter be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

Thank you for attending and for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the consideration which your comments will receive. Good afternoon. Thank you again.  
*(Applause)*