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## Peter Peacock Scottish Labour Regional MSP for the Highlands and Islands

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### MSP seeks clarity for disability centre users

Following Ministerial support Highlands and Islands MSP Peter Peacock is calling on Highland Council to be clear with and listen to the users and families who use learning disability centres across the Highlands.

Mr Peacock has been campaigning on the issue since budget cuts announced by Highland Council in February identified services were set for a revamp in centres in Brora, Invergordon, Inverness and Fort William.

In questions in the Scottish Parliament last week Mr Peacock asked Public Health Minister Shona Robison if she could provide guidance to local councils planning to make changes to services and if she could ensure the people using the services didn't suffer as a result of these changes.

"The Minister said that any authority undertaking such a change should be clear about their proposals and should include users in the decision making process. Given her comments, I hope Highland Council will provide clarity to those users and families of learning disability centres across the area," said Mr Peacock.

Following the Council announcement that there to be cuts to the service, including an undisclosed number of job losses, Mr Peacock has been putting pressure on Highland Council to fully consult those involved.

The Council has recently agreed to three consultation events to take place in Wick, Fort William and Inverness later this month where the Director of Social Work says they intend to offer a clearer more specific plan with timescales.

"I will welcome that transparency. I wish that Highland Council had offered these sessions much sooner and we could have avoided a number of months of anxiety for those vulnerable groups in our communities who rely on day and respite care across the area."

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**Website link**

**Peter Peacock's website** : [www.peterpeacock.org.uk](http://www.peterpeacock.org.uk)

**Moray Labour** : [www.moraylabour.org.uk](http://www.moraylabour.org.uk)