

Social Work and Social Care - A cut too far Has Edinburgh learned nothing?

UNISON has grave concerns and is challenging the proposed cuts to the management arrangements in the Services to Children and Young People.

The proposals include further cuts to Social Work Practice Teams, Children's Residential Care, Through Care and After Care, Young Peoples Service, and the future of Family Based Care is uncertain.

To compound this we are due to witness the biggest cuts Edinburgh has ever seen in support staff resulting in the loss of the essential

administration that allows social work staff to get on with their job and provides the failsafe backup for child care and protection.

These proposed cuts will have a significant impact on the delivery of the services provided to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged Children and families in our City.

Year on year cuts have already left our members in these services greatly overstretched.

Our members are continually worried about their futures, the professional management support that they rely on, and the services that they

provide to service users.

The risks to staff, our Service Users, and the City Council, are too great to allow any of these cuts

The risks to staff, our Service Users, and the City Council, are too great to allow any of these cuts to be made.

to be made.

Has this City learned nothing from the Edinburgh Inquiry 1999?

The City may be at risk of not meeting the requirements laid down by the Care Inspectorate, the Scottish Social Services Council and the

obligations it has under the Care Standards Act 2000?

The City of Edinburgh Council pledge 1, 'Ensuring every child in Edinburgh has the best start in life'- Is yet another council pledge on the brink?

We will not allow our members to be continually overburdened, or placed at risk, due to the short-sightedness of management and elected members.

See 'Social Work On the Edge' at www.unison-scotland.org/social-work and 'Social Sork on the brink' in the Morning Star 15 March.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE REVIEW

We still await information regarding the Council's proposals as to the Health & Social Care Review.

What is certain is that UNISON's position remains the same.

We expect City of Edinburgh Council to safeguard the existing services, improving and building upon current staffing levels and quality of service.

We will oppose the forming of any Arms Length Trading Company and we will fight any attempt to rundown existing care services via

The Transformation Programme or by stealth in preparation for privatisation.

David Harrold, UNISON's Service Conditions Convener says: "Within Health & Social Care we have some of the most caring, dedicated and professional staff employed by the Council who despite

being hampered by excessive workloads and understaffing keep services running regardless of the constant failings of Waverley Court.

"The greatest asset we have is the Social Care Worker, the Home Care Organiser and Coordinator yet instead of thanking them for their service our

Members must get Involved

A reminder to all UNISON members to get involved in their review by commenting on proposed Job descriptions, checking they are in the correct pool, raising any concerns about the Indicative grade, the proposed structure etc.

employer offers them up as sacrificial lambs to the bottom line.

"UNISON says enough is enough! We are committed to protecting all of our care professionals and the high quality services they provide. We will not allow Waverley Court to undermine the care of our elderly by parcelling of these services to the highest bidder".

"When City of Edinburgh Council are finally able to put something on the table for discussion UNISON will examine these documents and work with our members in Health & Social Care to preserve jobs, terms and conditions and quality of service."

Join us in UNISON 0131 558 7488 or www.unison-edinburgh.org.uk