

## **Have your say on the savings proposals for Adult Social Care services**

The Council agreed its budget for 2018/19 at its meeting on 6 February. It will see the Council make savings of £17 million. This includes a budget reduction for Adult Social Care and Health of nearly £10 million.

We are asking for people's views on how we are proposing to make the nearly £10 million in savings. What people tell us will help us to understand the impact and risks associated with our proposals. There may also be other ideas that we haven't thought of.

If you use services that would be affected by the proposals you can speak to your provider or contact us. Frequently asked questions will be published on the website in March and before the consultation closes in April.

### **Why we are consulting**

The financial challenges we face as a local authority are long-standing and significant. The Council has recognised this and has urged the Government to give our county a fairer deal through the 'Stand up for East Sussex' petition.

You may be aware that the Government recently announced some extra funding for social care provision. For us, it will mean an additional £1.6 million. No decisions have been made yet on how that money will be spent.

Despite these ongoing challenges, the Council remains committed to supporting and protecting vulnerable people and delivering the best services possible. As a department, Adult Social Care and Health has to find a way to meet this commitment, while dealing with having nearly £10 million less to spend and rising demand for our services.

Local authorities have a legal duty to meet people's eligible social care needs, and this won't be affected by our savings proposals. It does mean though that we've had to prioritise spending money on the services that allow us to meet those duties.

We are looking at many of the services we provide to see if they can be improved and if they can be delivered for less money. We are also proposing to spend less money on preventative services which help to stop or delay the need for more expensive statutory services.

We know that people will have concerns about many of the proposals and it is likely that services that people value would either need to stop, change or be reduced. This will have a big impact on people who use services, their carers and families and the staff who provide them, which is why your feedback is so important.

### **What happens next?**

No decisions will be made about changes to services until after the consultation ends. What you tell us will be a key part of the decision making process. The results of the consultation will be considered by decision makers, alongside relevant evidence and the Equalities Impact Assessments.

## Our savings proposals for the Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme

Gross budget 2017/18 (including external funds)	Savings target 2018/19
£557,000	£390,000

We are proposing to reduce the amount of money we spend on our Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme (DESSS) by over two thirds.

The scheme provides emergency help in certain situations. While it does not offer cash or loans, it can provide food, utilities or household items. People who qualify are usually only able to receive support from the scheme once in 12 months.

More than 600 people made successful applications to the scheme between April and December 2017. The majority of people who use the scheme don't have an eligible social care need under the Care Act. Just over 80% of the awards were for household items, while the rest were for food and utilities. The average award for household items was over £400, while for food and utilities it was just over £70.

The relatively low usage of DESSS and the fact that most people don't have an eligible social care need are the main reasons we are proposing to reduce the scheme's budget.

We fund the scheme through a core annual budget that originated from a Local Welfare Provision grant that we received from the Government. Local authorities could choose how to spend the grant. While some offer a similar scheme to ours, there are others whose schemes are very different and some who don't have a scheme at all.

We no longer receive an annual grant, so we are proposing to spend much less of the remaining funds within DESSS. We think we could make the most of a reduced DESSS budget by:

- Focusing our provision on offering qualifying applicants support with the essentials like food and utilities.
- Stopping our provision of household items such as fridges and furniture.
- Reducing the amount we give to district and borough councils for a rent in advance scheme.

### How to take part

You can fill in the survey, but also send us a letter, record a video, have someone else put down your words – whatever works best for you. If you need the information in another format please contact us.

If you want to find out about all the savings or you have any questions you can visit the website or contact us.

Visit the website: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/ascsavings](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/ascsavings)  
Email us your feedback: [consultationasc@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:consultationasc@eastsussex.gov.uk)  
Post us your feedback: ASC Savings Consultation, North A Floor, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE  
You can also call us between 9am-12pm Mon-Thurs on: 01273 481 242

## Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme survey

### Q1) What type of organisation do you work for?

- ☐ Statutory
- ☐ Provider of services
- ☐ Voluntary or community sector
- ☐ Charity

### Q1a) If you are providing an official organisation or group response, please tell us your: (You don't need to fill in the 'about you section after the main survey.)

**Organisation or group name:**

**Who the response is from:**  
(For example, the CEO or the Board)

**Email or postal address:**

### Q2) Do you or your organisation signpost people to the scheme?

- ☐ Often
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely

### Q3) What do you think of our proposals to make changes to the scheme?

**Q4) Do you have any suggestions for other ways we could make the savings?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**Your comments:**

**Q5) Do you have any other comments about the proposals?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**Your comments:**

**Thank you for completing the questionnaire.**

## About you – for people completing the survey as an individual

We want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally and that no one gets left out. That's why we ask you these questions. We won't share the information you give us with anyone else. We will only use it to help us make decisions and make our services better. If you would rather not answer any of these questions, you don't have to.

**Q1) Are you.....?** ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to say

Please tick one box.

**Q2) Do you identify as a transgender or trans person?** Please tick one box.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Prefer not to say

**Q3) How old are you?**

**Q4) What is your postcode?**

**Q5) To which of these ethnic groups do you feel you belong?** (source: 2011 census)

Please tick one box.

☐ White British

☐ Mixed White and Black Caribbean

☐ Asian or Asian British Pakistani

☐ Black or Black British other\*

☐ White Irish

☐ Mixed White and Black African

☐ Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi

☐ Arab

☐ White Gypsy/Roma

☐ Mixed White and Asian

☐ Asian or Asian British other\*

☐ Chinese

☐ White Irish Traveller

☐ Mixed other\*

☐ Black or Black British Caribbean

☐ Prefer not to say

☐ White other\*

☐ Asian or Asian British Indian

☐ Black or Black British African

☐ Other ethnic group\*

**\* If your ethnic group was not specified, please describe your group here:**

The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a longstanding physical or mental condition that has lasted or is likely to last at least 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS, for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

**Q6) Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?** Please tick one box.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Prefer not to say

**Q6a) If you answered yes to Q6, please tell us the type of impairment that applies to you.** You may have more than one type of impairment, so please select all that apply. If none of these apply to you please select other and write in the type of impairment you have.

☐ Physical impairment

☐ Learning disability

☐ Sensory impairment (hearing and sight)

☐ Prefer not to say

☐ Long standing illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy

☐ Other (\* please specify)

☐ Mental health condition

**\* If other, please specify:**

**Q7) Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion or belief?**  
Please tick one box.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Prefer not to say

**Q7a) If you answered yes to Q7 which one?** Please tick one box.

☐ Christian

☐ Hindu

☐ Muslim

☐ Any other religion  
(\*please specify)

☐ Buddhist

☐ Jewish

☐ Sikh

**\* Please specify:**

**Q8) Are you...** Please tick one box.

☐ Bi/Bisexual

☐ Gay woman/Lesbian

☐ Other

☐ Heterosexual/Straight

☐ Gay Man

☐ Prefer not to say

**Q9) Are you married or in a civil partnership?** Please tick one box.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Prefer not to say