



JOINT TRADE UNION ADULT SOCIAL CARE Future Shape Questions

29 June 2010

From the outset the Trade Unions were excluded from the Adult Social Care Future Shape Project Team. We raised our objections to our exclusion and submitted a total of **46** questions.

We have **not** had a response to any of our questions. It is our view that a major decisions concerning services being delivered for some of the most vulnerable residents in our borough should not be shrouded in secrecy.

We were promised that the process would be open, transparent and that services users, staff and trade unions would be involved in the process.

This is not happened in this project.

Due to the lack of transparency about the Options Appraisal and the manner in which this project has been managed; we have no option but to conclude this Options Appraisal is fundamentally flawed. It is public money. The Council must be sure the Option chosen is able to provide value for money and high quality services.

We have seen no evidence as to how this Options Appraisal arrived at its conclusions.

See below questions tabled to Adult Social Care Future Shape Project

1. Why is the in-house option described as 'business as usual' when this will not be the case?
2. Have workshops been held or being planned with staff to discuss how to modernise and identify more efficient and effective working?
3. The presentation document focuses almost exclusively on Social Enterprises and Local Authority Trading Company options – does this mean that the other options have been ruled out?
4. What work is being undertaken in developing the scope and content of an in-house option?
5. How does a Local Authority Trading Company provide "more flexibilities and opportunities" compared to in-house provision?

6. How will each option contribute to the integration of public services in Barnet?
7. How will a Local Authority Trading Company be sustainable in the longer term?
8. What other services are a LATC expected to bid for?
9. How will each of the options be expected to implement a 25% budget cut?
10. Is an independent evaluation of Essex Care and/or other Local Authority Trading Companies in the care sector available?
11. What lessons can be learnt from Essex Care?
12. How will the Council's top slicing of the Adult services budget affect each of the options?
13. How will the company be held accountable to the Council?
14. Are there differences between the options in terms of the ability of the Council to ensure implementation of Council Corporate policies and priorities?
15. Will staff transfer under TUPE Plus agreement?
16. What are the differences between each option in their ability to develop and implement workforce development policies?
17. How will a LATC ensure transferred staff and new staff are still able to remain in the Local Government Pension Scheme?
18. How will the significant gaps in the Project Initiation Document (PID) with respect to risks on the availability and quality of data be addressed to enable a full Value for Money assessment to be carried out?
19. How will changes in the management of the service affect service users?
20. Are clients given a choice over having a personal budget?
21. What happens if clients do not want a personal budget?
22. What are the management implications if/when the personal budget is not adequate to "buy the support" service users want?
23. What are the "high administrative and fixed costs" – which costs will remain irrespective of changes in management and what new contract management costs will be incurred?
24. Local Authorities can trade so why can't Adult Social Services?
25. What is the evidence to support the claim that there is a "lack of flexibility to innovate"?
26. What is the evidence base for the 22% overheads claim when the PID document fails to indicate the risks/mitigating action on the availability and quality of data?
27. What are the full transaction costs for the options appraisal and procurement?
28. The PID refers to "other costs to be covered from service budgets" – what are these costs and what impact will they have on service provision?

29. How will management changes affect the control and cost of transport services?
30. What is the difference between a 'high level' and full options appraisal and why is the former rather than the latter being undertaken now?
31. Does the statement that the Council will only "offer the highest quality achievable for the price" represent a significant shift in policy?
32. What is the rationale for inclusion of "doing nothing" and "management buy-out" options when they are unrealistic?
33. Why does the PID Risk Analysis fail to identify the risks associated with the availability and quality of management and finance data and any mitigating action?
34. What are the current expectations on how the 25% efficiency savings will be achieved in all the different service delivery options?
35. What resources have been allocated to look at the Direct (in-house) Provision option?
36. What work has been carried out to look at cross working with other Local Authorities to provide services?
37. **'One size does not fit all'** What services will be available for those who do not wish to have a Direct Payment or Personal Budget?
38. Will the council guarantee that direct payments and individual budgets will be updated each year to reflect rising costs so that maintain their real value?
39. How will the Personal Budgets Indicative Budget Calculator be used in the business case development of service development options?
40. How are staff going to be involved in the development and appraisal of service delivery models
41. What is the total Adult Social Services (ASS) spend on Service Provision?
42. What is the total spend on Direct Payments (DP)?
43. What is the total spend on Personalised Budgets (PB)?
44. How many residents are receiving services funded by ASS?
45. How many residents are receiving DP's?
46. How many residents are receiving PB's?

Barnet staff

