

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am hoping that you can offer us some support as we offer this type of service to those from social care that are now too old to be given help from the new approach. We take in homeless people, many were in our child care system and we have helped them to change their outlook about life and think positive about their future. Unfortunately, the new unified council of Cornwall are going to close us due to standardisation. There are national implications of cruelty by the new unified council of Cornwall's budget policy regarding homelessness and I hope you are incensed enough to offer assistance if possible.

Four and a half years ago, we approached NCD council with a proposal for an alternative to standard B&B. This was sponsored by a directive from central government for councils to seek alternatives.

We decided to put a fridge, microwave, toaster etc available to our guests so they wouldn't have the cost and burden of having to eat out in the evening. They could stay in all day so they wouldn't be trudging the streets between 10 am and 6 pm like the majority of temporary accommodation. Due to the stress from their situation we decided not to take in tourists as conflicting emotions would exacerbate their situation. As the council only required three rooms, they paid a retainer to compensate for the drop in income. After a three month trial it was classed as a success.

We improved the system by listening to our guests problems, giving them support and getting them to focus on their children and the future. Many required help with the abundance of forms, phone calls were made on their behalf, we took those without transport for doctor, dentist and hospital appointments, all with the intention of helping them back into the local community. Mental health and child care specifically requested the housing department to place their clients in Kisauni House. We have helped many guests to get their lives back on track and out of the system.

One month after the unification, we received 3 month notification, as per our contract, to stop due to standardisation. However, we could still be used as a standard B&B. By their own admission, we do not fit into a box irrespective of how effective we are. They know it works as other departments keep telling them. Over the years we have observed the councils policy regarding homeless people. They prefer to move people away from their area, isolate them from friends, family and sometimes their children, put them in the cheapest B&B they can find along with tourists. Statistically the majority will drop out due to the stress, absolving the council of any further responsibility. This is a budget policy, not a care policy. I have proof that the council have moved people out of Bude, even though we had an empty room that they pay a retainer for. This approach perpetuates a new generation with social care needs.

When we started taking in the homeless, our house insurance almost tripled. We required specialist insurance for people on DSS. I fought this social discrimination through my MP but got nowhere. The council are fully aware that it requires specialist insurance to accommodate those on DSS but do not feel it is any of their concern.

They have ignored the government white paper and their own unified councils aims and objectives: Promote personal well-being. Build strong sustainable, cohesive communities. Residents should have a greater say about what happens in their communities. The vision of the Cornwall constitution is: A happy place that values its communities, and to enable one and all to achieve the highest possible quality of life. Rhetoric without intention.

At present we have a woman staying here free of charge because the council will not help her. She stayed here before as her partner kept having affairs and it drove her to drink and a bit of a mental breakdown. While here she was off the drink and positive about the future. The council forced her to take a bedsit in a house full of men, mainly alcoholics where she is scared to take a shower. She had to sleep on the floor when her children visited. They are now too scared to visit. The stress made her suicidal and the police and air/sea rescue were often out looking for her. She phoned us in tears begging for help so we took her in, much to the relief of the local police who know how effective Kisauni house has been.

The police phoned the council to have her stay here, our councillors and MP phoned along with child care (in relation to her children), and mental health (Due to her depression) but the council will not help. They gave her three options, go to assisted housing in Liskeard, away from her children and support so she will drop out, stay where she is, or leave, at which point she has made herself homeless absolving the council of further responsibility. This is a departmental budget policy that throws massive costs onto other sections of our establishment. This country is in recession and, even though Cornwall's statistics state they have reduced homelessness (By getting people to drop out by isolation and having every excuse possible that people make themselves homeless), it is still set to increase. The ironic paradox of fighting the establishment to help the public is of national concern. Their actions can only be construed as constituting budget considerations before people care. We are wasting tax payers money to pay people that do not help the unfortunate of our society.

All we are saying to the council is, instead of having homeless people dotted around various B&B's, have one dedicated place in each town. This is fairer to the tourists that we need, and to the unfortunate homeless people. If they are run like ours, it is cost effective all round. We do not believe this is rocket science. It is cheap as they pay us less than a social worker who does not have the hours or overheads.

We have a campaign to try and change their budget attitude but need help from the media. If you go to FACEBOOK, BUDE SERVICE UNDER THREAT or follow this link <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=9276419971&ref>

Please can you help in any capacity or do a feature that encourages people to sign up to our campaign on facebook. All help is desperately needed to change attitudes toward the future care of our society.

Warm Regards

Stephen Carl Shaw