

Transfer of Provider Function - Adult Care and Health

Liberal Democrat Group Position Statement

We continue to support the integration of Health and Adult Care Services because we acknowledge the improvements this has made to the service our community receive.

We are disappointed by the Department of Health's inflexibility over the timescales they have imposed which we do not think are in the best interests of our community. We would support any moves for an extension of time to be granted.

We are not opposed to the concept of a social enterprise, but believe that the timescales proposed at present are not appropriate given that a social enterprise has never been used to deliver provider services in this way or of this magnitude.

We are concerned that the tax implications of transfer to Social Enterprise are a significant issue and want this to be closely monitored.

If a Social Enterprise cannot be implemented in the timescales required by the Department of Health we would prefer the "place of safety" for the PCT provider services to be either the Council or an NHS Trust. Working with the RUH Trust should be considered if this course of action is necessary.

We would prefer Council Adult Care Services staff to remain employees of the Council and to be seconded to the Trust.

Local democratic accountability must be a feature of any transferred services and service users must be involved in scrutiny of the organisation.

The views of both Council and PCT Staff should be kept informed of developments and their views taken in to account.

We want integrated delivery of services to continue on the ground, irrespective of the governance arrangements of the organisation(s).