

Our ref: GB/RD-(CP)

19th August 2020

Councillor Pocock
SENT VIA EMAIL TO:
Rob.pocock@birmingham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Pocock,

Re: NDTi Investigation

As you know, Mr Gilbert complained to the Council about certain events in connection with the consultation on the proposals for Day Opportunities. I am writing to let you know the outcome of the investigation.

Mr Gilbert complained that officers gave misleading answers as to the existence of reports from an organisation called NDTi that had assisted in the process of producing the Day Opportunities proposals, which were consulted on. The proposals were also considered by the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 December 2018. Mr Gilbert complained that responses provided to your questions at that meeting were misleading.

The then acting Monitoring Officer decided that Mr Gilbert's complaint should be investigated by an independent investigator. The investigation was undertaken by Galloway Training Consultancy Ltd. The investigation has been completed and a report has been produced. Enclosed is a copy of the report, which has been redacted to remove the names of individuals, including Mr Gilbert's, as once the report is released it goes into the public domain and it would be inappropriate for personal details to be included.

A copy of this report has also been sent to Mr Gilbert.

The report does not make happy reading. You will see the investigator concluded that, regrettably, officers provided you with answers which were wrong and other officers failed to take opportunities to correct misunderstandings. In particular, you were told there was no report from NDTi when, in fact, such a report did exist. Unfortunately, at the meeting on 18 December 2018, the officers before you failed to correct your understanding as to the existence of such a report.

I wish to apologise to you and the members of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for the unacceptable failures to provide you with accurate information. Where the relevant officers remain in employment with the Council, steps have been taken to address the matters identified in the report.

I have written to Mr Gilbert to apologise for the misconduct which the investigator has identified. I have also thanked Mr Gilbert for raising the issue with the Council.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Betts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Graeme Betts
Corporate Director - Adult Social Care

Enc: NDTi Report Investigation

Adult Social Care
PO Box 16466
10 Woodcock Street
Aston
Birmingham
B7 4BL

Telephone: 0121 303 4061
email: graeme.betts@birmingham.gov.uk