

Agenda Item 7c (i)

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT STRATEGIC THEME MOTION PUBLIC HEALTH

This Council notes that the draft provisional revenue outturn for 2013/14 (published June 2014) showed an under-spend of over £1million on the Adult Social Care budget for that year.

This council believes that

- a) isolation and loneliness are detrimental to people's health; those with mental health issues, who no longer receive a discretionary Freedom Pass and cannot afford to attend support groups or meet friends or family, are at increased risk of isolation;
- b) such isolation can then begin a spiral descent into depression and higher dependency on Social Services, at greater long term cost to our residents because of the increased financial burden on the NHS and also on councils' Public Health budgets;

This Council therefore asks Cabinet to consider restoring the discretionary Freedom Pass for those with mental health conditions to those who were formerly eligible to receive it for 2015-16.

Councillor Mary-Jane Jeanes