

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 12 FEBRUARY 2010

Statement from: Cllr G A Marsh, Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care and Supporting People

Supported Housing

The Supporting People Team continues to improve efficiency and quality across the range of services it provides. All of the providers in this service area are now providing services at Grade B (good) or Grade A (excellent) under the National Quality Assessment Framework.

The Team has also been noted as a best practice exemplar for its work in developing and implementing a “cost fund model” for all its services. This model sets clear cost expectations, utilising benchmarks from other areas, with its contractors and has driven more than £2m of efficiencies out of services whilst improving quality.

An Improvement Board continues to oversee the delivery of the May 2009 Audit Commission Report recommendations. Good progress continues to be made and the Board meets for the final time in April in “mock inspection” mode to satisfy that all milestones have been transparently delivered.

Severe Weather

The recent snowy weather caused staff significant difficulties in providing a service to the most vulnerable people in the community and for staff working in our in house care homes. Through goodwill and working together a continuous service has been maintained by:-

- staff changing shifts when colleagues were unable to travel;
- staff ‘sleeping in’ to enable continuation of service;
- Home Support staff walking distances in the snow to reach people – up to 45 minutes in some cases;
- contacting people to ensure they were alright where transport was cancelled for Day Care.

Swallow Lodge

On 12th December 2009, I attended the official opening of Swallow Lodge on Fen Lane in Lincoln. This is a newly built respite centre for adults with a learning disability. The Centre has been built to an environmental specification, with ecological energy saving features.

The opening was performed by Mrs Valerie Campbell, parent/carer, and she was assisted by Sharon Jones and Richard Wilson who use the service. Also in

attendance were Ian Anderson, Pete Gittins, Lois Campbell, parents, carers and staff.

Personal Budgets

On 18th January 2010, we commenced the roll out of personal budgets to all new recipients of Adult Social Care services. This follows on from the success of our action learning programme in Skegness where personal budgets had been in operation since January 2009. The roll out commenced in East Lindsey and will be complete across the county by 22nd March 2010.

Personal budgets give citizens maximum choice and control over the delivery of supportive services, and all evidence to date suggests that people who use a personal budget are far more satisfied with their package of care than those who receive a more traditional package. This roll out will put Lincolnshire County Council at the forefront of the national drive towards increased personalisation of care planning.