



Fostering creativity, community and citizenship for all.

Federation Pledges to Fight Injustice Statement from Altrum: 6th June 2011

Altrum calls on the Leader of Argyll and Bute Council to reverse their damaging decision to fully remove the funding for one of its member organisations, Neighbourhood Networks.

Neighbourhood Networks is a member of Altrum, a federation of organisations and individuals that exists to advance the power and interest of people with disabilities who are at risk of segregation. Altrum members are extremely concerned for those members of the network who have seen the contract with the Council terminated at short notice

Neighbourhood Networks is a not for profit organisation made up of members, staff and trustees, that facilitates networks of mutual support for vulnerable people, an approach that meets the Scottish Government objectives for social care provision. Neighbourhood Networks has demonstrated a strong willingness and commitment to deliver their much needed service and outcomes for members for significantly less cost and has received recognition and praise for the personal and flexible approach to the service they provide.

Altrum believes that the rights of the Network members have clearly been ignored where the Council has unlawfully failed to consult with the Network members who are directly affected by the announcement to withdraw their service. Altrum is extremely concerned for those members of the Network who are facing a life without the service as the impact on individuals may be significant.

Lorna McDonald, an active member of Neighbourhood Networks in Mid Argyll states “I have never been consulted with about what this decision will have on my life. This is very upsetting for me as without Neighbourhood Networks I will have no support. This decision has been made without talking to me about how I feel or without talking through with me what my needs are or how I will be affected by this decision. This is totally wrong and if it can happen to me as a member of the Project Board how safe other people being affected by this decision and what work has been done to assess their needs?

Altrum members understand the Councils financial predicament, but regards the action against Neighbourhood Networks as short sighted, focussing on immediate cash savings and political expediency without considering the wider, long term impacts to the taxpayer, or society as a whole. We would therefore add our voice in urging Argyll & Bute Council to reverse its decision to withdraw vital service provided by Neighbourhood Networks

A spokesperson for Altrum said: “Altrum is fully committed to provide any support that it can to Neighbourhood Networks and it’s members to formally contest the decision and to seek a judicial review”.

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www.altrum.org.uk

Notes

Altrum is a federation of organisations and individuals working in partnership committed to fostering creativity, community and citizenship for all

For further information contact:

1. Gina Hagan, Secretary for Altrum (gina.hagan@forliving.org) or
2. John Dalrymple, Director of Neighbourhood Networks
(JohnDalrymple@neighbourhoodnetworks.org)
3. Lorna is a member of the Learning Disabilities Project Board with the Argyll and Bute Council and a member of Neighbourhood Networks. She can be contacted on 07917-508882 or 01880-821185.