

Deputation – Leeds City Council Meeting
Wednesday 18th April 2007

Deputation Representatives:

Coleen Greenwood	–	Co-ordinator Parent Carers Terry Yorath House (TYH) Action Group
John Moody		Parent Carer – TYH Action Group
Wendy Moody		Parent Carer – TYH Action Group
Margaret Smith		Parent Carer – TYH Acton Group
Tim McSharry		Access Committee for Leeds

Malcolm Naylor

Thank you Lord Mayor.

Why is Terry Yorath House so important to its residents and family carers?

Simply because Terry Yorath House offers a level of care and support that is truly exemplar and is of the highest standards and quality anywhere in Leeds.

The residents of Terry Yorath House **do** have choices in their everyday living and real opportunities to develop their own independence across a diverse range of social, health and educational activities.

Terry Yorath House is a purpose built fully accessible facility that offers a safe, friendly and inclusive environment that can be considered a "Model of Best Practice" with regards to the quality and professionalism of staff and a "Benchmark of Accessibility" when compared to many other facilities in Leeds.

Given this outstanding facility and the level of care and satisfaction of the residents of Terry Yorath House, there can be no common sense or logical basis for this Councils drive to introduce unnecessary and expensive changes.....changes that have already caused unacceptable levels of disruption and distress for residents and family carers involved.

The whole process behind the drive to "Remodel" Terry Yorath House and the manner in which the needs and concerns of the residents and family carers have been misrepresented should cause even this Council to question the validity and appropriateness of any recommendations for reconstruction of the building.

When considering that many of the residents of Terry Yorath House have hidden disabilities with complex support and communication needs, it is an appalling failure of this Council, and its alleged consultation process, to provide advocates for some residents, without ensuring that there was also a meaningful opportunity and timescale for the residents to develop a level of trust and understanding with their advocates, otherwise it is simply a box ticking exercise that exploits anyone who requires an advocate.

Also, when parent carers attend meetings to be informed that no decisions have been made and that everything depends on the findings of the consultation....**whilst at the same time** being informed that their needs will be recorded but will not count simply because the "Most Likely Outcome" is that Terry Yorath House will be tendered on a "Less Than Best Deal",**Would Surly** cause anyone to question the validity of the consultation.

It is inappropriate and cannot be acceptable for this Council to engage a wholly owned subsidiary to deliver a supposedly impartial and unbiased consultation. A fact that is underlined when the Chair of the organisation carrying out the consultation, openly makes public comments that are hostile to the needs and concerns of the residents and family carers involved, comments which under the standing orders of this Council may be considered to have conflicts of interest that clearly prejudice the consultation process.

In considering the distress that has already been caused by this policy, this Council has failed in your duty of care to the residents of Terry Yorath House, in addition to failing to meet your obligations to the family carers involved and you have also failed to have due regard for your legal obligations as defined by the many social care acts and the Equality Act 2005.

It is abundantly clear that this whole consultation process is irreversibly flawed, the Parent Carers Action Group on behalf of the carers and residents who we support call on this council to impose a moratorium on the process to allegedly "Refurbish" Terry Yorath House, to enable the appropriate committee sufficient time to thoroughly scrutinise the remodelling policy and its compromised consultation process;

Or failing that, we demand that the District Auditor is engaged without delay to fully investigate this whole self serving fiasco that is damaging the lives of the Terry Yorath House residents and their family carers.

Thank You.

Coleen Greenwood – Parent Carer

I would like to invite anyone on this council to visit TyHouse & its residents to see first hand what this deputation has been about.