

## **ITEM 8 (a)**

### **Adult's, Community & Children's Services Scrutiny, 29th June, 2011**

#### **Question submitted by Councillor Greenhalgh under Standing Order, 36.**

**Q.**

In view of the recent revelations regarding the finances of "Southern Cross", can the Executive Member update the Scrutiny on the dialogue that has taken place between the Council and "Southern Cross", and the future implications for staff and service users in Bolton within the organisation?

**A.**

The following response has been prepared by the Director of Adult and Community Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Adult Services :

There are 3 care homes in Bolton run by Southern Cross. These are Meadowbank, (47 beds) Four Seasons (121 beds) and Astley Grange (30 beds). All 3 are regulated, have good inspection reports and are viable, well run homes with good occupancy. Both the Council and NHS Bolton purchase placements within all 3 homes.

The Council have regular contact with the 3 local homes and with NHS Bolton are monitoring the local situation. We have good relationships with local management and fully understand the current situation.

The Director had a telephone conversation with the Southern Cross Northern Regional Director on Friday, where details were shared about national developments. Southern Cross confirmed that the Bolton homes are viable and well run and there are no concerns about their future.

The Director is involved in regular conference calls through ADAS, the Directors organisation, sharing feedback from national meetings between Southern Cross, Department of Health and ADAS.

Regionally, all North West Councils have collated information on Southern Cross homes and have shared intelligence etc. This will continue for the foreseeable future.

The latest statement from Southern Cross and confirmed from Fridays call is as follows:-

Southern Cross has reached agreement with their various landlords and there are standstill arrangements in place until October 2011. It is believed that some further information may be available by the end of July on the future plans of some landlords- i.e. they may decide to run homes themselves, if they are already a provider. By October, some homes may transfer ownership but care continuity is secure. Southern Cross are planning to arrange regional meetings with Councils, NHS, regulators etc during late July to provide updates on the above.

In summary- dialogue continues locally, regionally and nationally. There are no concerns for the 3 homes in Bolton and we will continue to monitor developments.