

**Feedback from Meetings with Carers held at Meadowcroft  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2007 and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

The following is a summary of comments made:

If you feel that this does not adequately represent what was said at the meeting, please feel free to add comments and return to me. I will then endeavour to incorporate them into the final report. I have also incorporated answers which were given to some direct questions.

- **This is not a consultation but a fait accompli.**

Agreed that three homes will close; consultation is about how to implement that.

- **Provision in the independent sector is poor:**

- some carers have been to homes which they describe as “filthy and disgusting”. One carer said that they would not put an animal in the homes they visited.
- even if the physical environment is reasonable, the care is not as good as that provided at Meadowcroft.

Lot of new provision for Residential EMI coming into market

- **Some carers found it hard to believe that all homes (Council and independent) were inspected to the same standard.**

Assurance that all Homes are inspected, often by same Inspectors. Reports are public and available.

- **Anger that Meadowcroft had been designated as a Home which offered permanent care in May 2006 and is now scheduled to be redesignated as a respite home by October 2008. Some carers felt that this change should not have been made.**

Meadowcroft was redesignated in response to the capacity in the independent market at that time. The situation has now changed. Meadowcroft will have provided permanent care for 2½ years.

- **Carers felt that the Department was targeting the most vulnerable people and questioned why respite and daycare could not be provided in the independent sector, leaving Meadowcroft to provide permanent care.**

The Department is focussing on providing services which make the best use of the skills and resources which we have. Respite and day care are not readily available in the independent market, but residential care is.

- **Carers asked if their relatives could stay at Meadowcroft, even if we did not offer any more permanent placements there.**

The Department may not be able to meet the demand for respite EMI care if we did this.

- **This is just a cost cutting exercise with no regard to the effect it would have on carers and families. Demonstrates a lack of respect for residents and their relatives.**

The Department has a duty to ensure that we use our resources effectively. We will make every effort to help people settle into their new homes – staff will be there to support them until transfer is complete