

# Suggested topic for scrutiny

## Suggested by:

Councillor Julian Swift Hook

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Is WBC properly discharging its responsibilities to service users receiving a 'Supported Living' service, regardless of the nature of the service user's needs (PD, MH, LD, OP etc).

### Reasons for requesting that this topic be considered:

My colleague Cllr Hunneman has raised a Scrutiny Request regarding CMHT clients. A review of ALL of WBC's Supported Living services is needed, not just of CMHT services. I am seeking reassurance that WBC is effectively safeguarding ALL those receiving a Supported Living service, has appropriate assessment procedures in place to ensure that service users are receiving the quality of support to which they are entitled, and is making the best use of external providers with specific experience of successful Supported Living provision to vthe various service user groups. CTPLD has asserted in general terms that Supported Living schemes set up outside its Commissioning Strategy have failed and, it seems, are using this as a reason to not be involved in setting up new external schemes for service users despite their needs. However, CTPLD has not identified those alleged failed schemes or the reasons for the alleged failures (which could be due to WBC), nor have they identified how sticking only to their Commissioning Strategy ensures the success of a Supported Living scheme, either in-house or external. West Berkshire Mencap has arguably the most successful Supported Living scheme for LD service users in West Berkshire - WBC CTPLD and CMHT should be seeking to identify the reasons for the success and incorporating those points into other schemes across their Supported Living service provision, be it commissioned externally or provided in-house.

### This topic meets the following criteria:

(1) The issue is an area of key public concern (e.g. as identified through Members surgeries, constituents' concerns, the Annual Satisfaction Survey, raised in the local media, etc).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(2) It is a budgetary area in need of examination to ensure value for money is being obtained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3) There has been a pattern of budgetary overspends within the area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(4) It has an external focus (e.g. scrutiny of the Council's partners, government agencies, utility providers, private sector companies, etc)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(5) It is a Central Government priority area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(6) It is an area of new Government legislation that has significant implications for the Council or its partners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### The outcomes you hope scrutiny of this topic will achieve:

I am seeking reassurance that WBC is effectively safeguarding all those receiving Supported Living, has appropriate, timely and effective assessment procedures in place to ensure that service users are receiving the quality of support to which they are entitled, has a Commissioning Strategy that is flexible and delivers successful Supported Living schemes where "success" is defined in terms of the best possible outcomes for service users rather than for WBC, and is working closely with high quality specialist external providers such as West Berkshire Mencap to ensure that best practice is shared and followed. Further, where WBC's commissioning arrangements are not sufficiently flexible to meet service user needs, ensure that personal budgets are made available to service users without unnecessary delay or bureaucracy.

**If you have already raised this issue with a Member or Officer of West Berkshire Council, please provide details here:**

I have already discussed this issue with Cllr Roger Hunneman.