

Health & Social Care review update

The review of services in the Health & Social Care Department is due to begin in the next few weeks.

UNISON has been informed that due to the interlinking nature of the services involved, it is proposed by Waverley Court that they will be dealt with as one single review. Whether this is a practical option remains to be seen.

What is certain is UNISON will participate in every aspect of the review. For us to support you we will need your feedback on your job descriptions, grades and the structure. For further information and updates check the UNISON website or contact your local steward.

Arms Length Trading Company (ALTC)

Many of you will be aware of a proposal, that has recently been reported in the press, that looks to create a company to run our many care services.

UNISON will oppose the forming of any ALTC and we have made our position on this quite clear to councillors and senior management.

UNISON questions why this proposal is being considered. Over the last 10 years City of Edinburgh Council have had to bail out or write off irrecoverable debt for their existing ALTC's to the tune of over £180 million.

Press reports say that

UNISON will oppose the forming of any ALTC and we have made our position on this quite clear to councillors and senior management.

Glasgow's ALTC Cordia is to be wound up and 7,000 staff are expected to be transferred back to the council after a lengthy and embarrassing catalogue of failures and complaints from the public. This is not a path that Edinburgh should walk.

UNISON's message remains the same - Our City's still not for sale.

Homecare & Reablement

UNISON is aware that rumours abound as to how Waverley Court intend to restructure Homecare & Reablement. These rumours have been unhelpful and are pure conjecture.

UNISON can confirm that despite much discussion at senior levels no new structure or changes to staffing levels have been agreed upon or presented as a proposal to be consulted on.

When something concrete is provided for consultation

UNISON will scrutinise these documents and work alongside our members to safeguard jobs, terms and conditions and quality of service.

David Harrold, UNISON's Service Conditions Convener says: "Homecare & Reablement is staffed by some of the most caring and professional people employed by the Council.

"From top to bottom, our Social Care Workers, our Home Care Organisers and Coordinators show dedication to the service of our elderly on a daily basis, yet their reward is to be plunged into uncertainty.

"For our greatest asset to be treated in this manner shows a lack of respect for what they do and to cut their numbers or disable their ability to provide high quality care is nothing short of sheer negligence.

"Our message is clear. We will not allow Waverley Court to weaken one of our most valued and important services making it ripe for privatisation or parcelling off to an arms length trading company.

"We will not allow essential jobs to be put at risk, we will not allow high quality care for the elderly to be put in danger to satisfy their bottom line."

**YOUR UNION NEEDS YOU
Come to the UNISON AGM
Mon 22 Feb 6.00pm
Augustine Church, George IV Bridge
... and discuss two motions on Home
Care and Arms Length Company**

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