

**MPs' Briefing**  
**Changing Lives Court Case Outcome**

Many of you will be aware of the council's Changing Lives programme in Social Care and Health where we are investing over £19 million to improve our package of care and support services to meet the ever-increasing aspirations and needs of Staffordshire's older and more vulnerable citizens.

Proposing major changes such as the re-provision of residential care is obviously a very sensitive issue and in line with this two weeks ago, an external solicitor obtained a court injunction to stop any of our service users from being transferred to the independent sector at the present time. In response to this, we requested an amendment to the injunction wording, which was successfully upheld. Since then we have been working closely with our legal representatives to gather the relevant information to ensure our care investment plans will proceed.

As part of the legal proceedings, an application to decide whether a judicial review of the Changing Lives programme should take place was heard in court today.

**The outcome of this was that the application for a judicial review into the Changing Lives programme was rejected in court. This now means that we can proceed with our plans.**

We fully welcome this decision which completely re-enforces confidence in our Changing Lives programme as the best way to improve services for elderly and vulnerable people in Staffordshire, as has always been the case.

The county council's decision was always subject to a detailed and systematic process of consultation with each individual unit and each resident/service user, their family and our employees. These plans have always been in place, including prior to the injunction, and we want to start this process as soon as we can. We have always intended to deal with each unit on its merits and in a timeframe that is appropriate.

We will now continue to work closely with individual service users over the coming months to ensure their care and support needs are met. The judge today said that Staffordshire County Council were "very conscious of their duty to consult."

Thankfully, the court's decision allows us to now take forward the Changing Lives programme as quickly and as smoothly as possible to deliver the necessary improvements in services that have been democratically approved by members.

Support will also continue to be provided to those employees directly affected by the changes at this unsettling time and we will aim to keep you updated on any progress as and when it happens.

For further information you can view the statement that has been issued to the media at:  
<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/news/highcourt.htm>

Eric Robinson

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