

62 Jalland Street  
Hull  
HU8 8RB

Tel: 01482 215272  
franfrancis@live.co.uk

6<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Dear Felicity and Huw

Nothing that you have said in the information you have just sent me assures me that my son, in Botton, will get the care and support he needs to be safe and healthy if the proposed changes take place. He will be, along with other villagers, the real victims of these changes. It is they who will have to cope with the loss and changes.

- If a number of co-workers leave, continuity, understanding and relationships will be lost – what support are you building in to help those dependent on the care they receive, cope with the loss and change.
- Can you guarantee sufficient care and support?
- What arrangements are being made to ensure 24 hour care is maintained for those who need it?
- Can you guarantee sufficient care provision particularly during winter when road may be impassable?

I am sure that many of the people you support ‘want change – more opportunities, a stronger voice in community life and the chance to live more independently and be more connected to the world around them.’ I agree that this should be respected and enabled wherever possible but what of those like my son.

He should also have a voice and his choices respected. He says he is happy where he is, he enjoys his life in Botton and this is where and how he wants to live. He doesn’t want TV or independent living, he wants to work, and he likes sharing the house with a family with children. I have not seen his choices reflected.

CVT writes about of supportive communities and neighbourliness, better contact with a wider society, living more independently, the ‘enthusiastic

individuals who want to develop opportunities, new enterprises and rebuild a vibrant place to live and work', but there is no talk or information about the care of vulnerable individuals living in Botton, how personal care and understanding of the needs of those less able to express themselves, is to be provided or even considered – is there still going to be a place for them?

My son is not capable of living more independently, and requires support if he is to go outside Botton. His abilities and growth as a person has been facilitated by living in a supportive 'family' situation where his needs are understood and met, the pace of life in Botton, the routines and working.

I fear that the care and understanding my son needs will not be provided if the proposed changes take place. He cannot truly engage in discussions about the future, he is happy to agree with whatever suggestions are made having little or no understanding about what he is agreeing to. He frequently does not tell anyone if he is having problems and difficulties and is dependent on those knowing and caring for him understanding that something is wrong.

Given the care, understanding and support he needs, Daniel is able to contribute, help, work and support others. Without this, his health, safety and well being will be at risk.

If you are wanting to attract new 'villagers' to Botton you need to consider what families, individuals and the local authorities who pay for them are looking for, most would not be attracted by what you have written and would have the same concerns that I have.

My views on the rights and wrongs of co-workers and trustees are of little significance to you and are likely to change nothing but appear to be what is of most importance and significance. I am not convinced that you are putting the needs of the vulnerable people you care for first and foremost and I feel sick with anxiety about the future happiness, safety and care of my son and those who depend on the understanding and care they receive in Botton.

Yours sincerely

Fran Francis