



PRESS RELEASE

21st July 2010

UNION ATTACKS COUNCIL OVER CARE DECISION

The North East's biggest trade union the GMB today hit out at the Region's biggest local authority, over its proposals for social care.

Labour controlled Durham County Council is proposing to close seven social care establishments covering facilities like residential homes, day care and nursing.

Despite a very high profile campaign by local communities including residents, their families and indeed the GMB itself, the ruling Labour Cabinet has today taken the decision to close the seven care facilities.

GMB Northern Senior Organiser Terry Scarr said:

'In our view the Council's consultation process has been skewed to give the result Leading Councillors wanted in the first place. Many of our Members will be at risk over this scandalous decision and many residents and families will be deeply upset'.

The GMB acknowledged that some facilities could be difficult to upkeep but attacked the decision to shut all seven.

Mr Scarr said:

'Our Members and our communities will not forget this disgraceful decision. The previous Leader, Albert Nugent, will be remembered as a principled trade unionist who stood up for local people and their communities. His social care policy was one to champion. The current Leadership's policy is one to revile'.

The GMB is now considering what steps to take next.

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

Details of the 7 establishments to close can be obtained from GMB Senior Organiser Terry Scarr. His contact details are: 07870 176724