

**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET – 20TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Item 7 – Adult Social Care Provider Services
Comments from the People Scrutiny Panel**

The People Scrutiny Panel considered a report on the Provider Services Review at its meeting held on Monday 13th September 2021.

The Panel also received a petition titled “Abandon Planned Closure of Day Centres” which had 804 signatures. The specific wording of the petition was as follows:

“Abandon planned closure of day centres”

“We the undersigned petition the council to abandon the plans of closing down the day centres and short break service for people with learning disability and/or autism.

The day service and short break service centres are vital for people with learning disabilities and autism. They provide social interactions, fun, learning, SAFETY and STABILITY in a way which cannot be replaced by the alternative arrangements the council proposes.

There is no other adequate place in Slough for people with learning disabilities and autism.

The parents and carers of service users care for the disadvantaged people with disabilities often for their entire life. Closing down the reliable day care offered by the day centres and replacing it with often inadequate alternatives will simply create massive problems for people who are already on the edge of mental breakdown following the long period of closure due to Covid.

The people with learning disabilities/autism are some of the most vulnerable members of the community. They and their parents/carers need help. Please sign this petition to request the council to abandon the closure plans and to reopen the day centres and the short break service. We request that the council restores the service to the level offered before the Covid related closures.”

After discussion, the Panel agreed as follows:

Resolved – That the recommendation to Cabinet be as follows:

1. Cabinet to be made aware of the petition and asked to ensure officers give some reassurance to stakeholders.
2. If a decision is taken to close the following Provider Services currently operated by the Council:
 - Lavender Court

- Respond (short-term breaks service)
- Priors Day Service
- Phoenix Day Service
- The Pines Day Service

Suitable alternative provisions should be provided before any such closure.

3.

- a) To review the needs and aspirations of all people who use the services currently. To identify alternative options, building on people's strengths, across the provide market and through direct payments.
- b) Deliver flexible and more personalised support, relying less on providing activities or services that are based at the day centres.
- c) To promote individual choice and independence through accessing services that are being delivered by charities, community groups and other organisations in the voluntary and independent sector.

4. To delegate the implementation of these recommendations to the Executive Director of People (Adults), in consultation with the lead member for social care and public health.

5. That a report be presented back to the Scrutiny Panel on the outcome of the one-to-one officer assessment of each of the affected residents with confirmation that appropriate solutions for each person had been found, if Cabinet decides to close these centres.