

24th January 2015

An open letter to CVT

As parents of a Botton Villager we have watched with dismay CVT's continued underhand attempts to justify their damaging policies that appear to be hell bent on destroying the wonderful shared living community our daughter chose to live in. We hoped we would not have to write this letter, that mediation and common sense would prevail, that CVT would see the folly of their ways and allow a unique, self governing community continue to provide a sense of community, sense of worth and mutual respect, regardless of ability, so absent in the social care sector.

We had never heard of Botton Village until our daughter visited with friends. She returned with an infectious enthusiasm and sparkle, declaring, "Mummy, I would like to live in Botton" Our daughter is a child of the countryside, born and raised in a large, close, extended family but, unable to drive or have access to public transport our daughter would have risked isolation, social care provision providing no more than manufactured workshops, with continually changing care workers.

After visiting Botton we saw why our daughter was so enchanted and knew she was making the right choice for her. There was no sense of separation between carer and cared for, there was a mutual respect, there was a sense of purpose, there was the opportunity for our daughter to live a life where she had an appropriate peer group, an appropriate social group and an appropriate place of work, where her skills and abilities could be valued for what she could contribute and not for what she couldn't. **Above all there was a sense of family, community and continuity of care.**

She joined Botton as a valued member of a community where she could live as an equal. She did not join as a 'service user', 'tenant'. 'person we support' or any other inhuman terminology so beloved of CVT management.

How can anyone now have any trust in a management that can so blatantly ignore a general manager who purports to be supportive and sweetness and light, but who, the moment he is crossed, becomes verbally aggressive? How can we trust CVT, who conveniently ignore the conflict of interest involving the relationship between the general manager and a relatively recently arrived former house co-ordinator?

The manipulation of correspondence by the chief executive, the complete disregard for the co-workers, who, despite bullying from management, continue to put the most vulnerable in our society first, a responsibility that seems to have eluded CVT management and trustees, is shameful. Even today we have received a letter from Huw John with a commitment to be "honest and open", when locks are already, unnecessarily, being changed (at the expense of the charity?) some of the conversations highlighted in the Property Consolidation document he denies have already taken place and notices to quit have been served.

Considering this may we, as parents with Power of Attorney for our daughter's care, have written assurance from CVT management that our daughter will not be moved from her home, nor removed from her house parents with whom she shares her life, where it is her wish and our wish that she should remain?

We feel that it is now imperative that an open meeting be held with Huw John, David Knowles, Steven James and Felicity Chadwick-Histed to enable parents, family and legal representatives of Botton Villagers to clarify **honestly** the proposed timescale and extent of any changes to the living arrangements of our loved ones.

This policy of destruction, to turn what was a beacon in the care of vulnerable adults into any other social care chain, is borne by greed and arrogance. It is the uniqueness of Botton that makes it so special. It should be celebrated, nurtured and recognised for the truly great place it was and should be again.

We have no desire to pursue legal action, but fear it is becoming inevitable.

Hang your heads in shame CVT.

David and Elizabeth Robertson