

Consultation results: Adult Social Care savings proposals consultation



Date: January 2016

Document summary

Results from the consultation on the Adult Social Care budget consultation setting out the savings proposals for the coming three years

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About this document:

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About the report

This report summarises the many survey responses and comments we received during the consultation. Its aim is to share with Members the key themes and concerns that were raised by people who use services, their family and carers, statutory organisations, providers, voluntary organisations, groups and residents.

For a review of the impact of the proposals, the risks and mitigations please refer to the Equality Impact Assessments (EIA). These provide detailed information about services and client groups. What people have told us in the consultation has contributed to the EIA analysis.

The number of responses to the survey, along with the many letters, emails and comments received, mean that it isn't possible to include them all in this report. We have included some comments as examples of what people have told us.

Please rest assured that all survey comments, letters, emails, comments and videos will be shared with decision makers through the Members Papers. Videos will be available to watch and a transcript will be included with the papers. All the papers are available to Members in the week prior to the meeting.

Any responses received after the consultation closed are not included in this report, but they will be available in Members Papers.

The results summarised in this report are organised into the following sections:

- Feedback on the overall proposals
- Feedback on the Supporting People proposals
- Feedback on the proposals for the voluntary sector services that ASC funds
- Feedback on the drug and alcohol prevention service proposals

Note: Not everyone has answered every question in the survey, so all the charts include the percentage who didn't answer that question.

Background

Please note: During the consultation period the Government announced that council's would have the option of adding a 2% social care precept to Council Tax.

Why we consulted

Over the next four years there will be less money for services in East Sussex, even though demand for them is rising. This is mainly because funding from central Government is shrinking.

We have to make savings of between £70 million and £90 million by March 2019. This is on top of £78 million we have already saved since 2010.

For Adult Social Care, we will have £40 million less to spend on services by March 2019. This is in addition to the £28 million that we have already saved from these services since 2013.

This means making difficult decisions about which adult social care services we continue to invest in. The consultation explained how we proposed to make the savings, providing detailed information on the three main areas of saving in the first year (2016/17) and a summary of savings over the following two years.

There are some services that we are required by law to provide. This limits our opportunities for making savings. The consultation proposed three main service areas where we think the majority of savings will have to be made. They are:

- The Supporting People programme, which funds a range of services related to housing support.
- Support services, such as educational, occupational, leisure and activity-based services, which we fund the voluntary sector to provide.
- Drug and alcohol prevention services for adults and children.

We asked for people's views on how we are proposing to make the savings. The consultation started on 23 October 2015 and closed on 18 December 2015.

Taking part in the consultation

How people could take part

We promoted the consultation widely to our stakeholders, including statutory partners, providers, voluntary organisations and clients and carers. Most of the services covered by the three main areas where we are proposing to make savings are ones that we fund other organisations to provide. We have worked with the providers of services to ensure that clients were informed about the consultation.

The consultation was also covered by the local press and television news. It was also discussed and shared on social media. (Information on this activity will be included in the Members Papers for Cabinet.)

People could take part in the consultation in a number of ways:

- By completing the online survey
- By printing and posting a survey back to us
- By coming to one of the consultation drop-in events and completing a survey or comment form
- By attending another event or group session where the consultation was discussed (these might have been arranged by the Council, a provider or a voluntary organisation)
- By emailing or writing us with their comments
- By speaking to us at the events or over the phone

We have also welcomed responses in any way people wished to provide them, such as videos and petitions.

Who took part in the consultation

Over 1800 people took part in the consultation, although some people submitted responses more than once. People took part in many different ways:

- 949 people and organisations completed an online or paper survey
- Over 400 people attended one of the drop-in events (see Appendix 3)
- 77 organisations commented (40 via letter/email and 37 via the survey)
- 35 groups or coordinated client responses were received (many of these included multiple responses)
- 365 individuals commented by letter (93), email (84), comment form (189), video (11) and phone calls (6).

Petitions

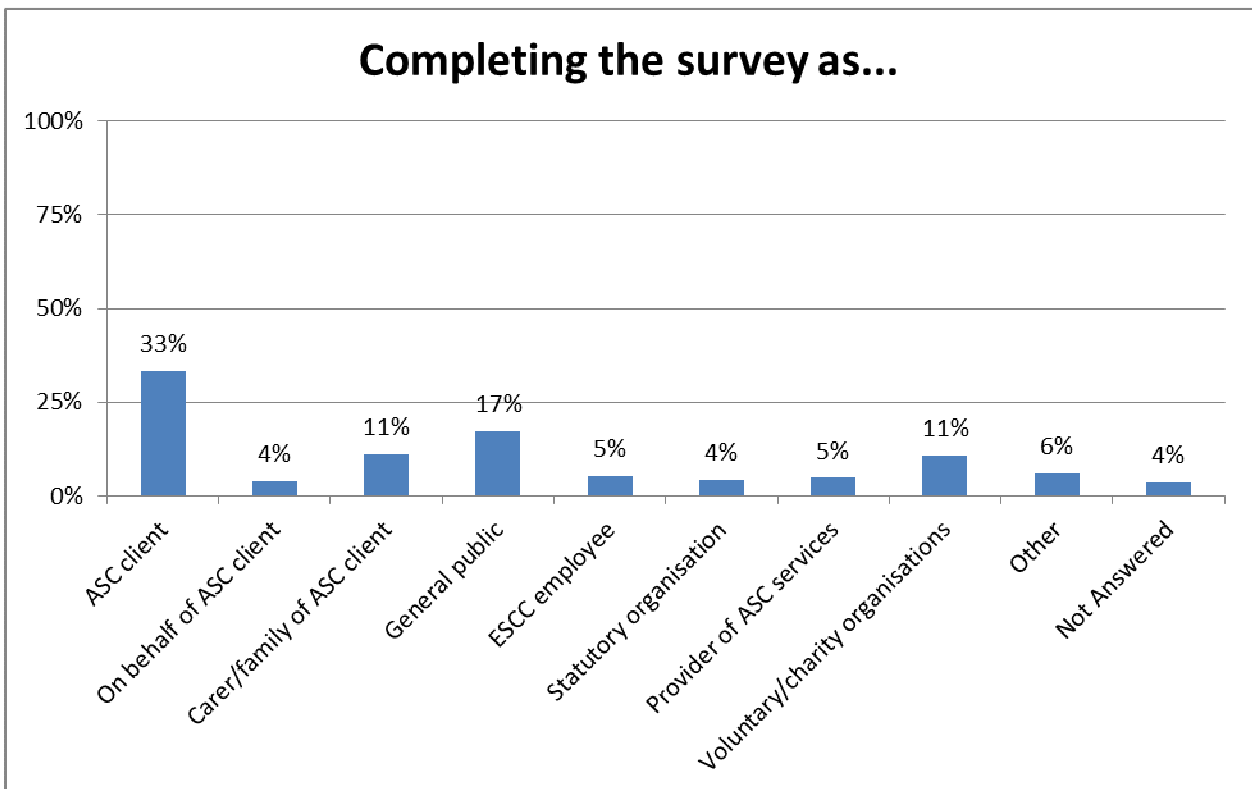
There are a number of petitions we are aware of and there may be others that people are planning to submit themselves. We received petitions from the following organisations, groups or individuals:

- Kerry Joyce and Martin Fisher: Don't let the funding cuts squeeze Zest Sussex dry

- Beth Granter: Stop Social Care cuts in East Sussex! Protect vulnerable people!
- Autism Sussex: East Sussex County Council cuts would affect valuable support and services
- Recovery Partners: Don't cut funding to Recovery Partners - East Sussex mental health services
- Jane Caygill: Rethink the proposed Adult Social Care Budget Cuts
- Stop cuts to Supporting People services – affecting the most vulnerable people in society

The survey

A wide variety of people had their say through the consultation as the survey chart below shows:



Other ways of taking part

Every group of respondents was widely represented in the other ways of taking part in the consultation. Many of the people who wrote to us or submitted comment forms to the consultation use the services covered by the proposals. There were also a lot of responses from the family and carers of people who would be affected.

Key consultation themes

The volume of responses received for the consultation shows the strength of feeling against the proposed savings. There are many responses from people and their families who use the Supporting People and the voluntary sector services that would be affected. Many respondents have talked of the stress and worry caused just by the proposals. For the drug and alcohol preventative service proposals the majority of the comments talked about their or other people's need for support and the impact on the community of reducing the services, rather than the specific services covered by the proposal.

There is recognition of the pressures on the Council's budget and the difficult decisions that the organisation has to make. Many respondents have commented on national policies and suggested savings relating to national policies or programmes. Even so, the vast majority of people who have responded to the consultation are concerned about the long-term harm that would be caused to people and the services that support them.

People have queried the proportion of savings that are coming from adult social care. Towards the end of the consultation period there are increasing references to the social care precept for Council Tax, with most people urging the Council to adopt it. Some respondents question whether the Council could retain its commitment to its stated priorities and whether adult social care would be able to meet its statutory duties if the savings went ahead as proposed. Of particular concern is the cumulative effect that people could experience if they lose support from multiple services at one time.

It is clear from the consultation that many respondents feel that if the adult social care savings went ahead as proposed it would cause serious and devastating harm to people who use the services, their carers and families. Linked to this, a significant number of comments say that lives would be at risk, either due to people not receiving the support they need or because of increased suicides.

Statutory and voluntary organisations would experience additional pressure on remaining services and the risk of closures to organisations, buildings and services would be very real. The cuts to the voluntary sector mean that it will be less able to step into any gaps in service provision that would be created.

There is also a lot of concern about the community impact through increases in rough sleeping, anti-social behaviour and crime. People also worried about the economic impact on the county in terms of jobs and tourism.

Some people have raised concerns about the consultation process, saying it is flawed for a number of reasons: lack of notice, length of the consultation, the complexity of the information, accessibility issues, and unsatisfactory drop-in events.

The services are preventative

Many of the comments say that it is short-sighted to remove support for preventative services such of the ones covered in the proposals, many of which have been shown to save money in terms of stopping or delaying people's use of more expensive services.

Linked to this, a lot of people raised the issue of the savings creating cost elsewhere in the social care and health system; for the Council but also for other statutory organisations, providers and voluntary organisations. For example, mental health savings proposals could lead to increased need for acute services and put more pressure on accident and emergency services. Removing funding for Supporting People services could lead people

to need more funding from the Adult Social Care community care budget. Reducing drug and alcohol services could put pressure on Police budgets.

Value of the services

Many people took the opportunity to tell us about the value of the services they or a family member receives. The positive impact typically went beyond the service itself, with people talking about how the service:

- promoted or improved their safety, health and wellbeing
- supported or improved their independence
- helped them to change or improve their lives
- stopped them from feeling socially isolated
- allowed them to feel part of the community
- allowed their family or carers to have a break or continue to work
- helped people to develop new skills and move into employment (relevant across many services, but particularly younger people, young mums, sensory impairment, learning disability and mental health)
- supported people to access mainstream services and manage everyday tasks

Impact on people of reducing or removing funding from services

Many people also told us what removing or reducing funding for services would mean for them or a family member. The negative impacts raised include:

- putting lives at risk, through increased suicides or increases in behaviour that put lives at risk
- pushing people into homelessness and rough sleeping
- pushing people into temporary accommodation and sofa surfing
- pushing people and their carers into crisis
- negatively affecting the life chances of children whose parents and carers would lose access to services
- stopping or delaying people's recovery
- putting ex-offenders at risk of reoffending or receiving longer sentences
- putting people at risk of exploitation
- increasing social isolation which will affect people's general health and wellbeing, both physical and mental
- increasing the need for mental health services as people are affected by services that support them losing their funding
- making people less safe and reducing their independence
- removing people's choice and control about the services they want to receive support from
- removing services that support distinct groups who face stigma or exclusion from mainstream services

- stopping people from getting involved in their community
- placing a bigger burden carers, which could push them into crisis and put their caring role or employment at risk

Equality issues and cumulative impact

Many of the responses raised issues relating to specific groups and the discrimination that they believe would lead from the proposals. For some groups, such as younger people and young mothers, people feel they will be disproportionately affected and won't have any alternative services to turn to. For other groups, the issue is with access to mainstream services and the stigma and exclusion people might experience. Removing or reducing funding could have a big impact on isolation for these client groups. This is raised for people with visual and hearing impairments (particularly relating to British Sign Language speakers), mental health needs, physical impairments and learning disabilities.

The negative impact on carers is raised across all service areas. It is notable that many of the responses come from carers who have seen the life-changing effect of services on the person they care for and the wider life of their family.

In addition, the wide range of services that would be affected mean that some people would have multiple services removed. This cumulative impact could be devastating to individuals and their families. For example, someone might be living in accommodation based services funded by Supporting People, attending mental health funded community hubs and be receiving support from drug and alcohol preventative services.

Risk of closure of buildings, services and organisations

Many comments said that the savings would put vital organisations, buildings and services at risk of closure. In some cases, the proposals would put the wider organisation or whole building set-up at risk. This would also affect many other services which aren't directly affected by the proposals.

People also believe it would affect the ability of voluntary sector organisations to raise money from other sources. In some cases it could also affect 'match funding' organisations have already been awarded in recognition of the funding they receive from adult social care.

Impact on the community of reducing or removing funding from services

A lot of respondents talked about the wider impact on the community of removing or reducing funding for services. The negative impacts raised include:

- increases in homelessness and rough sleeping
- increases in anti-social behaviour and hate crimes
- increases in street drug and alcohol use
- increases in crime

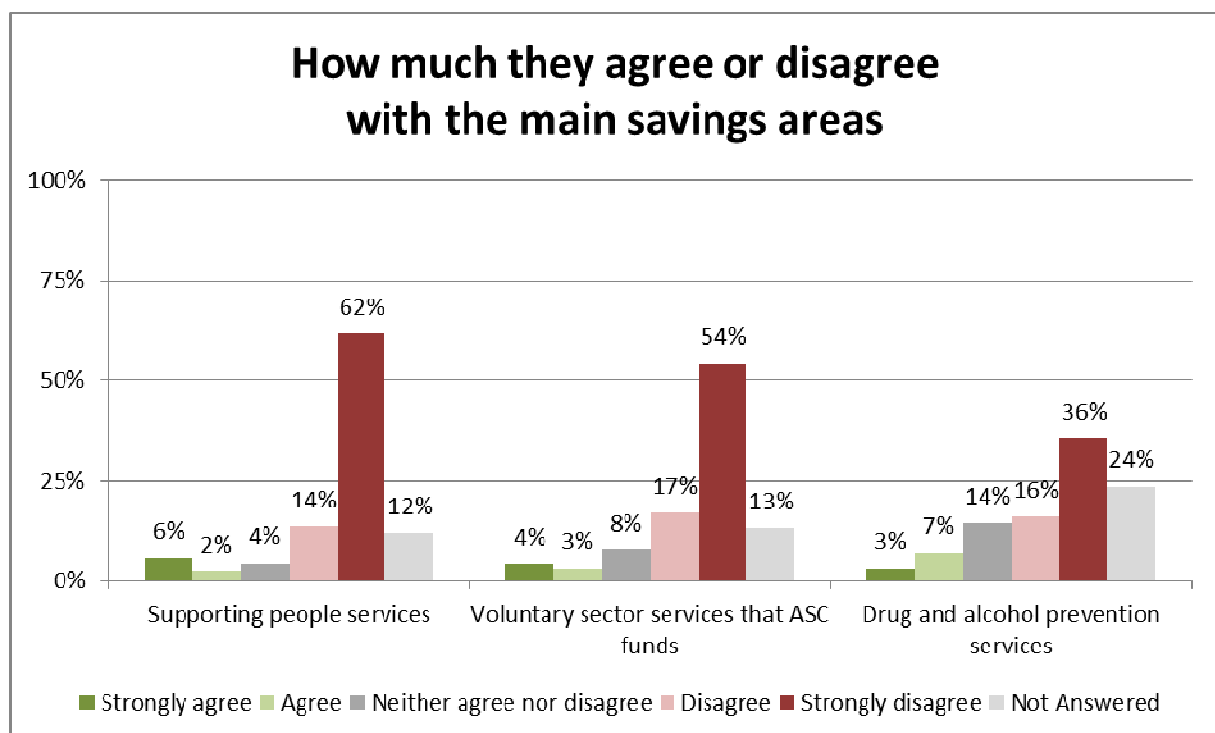
Feedback on the overall proposals

Survey feedback

Survey responses showed that people generally disagreed with the three main areas of savings:

- **Supporting People:** 75% disagreed or strongly disagreed
- **Voluntary sector services we fund:** 71% disagreed or strongly disagreed
- **Drug and alcohol prevention services:** 52% disagreed or strongly disagreed

A small percentage of survey respondents agreed with each of the proposed savings areas (see chart below), with the rest of the respondents either choosing 'neither agree nor disagree' or not answering the question.



We asked people why they agreed or disagreed with the main savings areas (489 people out of the 949 who took part in the survey answered this question). The themes that came up the most were because of the:

- Negative impact on people's lives and the community of removing the services (216 mentions).
- Knock-on effect, cost or longer-term impact of removing these preventative services (167).
- Value of services generally or how particular services had helped them (163).
- Pressure that would be placed on other services/budgets by removing these services, eg ASC, NHS, Police and so on (157).
- Savings areas affect or target the most vulnerable people (156).

(See the appendix for the full list of themes.)

Comments such as:

- “You are taking services away from the already extremely vulnerable. Without these services, it will severely impact on those individuals who use these services, and as a result will severely impact society as a whole.”
- “I believe this will be a false economy, creating a greater cost to society in other areas, particularly the NHS.”
- “We expect the savings to increase the intensity of caring roles, and to reduce carers' access to respite and practical support beyond that offered by dedicated carers' services. For carers, this is likely to translate into increased stress and physical health problems, greater difficulties in juggling caring and employment, and reduced finances.”
- “By removing the support from these groups they (the various groups) will require additional help & support from the community health teams & voluntary organisations - which currently is unable to cope with demands so to add extra work will result in more pressure being put on these already over stretched services organisations.”
- “Failure to support these services will lead to a rise in homelessness, mental health breakdown & NHS bed blocking the social cost of which will vastly exceed any short term savings to be made.”
- “This facility offers services invaluable to the maintenance of mental wellbeing. Without the services offered I can see an increase in the workload of the acute services.”
- “If the purpose of this exercise is to save money then cutting the budget for supporting people will simply move the cost elsewhere. SP have been instrumental in saving the county millions of pounds by ensuring that timely ,professional services are in place to support those who would be unable to cope on their own, without these services the justice system, the health service and adult social care will be swamped with calls for their services.”
- “These services prevent the need for acute intervention which is much more costly and many more people will present to services. There will be an increase in people in crisis which will put huge strain on statutory services.”
- “These services prevent the need for acute intervention which is much more costly and many more people will present to services. There will be an increase in people in crisis which will put huge strain on statutory services.”
- “Many [people] are vulnerable [and don't access services] because of the difficulty being LGBT can still mean... These cuts may deprive LGBT people of vital services.”
- “[We] fully recognise the really difficult position of East Sussex County Council. We believe decisions about savings and cuts to Supporting People services have been made in an objective and principled way. However, we regret the need to make the cuts. We believe the lost services could have contributed to the aims of Better Together - preventing a drain on primary health care services and the ever more-limited resources of adult social care.”

Survey questions on general topics

Other savings areas

We asked people if they had any comments on the additional areas of saving covered on pages 6-9 of the consultation summary document, such as management savings.

Many of the comments stated their disagreement with the savings proposals and raised issues of the impact on vulnerable people. There were comments on national decisions around funding and the fact the Council should be challenging the level of cuts. Some comments said the savings for adult social care were disproportionate compared to other departments. People commented on the three main areas of savings too and talked about the value of specific services or the fact they should be protected. Some people said they weren't clear on the other savings area or asked for more information.

The majority of the comments on other areas of saving related to management and staff savings. They all supported this area of saving, with many people saying more should be cut from management costs in order to protect frontline services.

Comments such as:

- “There doesn't seem to be a very large saving to Management, Commissioning and Support services. Given that the 2015/16 budget is £9 million, a saving of £3 million over two years doesn't seem a very large proportion. Also, with such a large amount of funding, bigger proportional savings could help fund other less administrative, more directly-delivered services.”
- “I think that the savings made to staffing costs needs to be increased.”
- “Heavy ended management teams centrally who do not provide any practical support or service to the public could be cut.”

Suggestions for alternatives

We asked people if they had any suggestions for other ways of making the savings.

Many people commented on national spending decisions and the money that is spent on other areas such as foreign aid, refugees and welfare. Many people registered their disagreement with the savings. They also raised their concerns about the impact of the proposals and the value they have received from certain services.

Suggestions included:

- Increasing council tax using the social care precept
- Pooling budgets/integrating with health
- Looking at merging/pooling budgets/sharing services with other councils (WSCC and Kent)
- Spreading the savings more evenly across departments
- Finding ways to raise money to pay for these services
- Making more savings from areas that don't directly support people
- Looking at reducing funding to services rather than completely removing it
- Considering merging services to get efficiencies
- Increasing contracting out to the private sector and voluntary services

- Looking at best practice elsewhere in terms of getting value for money and providing the most efficient services
- Being creative about how services are provided
- Listening to ideas from other people about ways of adapting services
- Removing management layers and bureaucracy
- Reducing the salaries/allowances of senior managers/councillors
- Increasing home and flexible working for staff to save on building costs
- Avoiding unnecessary costs like leaving computers running and replacing the windows at County Hall
- Reducing use of agency staff and improving staff retention
- Questioning the cost and value of the Hastings to Bexhill link road
- Reducing the funding for drug and alcohol services further
- Making invoicing more efficient and cost effective

Comments such as:

- “Yes, invest in promoting more innovative methods of service delivery. Work collaboratively with non-statutory organisation who have a strong record of innovation and efficiency. Employ fewer non-productive officers. Provide fewer direct services; utilise the skills and resources of non-statutory organisations. Stop protecting your own jobs. Less reliance on traditional institutional models eg residential care.”
- “Other areas such as consultancy costs, contract staff and ICT equipment must be reduced first. We'd prefer to see ESCC sell off property or even close a service that affects everyone than stop providing ASC services.”
- “I would like to propose that a collective approach is taken around integrating services for the same money in terms of working with Children's services, youth offending and health to formulate a complete care package around a young person - a "one stop shop".”
- “Personally I would look at funding on roads, street lighting before Social Care type services, but understand that this is a very minority view.”
- “By listening to any redesign ideas proposed for services that will provide a sustainable service to the local community of Hastings and Rother.”
- “Consolidating services, more signposting, better information sharing, investing in widespread peer mentoring to support reduced services.”
- “Increase Council tax across the county so that the 'savings' can be equally distributed across the population.”

Any other comments

The final question in the survey asked people if they had any other comments or suggestions to make.

Many of the comments disagreed with the proposals, questioning why the savings are focused on adult social care and the most vulnerable people. They felt that these vital

front-line services should be protected. Serious harm would be done to people and the community if the proposals went ahead. Many people said that the cuts won't save money in the long term and would put pressure on other budgets and services.

People raised concerns about the impact on people and associated risks: risk of suicide or death if people lose vital support; increased self-harm and substance misuse; increased homelessness; services and buildings closing; the wider impact on carers, families and children; increased isolation; and the negative impact on people's health and wellbeing.

They also raised concerns about the impact on the community through increased anti-social behaviour and crime. Some comments focused on the negative impact on specific client groups including people with mental health needs, people with a learning disability, young people and carers.

A number of people also raised concerns about the consultation process, specifically the complexity of the information and the survey, as well as the unsatisfactory nature of the drop-in events.

Comments such as:

- “I would urge the ESCC to think very carefully about the proposed cuts, as I am already worried about the levels of risk to vulnerable clients. I genuinely feel we will see an increase in suicide, need for intensive health support and homelessness if this is not managed effectively.”
- “I am very concerned that these cuts will mean that I will not only be homeless but I will lose the precious support I have here that has enabled me to make great steps forward in my life recently.”
- “I think that these cuts are disgusting and are abusive and discriminatory toward those who are vulnerable in society.”
- “I know these savings need to be made but I am seriously concerned by what is going to happen to all the people affected by the loss of service, especially in regards to Supporting People.”
- “My main concern is that early intervention will be affected and that people will not be able to get help at an early stage. As someone said at a meeting I attended people are going to be abandoned. I know that the situation is not of the councils making but I worry for the future and what it will be like in three years time.”
- “I would gladly pay more council tax to enable the cuts to be scrapped altogether.”
- “I have found this form far too complicated and this has made it even harder to answer these questions. I think the changes would be a huge set-back for me - other services haven't been as helpful as the ones I currently use.”

Organisation responses by other methods

Please note: Organisation responses made via the survey are included in those summaries. The original documents are available in Members Papers.

The table below provides a summary of comments received by letter and email from organisations about the overall adult social care budget proposals (see other sections for comments on the three main areas of savings). The original documents will be available in Members Papers.

Organisation	Summary: Overall proposals
3VA, Hastings Voluntary Action and Rother Voluntary Action	The letter recognises the need to make savings in line with government policy and the work that has been done to find more cost-effective ways of delivering services. However, it says that the proposals would leave many people without access to preventative services, meaning they would reach crisis point sooner and require acute services. The savings would have far reaching effects on the most vulnerable people in our communities. The letter also raises the three organisation's concerns about the consultation process and the impact on the health and wellbeing of people who use services and their families. The letter comments in detail about the consultation process and the lack of information about the impact of the proposals.
Age UK East Sussex	The letter recognises the financial challenge facing the Council and demographic challenges. Its response to the consultation relates to services it runs, but also the charity's role in representing older people. In this context, the organisation is already concerned about the £28 million the department has already saved and the cuts made to care packages. The proposals to save a further £40 million are described as 'extremely alarming' and the Council is urged to reconsider the scale and pace of the proposals, which are untenable in light of the rising level of needs. Reducing funding for non-statutory services would just increase demand on the community care budget.
Candlelight Homecare Services	The email concerns the general financial position of local government as a result of national spending plans, the increased need for services and the increased cost of providing home care services. There is a risk that less care would be provided and that social isolation would increase. Care providers are experiencing higher costs and the National Living Wage will make no difference to recruitment. The email suggests pushing for a better financial settlement from central government, making greater use of telecare, sharing more costs with health for medication related support, and abolishing 15 minute home care visits.
Cabinet Member for Community, Eastbourne Borough Council	The letter recognises the pressure on public funding, although raises concerns regarding the budget process and the impact of the proposed cuts on the most vulnerable in society. More information about the rationale for savings and impact assessments to understand the implications are needed. The consultation does not provide information on alternative options. Decisions risk being made without proper consideration of the impact, leading to a failure to meet statutory duties.
Clinical Commissioning	The letter recognises the very difficult financial position facing

<p>Groups: Hastings and Rother; and Eastbourne Hailsham and Seaford</p>	<p>the Council and the continued benefits of East Sussex Better Together. It welcomes the commitment to invest critical services that maintain people safely at home and in the community, recognising that this support means there is reduced scope when considering savings proposals. It asks that the before the final budget is agreed the impact on NHS partners is fully assessed. In the future an integrated planning process would need to be developed to improve the experience of people using health and care services.</p>
<p>Dementia Support East Sussex</p>	<p>The email provides information about Dementia Support East Sussex, a voluntary group supporting those with dementia and their carers, and suggests that with the inevitability of budget cuts there could be an opportunity for voluntary groups to fill some of the gaps for those most in need.</p>
<p>Eastbourne Homes</p>	<p>The letter suggests that consideration is given to using the social care precept to mitigate the impact. It also references the need to meet the Council's statutory duties.</p>
<p>East Sussex Disability Association</p>	<p>The email says that the Council should take up the option to add a social care precept to council tax.</p>
<p>Hastings & District Trades Union Council</p>	<p>The letter says the proposals would have devastating effects on the most vulnerable members of the community. It says the organisation does not accept the rationale for the cuts and urges the Council to challenge reductions in funding. The budget proposals would see adult social care and childrens services take the brunt of the cuts, affecting those who are least able to cope. The loss of key services would remove well established safety nets and lead to greater unemployment in the county. It questions the lack of Equality Impact Assessments. The cuts are a false economy as people would look for more support from statutory services. The Council would also be undermining its own priority commitments.</p>
<p>Hastings Borough Council</p>	<p>The letter explains that the proposals would have a significant impact on clients in Hastings. The concentration of vulnerable and economically deprived households would mean a heavier impact on the town. In addition, the level of need in the area means that many of the accommodation based services are located in Hastings. Some of the most vulnerable individuals and families would be affected. The letter references the effect of other central Government reductions in spending that affecting people, including welfare reform. It says that the most acute and obvious risk of the proposals is an increase in homelessness, which is already an issue. The possible withdrawal of services for those with significant support needs is likely to put pressure on other budgets and would also impact significantly on the wider community. The organisation is also concerned about the cumulative impact of the budget, particularly due to the pressure on the budgets of all statutory</p>

	<p>organisations including the borough council. The letter provides a detailed summary of what the proposed savings would mean to services in Hastings and the likely impact.</p>
<p>Homeless Link</p>	<p>The response recognises the difficult decisions local authorities have to make as a result of their funding reducing. It urges the Council to reconsider the proposed cuts to housing-related services because of the human and financial benefits of continued investment in them. The current proposals put a very heavy burden on Supporting People funding. The result would be that people's needs become more complex with associated higher costs for the authority and the health service. The responses set out the national and local context relating to homelessness and its significant increase in recent years. The services in East Sussex are already insufficient, while reducing floating support is likely to mean that more people end up on the street. Cuts to accommodation in Eastbourne and Hastings for single homeless people and people with mental health problems and young homeless is positively dangerous in this context. The response addresses the documented benefits of continued investment in services and the impact on people's health of being homeless. The cost to the health service of supporting homeless people is also significantly higher, which is important in the context of the work being done with the local health service through East Sussex Better Together. The proposed reduction in funding to young people's services would affect services that have a good reputation and achieve good outcomes. Savings made in adult social care would just shift to children's services or other statutory bodies. It is likely too that East Sussex would not be able to meet its statutory obligations if this saving went ahead. Proposed savings to accommodation are also likely to have an impact on the street community and criminal justice services, particularly where people have needs that cross offending, drug and alcohol misuse and mental health. The ability to incorporate housing-related support services into a more holistic model will be vital in accessing new funding streams and in the work locally towards moving towards a model of fully integrated health and social care.</p>
<p>Local Strategic Partnership (Hastings and St. Leonards)</p>	<p>The letter raises the organisation's strong concerns over the decision to reduce adult social care funding by £40 million and its deep concerns about the Supporting People and voluntary sector savings. It asks the Council to fully evaluate the impact of the proposal to reduce this funding. Supporting People allows some of the most vulnerable people to live independently, easing the pressures faced by people with mental health problems and providing care for people with learning disabilities, homeless people and older people facing social isolation. The proposals would have a deeper impact in</p>

	Hastings and St Leonards because of the deprivation in the area and the serious issues around child poverty, health inequalities and unemployment. Supporting People has been successful at providing early intervention which stops vulnerable adults falling further into poverty.
Marsham Older Peoples Project	The amount to be cut from adult social care should be reduced by savings elsewhere in the Council.
SHORE	The response recognises the need for the Council to make savings, but says this should be mitigated by introducing the social care precept for council tax. It urges the Council to improve work across the department and with partners to make the best use of public money. The large cuts proposed for adult social care services run a significant risk of increasing costs elsewhere for the Council and partners, particularly for acute services. The organisation suggests that better understanding of the impact of cuts is needed to inform decisions. It suggests looking at partnership working to save money and reviewing how savings could be achieved by making better use of the Council's assets. Evidence of the equality impact assessments should be shared that clearly shows the impact on service areas and residents.
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	The letter recognises the difficult financial situation and that finding the appropriate balance between priorities is complex. It asks that the impact on local NHS services to deliver safe and effective services is carefully considered before any decision to reduce services is taken. Clinicians and Governors of the organisation have expressed grave concerns about the impact on vulnerable people and their families. As an example, it is estimated that around 50 of 200 people currently supported by the Trust to live in the community could end up in hospital as a result of the cuts across service areas.
Wealden District Council	The letter recognises the difficult choices the Council has to make, although it raises concerns about the potential impact of cuts on its residents. It also notes that adult social care seems to be hardest hit and asks whether other areas of the Council could be required to take a larger cut in order to protect the most vulnerable.

Group or coordinated client responses by other methods

Group or client group	Summary
Friends of Africa and Caribbean in England and BME Health & Social Care Forum	The groups were unsure about whether they would be affected. They were concerned about the double effect of the cuts on the BME community: on people who use services and also for the many people working in the care and support sector. There were also wider concerns about the impact on the economy, society and the local community, with the possibility that homelessness

	becomes more visible and people with mental health needs not being supported.
HomeWorks client meeting	The meeting started with a summary of the background to the budget planning and the proposals. Attendees spoke of the value of the service in supporting them, developing their confidence and independence, and what it would mean if the service was reduced. They were concerned about will it mean for others if these life changing services aren't available in the same way. The impact of the proposals on services that HomeWorks refers to was also raised. Comments included: "What will the human cost be? Has this been calculated? People are suicidal, homelessness is getting worse. Austerity in this country is disgusting." "HomeWorks helped me and changed my life when I was homeless. They are very helpful and I don't know what I will do without them." "If you can't do early intervention then people will tip into crisis and then we won't be able to take on bigger caseloads."
Lewes and District Seniors' Forum	The email expresses serious concern at the prospect of reductions in the adult social care budget and the consequently effect on many residents. It recognises the difficulty the Council is facing in terms of reduced funding. The forum is concerned about the impact on people who receive care and support services and their ability to remain independent in their own homes. The email also notes the issues with bed-blocking and the reducing funding for adult social care services. It urges the Council to draw the government's attention to the consequences of reducing local government funding, raise council tax as permitted to spend on social care services, and adjust the Council's budget to increase the funding for services supporting health and wellbeing.
Inclusion Advisory Group	The meeting started with a discussion about the background to the consultation and the savings proposals it covers. The following risks and negative impacts were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pushing people into crisis and then needing to meet their needs, hard to recover from. • Higher residential, hospital and crisis intervention costs than support in the community. • Risk about carers – not being able to meet the requirements of the Care Act about health and wellbeing. • Compromises people's choice and control. • Increase in hardship and poverty in rural areas, loss of support, increased social isolation. Increasing cost of living in ES. • Multiple impact on people with mental health issues. • Potential increase in suicide and complex problems. • Risk about more people being on streets, risk around gender, mental health, mothers and children, rural areas, things that will

	<p>combine e.g. people on low incomes in rural areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of assumptions about families stepping in and the impact this might have, e.g. on LGBT people and older people. <p>The group recommended the following: Communicate the changes carefully, precisely and clearly to clients and carers. Inform and advise smaller organisations on how they can access alternative funding to maintain their service, even if not in the same way, to help them survive. Advise about becoming social enterprises. Support the capacity of small organisations to draw on funding by encouraging organisations to work together to apply for funding as a larger organisation. Monitor the delivery of the savings and the ESBT programme progress carefully. Monitor the impact of the changes on existing clients and people whose needs escalate.</p>
Involvement Matters Team for learning disabilities	<p>The group feels sad and worried about the cuts. It does not think the Council should make these cuts. People with disabilities have many challenges and face many things which are unfair. There are many difficulties in their everyday lives, such as transport, employment, being part of the community and their health. The letter says: “We feel the cuts are going to make the lives of people with learning disabilities even more difficult.”</p>
South-East Network of Disabled People’s Organisations	<p>The network notes that adult social care will receive disproportionately higher cuts than other departments at the Council. The response questions whether the Council can still meet its key priorities. Many of the people that would be most affected by the proposals are vulnerable and if the proposals went ahead they would have a significant impact. Many people use multiple services which are subject to this consultation, meaning that they are risk of losing a lot of support at the same time. Many of the services are preventative and the likelihood is that people will just become eligible for social care services. The network says that the consultation document is a very difficult document for members of the public to digest and respond to.</p>
Speak Up Forum	<p>The letter gives the views of the Speakup Forum and the deep concern members have about the impact on people and voluntary organisations. It says that it is not possible to comment without an impact assessment, while the process also pitches organisations into a popularity contest. The impact on community resilience is also raised, with organisations likely to have to cut other services too. Resources across the voluntary sector would be affected as people seek alternative support. It also raises concern that adult social care savings are not being discussed within the context of the work with health on East Sussex Better Together. The Forum also endorses the letter sent by RVA, HVA and 3VA.</p> <p>In a follow up to its earlier letter, Speak Up queried how the additional Better Care Fund money and the optional social care precept will affect the plans. The limited information on Childrens</p>

	Services plans also means it is difficult to understand the cumulative impact. There is concern too that many of the adult social care cuts will impact on parents and families. The organisation also asks about how it can be involved in discussions and the importance of planning taking place in the context of other areas of work.
Young People's Takeover Day	The group explained that some of them would be directly affected by the proposals. They said: "The cuts will mean our safety, our homes and our lives are at risk."

Individual responses by other methods

Individual responses: Overall proposals

There were many comments on the overall proposals across the letters, emails, comments, videos and phone calls. People expressed their disagreement with the proposals and questioned why adult social care was being asked to save so much. Many people also raised their concerns about the impact of the proposals on individuals and the community.

In general, people highlighted:

- the extra costs on other budgets and services if the savings went ahead,
- that making cuts to the voluntary sector would be a false economy because of the impact on other statutory services and the strain on the remaining voluntary resources,
- that the proposals would disproportionately affect vulnerable people, with lots of comments about the impact in terms of increased isolation leading to depression, anxiety and poor mental health, and
- the impact on carers of services for those they care for being reducing or being removed.

Some people were also unhappy with the consultation process and the way the drop-in sessions were run. Other issues raised included:

- concerns that the Council didn't understand the full impact of the proposals,
- issues with the format of the consultation, and
- suggestions of other areas the council should concentrate on for savings (other than ASC).

Reference was made to the fact that children would be adversely affected by the adult social cuts as disabled parents and carers would be affected. Another stated that those with sensory impairments would be disproportionately affected and would struggle to access services without help.

Comments such as:

- "These budgets affect people's lives and will put extra pressure on other services which are already stressed ...also charity money (for voluntary org support) is taken away".

- "If disabled people don't have access to the basic services funded by ASC they won't be able to use libraries and transport services – resulting in more isolation and marginalising people."
- "Vulnerable people with mental health needs can't be put on the streets"

Petition responses

The table below provides a brief summary of the petitions relating to voluntary sector services that adult social care funds. Please note that printed copies of petitions will be available in Members Papers.

Petition title	Signatures	Comments such as...
Stop Social Care cuts in East Sussex! Protect vulnerable people!	27,402 (Of which UK-based 10,605 and East Sussex based around 380)	<p>"...Hastings is the 20th most deprived area in the country and cannot cope with the proposed cuts, e.g. to services for homeless people (...) I know that this is about government cuts to LA funding, but they need to be fought; please resist the pressures and campaign for the government to restore the RSA to a level needed to keep vulnerable people safe and local communities thriving,..."</p> <p>"My mother currently receives support from ESCC without which she would not be able to continue living at home. If these cuts are withdrawn this would mean additional burden for ESCC if she was to go into a home"</p>
East Sussex County Council cuts will affect valuable support and services	506	N/A
Rethink the proposed Adult Social Care Budget Cuts	887	The people of East Sussex ask the Council to reconsider the very harsh proposed Adult Social Care budget cuts which are targeting the vulnerable and disabled in our community. Almost every area of social need will be affected should these proposals go ahead in their current form

Feedback on the Supporting People proposals

Survey feedback

There was a fairly even split on the Supporting People services that people commented about, ranging from 16% of comments relating to Mental Health to 6% for both Extra Care and Young Mothers services.

We asked for people's comments/suggestions on the proposals, the impact on them and how we could help them prepare if the proposals went ahead. The table below summarises the key points raised in the comments.

Summary of key points: Comments/suggestions on the proposals

Many comments raise their objections to the savings in this area and cite their concerns about the impact on individuals and the community of removing or reducing Supporting People. The speed and scale of the proposals is a big risk.

In particular, many people are concerned that the most vulnerable people in the county would be affected, with young people, young mothers, the homeless and those with mental health needs all being frequently mentioned as being at risk from the proposals. In the context of young people the impact on people's future and the serious negative knock-on effect is raised. For young mothers the negative impact on the whole family is raised. It is also recognised that the people who would be most affected often don't have family or support networks that could step into the breach.

A small number of respondents support the proposed savings. This tends to be due to a recognition of the cost pressures facing the Council.

Supporting People services are recognised as preventative support that reduces people's reliance on statutory services. A number of comments note that the value of these services comes in part from the fact that they often used at crisis point. As a result, any cuts to this area would have a short term effect in terms of making savings, as it would just lead to cost pressures elsewhere for the Council and for other statutory services. The impact on the community and pressure on NHS and police budgets is also recognised.

Services in this area have already been affected by previous budget reductions. In addition, many of the people who would be affected are experiencing pressures caused by other national and local cuts to statutory services. The lack of affordable housing in the county means that alternative accommodation isn't easily available.

Reducing or removing funding would:

- risk people's lives and lead to suicide attempts
- have a negative impact on people's safety, health and wellbeing
- lead to many people losing their homes (many of the survey respondents say they would be likely to lose their home or accommodation) which would significantly increase homeless and rough sleeping in the county
- make people more vulnerable, particularly young people and older people, leaving them more at risk of being exploited
- increase hospital admissions and make people more dependent on acute services
- increase the need for temporary accommodation and the use of Bed & Breakfast

placements

- push some client groups currently living independently with support into residential care, such as people with a learning disability living in supported living or older people living in sheltered housing
- put financial pressure on older people living in sheltered and extra care housing, possibly forcing them back into work
- leave older people living in sheltered and extra care housing isolated and without the safety net of regular support

There were some comments about the national context and related spending decisions. Suggestions locally include making savings from other areas of the Council's budget, such as the back office. People also suggest working with providers to find alternative services or to allow them to reconfigure their services to make them viable to continue. It would be important to understand the impact on client groups and individuals and the associated risks.

Comments such as:

- "These are essential services. Cuts to funding would result in further poverty, isolation and ultimately in death whether by suicide or through neglect."
- "Supporting people services are essential to many people who would otherwise find it very difficult to cope living independently. There are many people unable to access services without support, unable to engage within the community and who without housing support would be in a far worse position. I believe that this would trigger further decline in health and wellbeing that would mean that these people would then meet the 'essential' criteria. therefore it would be a more sound idea to have a preventative strategy."
- "Many could end up becoming homeless and the social cost associated with losing their supported placements is likely to far outweigh any short term savings achieved. There will be increased risk of suicide, mental health breakdown, NHS bed blocking, antisocial behaviour and crime."
- "Supporting People Services fund staffing at the necessary levels in accommodation based services. Cutting or reducing this is a recipe for disaster. Housing providers will not allow their properties to be left unsupervised with the various resident client groups and will close them as they will be unsafe."
- "Lacking the support provided by the Foyer, the young people would be likely to find themselves sleeping rough. There would probably be an increase in anti-social behaviour, shop lifting, car crime and drug related crime too. This would have devastating consequences for the young people involved - and would also impact on the wider community which would have to deal with the effects of more crime and anti-social behaviour."

Summary of key points: Impact if the proposals went ahead

Many comments focused on the benefit the affected service provided to them or a family member and how hard, if not impossible, they would find it to cope with that support. People also talked about the help they've had and how it should be available to others. Many professionals explained the value services provide and how they've seen them permanently improve vulnerable people's lives.

The role of housing-related support services was also recognised in terms of the wider impact it has on someone's life. It affects many other things, like the ability to work and being part of the community.

Removing or reducing Support People services would affect many preventative services, meaning people would need more support from higher cost services. There would be greater pressure on statutory service budgets in the long term.

Many comments referenced groups of people that would be particularly affected, including women experiencing domestic violence, younger people, young mothers, carers and those with mental health needs. For younger people there is a particular risk of becoming homeless as a result of the proposals. The negative impact would also be felt across families and particularly by the children of those at risk of losing services.

Some services and the building they are based in may close as a result. Once these services close it would be very hard to start them up again. Services that support recovery and give people the skills to manage for themselves won't be available. People would look more to acute services and become more dependent on them. There would also be more pressure on remaining services and longer waiting times than ever.

The result is there would be less and less care available for people. In some cases people would be left with no community based support. This would push people into crisis.

Other statutory services would all be affected, including health, the police and fire services. There would be cost pressures and more need for support from these services.

There would also be an economic impact on the county, with jobs being lost at many providers, tourism being affected by the community impact of the proposals and an increase in deprivation.

Reducing or removing funding would:

- risk people's lives and increase suicide attempts
- shorten the life expectancy of many vulnerable people
- have a negative impact on people's safety, health and wellbeing
- lead to many people losing their homes (many of the survey respondents say they would be likely to lose their home or accommodation) which would significantly increase homelessness and rough sleeping in the county
- increase poverty and financial hardship in the county
- make people more isolated and less independent
- have an impact on the community through increased anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and crime
- increase hospital admissions and result in people staying in hospital for longer
- make people more dependent on acute services
- increase the risk of people being exploited and abused, raised as a particular issue for younger people
- increase the risk of people experiencing mental health problems
- affect employment and training opportunities for people being supported, making them more likely to need longer-term care and support

- force young people to move out of the area and away from their support networks

Comments such as:

- “These people will end up in hospitals, there will be more suicides if they don't know where to turn, people might be exploited into prostitution or become addicted to drugs.”
- “My clients will become more chaotic, requiring further support from already stretched services, the long term impact is that individuals will not receive the care they require and I am concerned that this will have fatal consequences.”
- “This will lead to even more vulnerable people sleeping rough or sofa surfing and will lead to increased mental health problems, substance and alcohol misuse, survival crime and deaths.”
- “We would be made vulnerable here alone without the support of our warden.”
- “The work that ESYMS does is important in supporting not only young homeless women but also their babies the vulnerable of all. Funding cuts to this service could put more young people and babies risk and there are not other services the Newhaven and Eastbourne areas who can properly support this unique client group.”

Summary of key points: Preparing people if the proposals went ahead

Many people said it was impossible to prepare for the proposals which would be devastating to them or people they care for. There were lots of comments urging the Council not to make savings in this area (Supporting People).

Partnership working and clear strategic planning would be needed, with identified targets.

In terms of suggestions for helping individuals to prepare people suggested:

- the Council telling people directly how they would be affected
- keeping people informed about what is happening
- providing clear timescales
- giving people time to prepare
- being clear about the alternative services, if any, that are available
- provide referrals to other agencies
- being open and transparent about what it means for the service(s) they use
- providing signposting and considering how technology can support people who no longer have access to the same level of service

In terms of suggestions for helping organisations to prepare people suggested:

- giving them time to prepare
- support organisations to bid for funding from other sources
- provide clear service pathways showing what is still available

Comments such as:

- “Perhaps do it gradually with plenty of notice and advice of alternative places to go

who offer the same services.”

- “Provide clear guidance as to how to manage transitions for people, what services are still available and clear eligibility criteria.”
- “The only way you will engage is to work with partners and speak to people face to face. People will not know how it will impact them until it is too late.”
- “Where services within Supporting People are removed or reduced, it’s important that alternatives including information, advice and guidance are publicised widely and are easily accessible – use of CAB / social media for example.”

Organisation responses by other methods

The table below provides a summary of comments received by letter and email from organisations about the proposed Support People savings. The original documents will be available in Members Papers.

Organisation	Summary: Supporting People proposals
Anchor	The letter recognises the financial pressure but raises concerns about the impact of the proposals on the scheme manager service the organisation provides to its sheltered housing schemes. A review of the scheme manager service confirmed the role is essential to providing a safe and secure environment. The scheme managers provide a proactive service to vulnerable people and can make early interventions as they know the residents well. Their presence prevents residents needing higher levels of social care support and enables earlier discharge from hospitals. They also have a role in helping people to maintain their independence and stopping them becoming isolated. The organisation feels that the proposals would affect the quality of service it offers and could have financial consequences for residents. The consultation has created a mix of fear, anxiety and anger among residents.
Cabinet Member for Community, Eastbourne Borough Council	The letter talks in detail about the impact of removing or reducing Supporting People funding, both in terms of the negative impact on people and the long term cost implications for the Council and health service. For some services, such as mental health and younger people services, the letter notes that removing Supporting People funding may also put the buildings the services run from at risk.
Community Rehabilitation Company	The email notes that reductions in supported accommodation for young people with mental health needs and care leavers is likely to have the greatest impact on reoffending rates, although a reduction in accommodation for single homeless people would also have an impact on reoffending rates. Any cuts to refuges would be a concern as it increases the likelihood of repeated victimisation. The reduction in the Homeworks service is concerning, but may be offset by the housing brokerage service that the organisation is planning to

	<p>commission across Sussex. The drug and alcohol service proposals are likely to impact on reoffending rates too. There is also an issue of clients not being able to complete sentence requirements due to resourcing issues. Other savings to youth services and public health are also likely to impact on the public purse and offenders.</p>
<p>Eastbourne Homes</p>	<p>The letter says the proposed loss of Supporting People funding for sheltered housing mean the organisation would have to review how services are provided to residents and how they are paid for. The organisation is committed to retaining in an onsite service as removing it would impact negatively on residents (increasing their isolation and vulnerably) and would increase hospital admissions and the length of stays. The letter addresses the value of the Home Works service in providing effective services to the vulnerable and in providing early intervention to prevent homelessness. Reducing this service would put more pressure on statutory services in the longer term. The proposals relating to supported accommodation for those with complex needs run the risk of removing specialist preventative services and putting the buildings they are run from at risk. This would put more pressure on social care and NHS budgets. The result would be a significant impact on individuals, increases in rough sleepers, anti-social behaviour and bed blocking. Young homeless people and care leavers are one of the highest risk groups. The letter says there is currently an effective pathway and good provision. The savings proposals could mean that this high risk group disengage and become 'revolving door' clients. There would also be an impact on other budgets, increases in homelessness and loss of specialised buildings.</p>
<p>Hastings & Rother Mind</p>	<p>The response states the organisation's deep concern over the proposed cuts to mental health community services. It argues that the consultation process is flawed as people are not able to provide their views easily. It also pits organisations against each other. There has been risk assessment on the impact of the proposals on clients and their families. Organisations that provide services would also see a knock-on effect as other projects would suffer too. Removing adult social care funding could undermine the continued receipt of funding from other sources. When acute mental health beds were reduced it was on the basis that community support would provide appropriate, timely and preventative provision. Reducing funding would go back on this agreement and put financial pressure on NHS services. People on Section 117 are entitled to appropriate support in the community and this would be at risk under the proposals. The cut to mental health community services is disproportionate and shows the lack of parity in the way the Council is treating services. The ability of individuals to recover would be hindered and safeguarding would be</p>

	<p>impeded, probably leading to an increase in negative incidents. Reducing Supporting People funding would have a devastating impact on vulnerable people and their families and carers. It would also push them into more expensive care. Difficult decisions need to be made, but the consultation is not adequate engagement and decisions should be made following appropriate consultation with people who understand the sector.</p>
The Foyer Federation	<p>The letter says that Newhaven Foyer is a member of the Foyer Federation. It is potentially facing 50% cuts or the entire service being decommissioned. It provides examples of the high standards set by Newhaven Foyer and the added value it provides as a preventative service. The letter notes that it is managing to sustain an excellent service in a challenging environment for young people and publicly funded services and is the only service for young people in the Lewes district. It also addresses the national context and the need for services that have a maximum long term impact for young people. To reflect this, the Foyer Federation has challenged its members to remodel their offer and the vision for Foyers is to eventually become financially independent. Short-term investment from the Council now would ensure a thriving service is supported and has the opportunity to remodel its offer. If the service closes then young people who have already experienced significant disadvantage would become street homeless.</p>
Lewes District Churches Homelink	<p>The letter says that Home Works is often a key support to its clients and praises the expertise, conscientiousness and dedication of the staff. It explains the role of the charity in helping homeless people into accommodation and the role Home Works plays in helping them develop life skills. Removing or reducing the support the service offers could lead to people becoming homeless.</p>
Sanctuary Supported Living	<p>The email explains the services provided by the organisation and the impact of removing Supporting People funding. Services would close, with the loss of 55 jobs and the loss of 84 units of accommodation across mental health, homelessness and vulnerable young people. All the services help keep people out of higher cost services such as hospital, prison and registered care. The majority of the clients would be eligible for social care services, so without the Supporting People services there would still be a statutory responsibility to fund their care and support.</p>
Saxon Weald	<p>The letter says the organisation is disappointed by the proposal to remove Supporting People funding from extra care schemes. The success of the model is largely defined by the on-site presence of care and support, which supports independent living and decreases the need for statutory services. It provides information on the value of the scheme it</p>

	<p>provides in East Sussex. If the proposals went ahead the organisation would be forced to remove these valuable support services and reduce the amount of time scheme managers are employed on site. The STEPS service would not be able to replace this. This would affect residents' wellbeing and risks reducing independence and creating a residential environment. The Council and the organisation have invested significantly in the extra care schemes in East Sussex and the low cost is great value for money compared to care home alternatives.</p>
SHORE	<p>The partnership explains its background and provides details on accommodation services it provides for rough sleepers and the homeless. It says that increases in rough sleeping are already worrying and the issue is predicted to get much worse. The complexity is also increasing, with significant increases in vulnerable women and young people on the streets. Provision in the county is already inadequate and there are existing capacity issues. Members have grave concerns about the proposed cuts to Supporting People. It says the proposals run the risk of increasing rough sleeping and homelessness. The impact of this would be increased cost, vulnerability, crime, poor health, and unattractive shopping areas. There would also be a risk that the number of looked after children would increase. They would lead to an increase in complex needs developing. This would put more pressure on acute services, particularly mental health services.</p>
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	<p>The letter raises the issue of delays in transferring people to community care. This is not currently an issue in East Sussex because of access to supported accommodation, but the savings proposals could change that. Those with mental health conditions are one and half times more likely to live in rented housing and mental ill health is frequently a reason cited for tenancy breakdown and housing problems. Availability of local supported housing is therefore crucial for recovery for people with the mental health conditions.</p>
Wealden District Council	<p>It welcomes the way the Supporting People team is working with partners to mitigate savings where they can and says this ongoing dialogue needs to continue. In terms of the proposed areas of savings, it says that Supporting People provides support to the most vulnerable. Wealden has access to county-wide services and there two services in the area that would be affected. For one service there are major concerns about whether it would be able to continue. In terms of sheltered housing and extra care, the letter welcomes the continued funding of floating support but says this cannot replace on-site support. Savings in this area would have a direct impact on homelessness in the area and also create additional costs to the organisation. It also registers concern for mental health and learning disability clients becoming</p>

homeless as a result of the proposals.

Group or coordinated client responses by other methods

Group or client group	Summary
East Sussex Young Mothers Service coordinated responses	The organisation has submitted comments from people who use the service. The respondents were asked what the service means to them; how their life was before they came to the service; and what it would mean if the service had to close. They said the service provides a safe and stable place, encourages their independence, gives them a chance to prove they can look after themselves and their children, and provides support whenever they need it. Before using the service, they were alone, living in inappropriate accommodation and some were at risk of becoming homeless. If the services closed then vulnerable mothers and babies would end up in unsafe B&B accommodation, sofa surfing or homeless, putting them both at risk. It also means people won't get the support they need to look after their children. Comments include: "It is mine and my daughter's stable and safe home." "I would be homeless, probably be put in some B&B where I would not feel safe." "I can prove to people I can live independently and it gives me a safe home for my son."
Housing and Support Services group	The response notes the group's strenuous objections to the proposed budget cuts. It says the consultation process has failed to provide a published assessment of the impact on the community and hasn't considered the reductions across the Council and other tiers of local government. There has also been no attempt to mitigate the impact on the most deprived areas of the county. The proposals would have a multitude of detrimental impacts on individuals, services and communities. Members have no doubt there would be an increase in homelessness and rough sleeping. The proposals that most concern the group are the impact on Hastings, the reduction in floating support and the reduction in funding for Seaview homeless day centre. The proposals are short term savings that will have significant knock-on effects on social care, mental health, health and housing services. The group also says there is no evidence of a plan to ensure suitable and effective transitional arrangements and requires that it be involved in the process if the proposals go ahead.
Lewes and District Seniors' Forum	Removing the Supporting People funding would take away valuable assistance and is likely to lead to an increasing demand on the voluntary sector even as it also faces cuts to Council funding.
Inclusion Advisory Group	Risk about social isolation in sheltered housing and escalating need. Increased homelessness and mental health issues - particular concerns about young people in need and risk of

	homelessness from SP reductions.
Newhaven Foyer coordinated client responses	The organisation submitted letters and comments from its residents. All the responses talked about their personal experiences of using the service and the positive impact it's had on their life. Removing or reducing the service would mean people end up on the streets or in prison. Comments include: "The Foyer has got me to open up more regarding my mental health. Got me referred to the right people so I can get my children home... The staff make this place feel like home so many residents." "You should keep the Foyer open. It helps lots of young people improve their lives and gives them a good future to look forward to." "If it weren't for the Foyer accepting my placement I would be homeless and on the streets."
Priory Avenue Homelessness Services and Sanctuary Supported Housing event	<p>The meeting started with a summary and a detailed Q&A session covering people's concerns about the proposals and what options people would be left with if they went ahead. The group were clear that the alternative support that would be available is not adequate to meet people's needs. People were concerned about not being able to find private accommodation, being forced to move into temporary accommodation or even being forced to move out of the area. One of the volunteers has carried out a landlord survey which showed that if the hostels are taken away the Council cannot rely on the private sector to meet demand. Estate Agents confirmed the demand is much greater than supply, for example, only one flat was available in Hastings and they would require a guarantor. Most homeless people are unable to get a guarantor. (Report included in Members Papers).</p> <p>Impacts raised by the group were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the high risk of deaths and suicides; more people becoming or being made homeless; • increased self-harming; removing safe spaces that have saved lives; pressure on other budgets and health services; • stopping people seeing their children; loss of an asset base if buildings close, and • an economic impact on tourism. <p>For ex-offenders in particular, the service is critical in keeping them from living on the streets and providing a safe place. It was also raised that the length of prison sentence is often influenced by whether you have stable accommodation to come back to.</p>
South-East Network of Disabled People's Organisations	On Supporting People funding it says that the withdrawal of funding would have a negative impact on the ability of residents of those services to live independently and access the community. It may also force people to move into residential care. Schemes entirely funded by adult social care would obviously close if the proposals went ahead. It is not clear from

	<p>the proposal which ones this applies to. The removal of Supporting People funding for sheltered housing and extra care will mean that many services lose their on-site support, particularly because many schemes are operated by social landlords. For people with learning disabilities or mental health needs the removal of Supporting People funding could force them out of supported living and into residential care. This would be a backward step given the long battle for independent living. The proposal to remove 100% of funding from Supporting People schemes for young people would mean they would become more vulnerable and likely to end up in crisis. They would eventually need more costly support in the long run. Removing or reducing funding for mental health services would remove a preventative service and lead to more going into crisis and into hospital. It is also likely to mean they need more support from social care services.</p>
<p>Supporting People coordinated client responses</p>	<p>Feedback was from clients across three schemes (different providers): The relationship with the scheme manager is vital and should not be withdrawn. One service would prefer reduced hours with a full service, and the others were concerned about any reduction in service. Without a scheme manager, illness and deterioration may go undetected. It also provides support for people to access benefits and other services. Clients felt angry and upset. There was also some concern about responding to the consultation - both in time and information needed.</p>
<p>Supporting People provider meeting</p>	<p>These services are part of the prevention agenda and the changes will ultimately mean a higher cost to the authority. Clients have to be given notice that meets the requirements of the legal occupancy agreement and Assured short hold tenancies require 6 months' notice. It is regretful that the timing of these savings cannot be better aligned to funding opportunities via Better Together. It would be good to be able to keep services until Better Together are able to consider funding. This is difficult and once buildings go probably impossible to get them back. This is due to planning arrangements as well as capital funding. Easier to change direction than start again. Need to keep buildings to implement future preventative services. Floating support services support people/ households with complex needs and prevent statutory interventions, this includes safeguarding issues.</p>
<p>Supporting People coordinated provider/ staff responses</p>	<p>Housing providers/staff</p> <p>All expressed concern about the level of impact for single homeless people. They raised concerns about some ongoing Public Health investment whilst front line services are being cut. Cuts to Mental Health/Single homeless/Young People were identified as really risky, and a huge concern, and staff discussed any possible way to protect accommodation based services. Accommodation based services for people with multiple and complex needs should be a priority – used to be</p>

more rooms available but resources for this group are extremely short now.

Mental health providers/staff

Sheltered Housing: For some clients (mainly those under 65) the on-site manager is integral to the care and support plan/package. Mental health services: These services are used all the time as both prevention and as a step down from hospital. Services are integral for accommodation officers to move people from wards. They take people direct from hospital and are a resource for the Trust. Hyde gardens is extremely valuable. If people with mental health issues become homeless they are likely to become a cost to NHS. Additionally, it's likely to lead to an increase in suicides for people with mental health issues who have no support; health needs are being met by these services; many service users have personality disorders and drug and alcohol issues with little other support available. Loss of these services might also increase issues for our Care Act duties - for example, an impact on wellbeing and increase in Safeguarding – Self Neglect. Home Works: Saves additional money being spent on Personal Assistants, and also on unnecessary referrals from Wards and speeds up discharge from hospital. Without the service there would be more referrals to health, more pressure on ASC. It flies in the face of supporting independence. Home Works does a lot of work to support safeguarding issues – this will be lost leaving people more vulnerable. We desperately need the mental health short term accommodation provision and it will be catastrophic if this is cut.

SAILS and Mencap providers/staff

Re SAILS cuts: if SP funding is removed it's possible that Adult Social Care would need to pay for other service instead. Cuts to Learning Disability services: Costs are so low in SAILS and Mencap... clients in these services have Learning Disabilities and will continue to need services.

SP funding is treated as part of the core service (background hours) so may impact on level of service provided. Some services have higher levels of SP funding only because of the historic split between housing management and support so this could be seen as an equalities issue if funding is reduced on this basis. Concern expressed about our ability to reduce funding and keep services safe.

Sheltered housing providers/staff

A scheme manager wrote to say how the proposals would affect the residents in a sheltered housing scheme and that few people at his scheme were likely to respond to the consultation. He also wanted to include a quote from a client. "This morning (24/11/2015) one of my residents joked "Beachy Head here we come". Although this is a rather sad joke the client genuinely feels very depressed and worried he won't be able to afford to

	<p>live in his home." Other providers advised that some are seeking to mitigate cuts through increased service charges – some are passing costs onto the clients. Some residents are expressing concern about the potential loss of onsite support which they say would leave them vulnerable. Concerns were expressed by providers about the capacity of STEPS to respond to demand from sheltered tenants. There was also concern about schemes' ability to cope with more complex referrals if there was limited onsite support. Providers were worried about timescales for the decision making/notice periods being very tight for providers to manage. Some providers have raised the point that their budget decisions to mitigate potential cuts have to be made now, and not in February.</p> <p>Young mums service providers/staff</p> <p>The ripple effect is immense for young people and young mums – there will be nowhere for them to go. There is a wealth of experience and expertise in services that will be lost. How can we influence Better Together –Addressing Health inequalities are part of the service for young people and this is not being recognised. There a tension between the stated aims of cabinet report to protect the most vulnerable and the proposal to remove funding from all these services for the vulnerable. This can all fall apart before implementation: Key staff will leave and it will be impossible to support the most damaged of young people’.</p> <p>Young people's service providers/staff</p> <p>Providers raised concerns about cumulative cuts to services for young people e.g. cuts to under 19 services within the Drug and Alcohol service. One manager explained loss of funding for YP services has meant they now offer support as ‘Appropriate Adults’ when a young person is arrested – this can’t be maintained if there are more cuts. Most damaged young peoples are also seen by the Youth Offending team, Children’s services referrals. Chaotic high need young people live within the accommodation based projects - many have mental health issues. Demand is high. All services running waiting lists. Providers are extremely concerned as to how referrals will be managed with a reduced level of service provision. Providers stated that in the young mum’s accommodation based services many of the babies are on Child Protection orders and asked how will they cope without these services?</p>
<p>Young People's Takeover Day</p>	<p>The Council has a statutory duty to support people, meaning the costs would just fall to another department. There would be a negative impact on people using services, on the organisations and on the community. It could lead to increased suicides. More people would be sleeping rough and crime rates would go up. There would be increased use of drugs and alcohol and people would be at risk of sexual exploitation.</p>

Individual responses by other methods

Individual responses: Supporting People proposals

There were many comments on the Supporting People proposals, particularly via letters and emails. In general, people spoke up for their individual services and said how much they benefited in all areas of their life.

Lots of people were concerned about their housing situation and worried that the cuts would mean they would be more likely to be homeless or sleeping rough in future. Concerns about homelessness were particularly raised in relation to young peoples and homelessness accommodation services. Some people also said without the support from their service they would not feel safe and that most residents getting support from Supporting People are vulnerable. For young people removing or reducing services also limits their future lives, stopping them from progressing to education and employment.

There were also some comments highlighting that without the Supporting People services, the costs to the NHS and other statutory organisations would be significantly higher. People also said there would be an impact on the economy in relation to threats to the tourism industry locally.

For people in sheltered housing there was a view that on-site support is a key element of the service. Removing funding for this would negatively affect older people, bringing additional service costs and removing early intervention support. Some people also raised the issue that they chose sheltered housing because of the support it offered and, having already been reduced in recent years, this would now be taken away from them.

They asked what would happen to people if services were cut. Some people said they would prefer to have a reduced service than a complete cut, and a few people were worried about increasing costs in sheltered housing.

Comments such as:

- “I wouldn’t be alive without it.”
- “I receive excellent support, they understand and I get professional help and guidance... I’m proud to be here today”.
- “We are going to be put out on the streets – it’s not safe.”
- “If you take away my home I will be put back in a vulnerable situation, self-harming.”
- “Where would people go instead – would they end up in hospital?”
- “We’re young vulnerable people with mental health issues, and homelessness makes illnesses worse...we’ll end up committing crime for somewhere to sleep”
- “I’m concerned about the already high cost of services - will reductions increase this?”

- “When I came to live here... I chose this accommodation for the high level of support it offered to assist me in the changes that ageing brings.”
- “The cuts are disproportionately affecting young people who have mental health issues and housing issues”

Petition responses

Petition title	Signatures	Comments such as...
<p>Stop cuts to Supporting People services - affecting the most vulnerable people in society</p>	<p>138</p>	<p>“I currently work in supported accommodation for 41 homeless adults aged 16-25. These cuts would be devastating emotionally, with physical devastating effects – children as young as 16 who have been anything from neglected to abused with nowhere to go. This is just the sector I work with, this does not reflect the reality including the elderly, young mothers, mental health etc...!”</p> <p>“I believe that funding for young people’s services should not be cut. They are essential to every area and in do so, suicide and crime will increase, putting extra pressure on other cash strapped services.”</p>

Feedback on the proposals for the voluntary sector services that ASC funds

Survey feedback: comments

General comments from the survey

There were a lot of general comments about funding for voluntary sector services. The table below summarises the key points raised in these comments.

Summary of key points: Comments/suggestions on the proposals

There were many comments from people disagreeing with the savings proposals and urging the Council not to go ahead with them. People feel the voluntary sector, which supports vulnerable and disabled people, is being targeted. Some comments raised the issue of a lack of equality impact assessment, organisations closing as a result and the need to honour contracts.

There were many reasons people gave for being against the savings, including:

- the value services provide, from value for money to the role they play in increasing independence, wellbeing and recovery
- the impact on clients and their families of removing funding from these preventative services, particularly in terms of people's mental health and deaths resulting from neglect or suicide
- the knock-on effect of increased use of statutory services and putting greater pressure on other services, such as the NHS
- the gaps that would be left by services stopping and whether any alternatives were available
- the impact on voluntary sector funding more generally and in discouraging people from volunteering
- the impact on the wider community of removing funding from these services
- that it discourage people from volunteering
- impact on the wider East Sussex Better Together project

Alternatives were suggested, including raising Council Tax, making staffing and organisational savings. Some people agreed with this savings area some respects, saying individuals not organisations need to be protected. The focus should be on retaining essential services

Comments such as:

- "Many people in the voluntary services are already doing things for nothing, saving the government and councils a lot of money. If the support goes, so does the service. As we all know many disabled have already suffered in this respect and now spend more time on their own."
- "Again money being removed from the most vulnerable. The most at risk. The people who often do not get a voice and have to have whatever support they are told to have. All the service listed have a huge impact on the lives of local people all

dealing with different disabilities, illness, and situations that some of us cannot even imagine. ASC services provide a lifeline to people. Many of the services already go above and beyond what is expected of them to provide high quality caring support for people who need it most. Some of the above provide care for those who may not be eligible for other support services and offer support to prevent people from needing more costly services.”

- “All of these services are essential to the network and capacity to provide community based solutions, around preventing reducing and delaying care needs.”
- “Services should be maintained. They cannot just be removed and it should not be assumed that carers will fill the gaps.”
- “Significant risk of driving more providers out of the sector. Care needs to be taken to manage the market.”

Summary of key points: Impact if the proposals went ahead

The savings proposals would significantly affect clients and their carers and family. It would:

- impact on quality of life, wellbeing, people’s ability to be independent and their mental health,
- increase poverty and could lead to deaths from neglect and suicide,
- increase the burden on carers and may stop them working,
- mean that voluntary sector services and organisations have to close and alternatives might not be available,
- have a wider social and community impact, affecting cohesion and job opportunities,
- put pressure on other services such as the NHS, and
- affect the East Sussex Better Together project.

The impact of savings across adult social care services and across departments was also raised, particularly in terms of affecting equal treatment and equality of access.

Comments such as:

- “This will significantly impact on their health & wellbeing both mentally and socially. The changes will significantly impact on their daily lives where services currently available support early intervention.”
- “Many carers have to work unpaid or little pay to care for the people they love, this has a huge impact on their and their loved ones lives and bend over backwards for their own wellbeing to give the sufficient support and care needed already to the detriment of wellbeing, It is a struggle already why further this?”
- It would mean that socially isolated people will become even more lonely, having a detrimental effect on their well-being, as well as making communities less cohesive and inclusive.”
- “As a Charity [we have] been extremely dynamic and energetic in seeking funds from sources other than the statutory sector, but if the "Core Contract" is cut this will impact on the rest of the services. We are unable to make good any further deficits.

- "These CUTS will cost you more than you think you will save. The effect on deaf people will be inestimable. There is no way you can prepare us."

Summary of key points: Preparing people if the proposals went ahead

A number of people commented on the savings and the impact and the fact we can't help people to prepare. In terms of helping people to prepare, time to prepare or a phased approach was suggested as was the need to inform everyone who would be affected. People's care and support needs would still need to be met somehow. Explaining the need for cuts and the national position was another suggestion, as was providing information on alternative services to clients and to signposting organisations. Supporting people through the changes and supporting organisations to apply for funding from other sources were also raised.

Comments such as:

- "Provide service user with other possibilities."
- "By letting people know well in advance if a service they use is being cut and also to give genuine alternatives, even at a charge for the person needing the service."
- "Just let people know about the full impact."

Service focused feedback from the survey

We received feedback on all the services and the value they have for people and the community. We received the most about mental health services.

We asked for people's comments/suggestions on the proposals, the impact on them and how we could help them prepare if the proposals went ahead. The tables below summarise the key points raised in the three comment areas. (The layout mirrors the table included in the consultation summary information.)

Advocacy services

Providers: POhWER

Summary of key points: Comments/suggestions on the proposals

People raised the fact that advocacy is an essential service helping people to be independent and is needed by the most vulnerable. Some people won't be able to speak up for themselves without this service. Social workers don't provide the same level of 1-2-1 support and BME people's ability to access support and services would be affected.

Comments such as:

- "Advocacy is an essential service, an independent person to help people understand their rights and choices in sometimes very difficult and delicate situations can paramount to their wellbeing."
- "I think that giving people a voice is extremely important and one of their most basic human rights, therefore if you take funding away from an advocacy service and support away from them at home or from a day service, some will not be able to speak up for themselves."

Summary of key points: Impact if the proposals went ahead

The comments said that advocacy has a vital role to play in giving people and their families a voice in their own care, particularly at times when people might need independent support to make choices about their health and wellbeing. If the service wasn't available people wouldn't get the support they need to access services and support, particularly mental health services and BME clients.

Comments such as:

- “May not get the support I need in future, no one to talk to about my concerns or help me get the services I need in future.”

Summary of key points: Preparing people if the proposals went ahead

As well as not making the savings, suggestions included giving plenty of notice, working with partners through any changes and talking honestly with people about what it means.

HIV services

Providers: Terrence Higgins Trust (THT)

Summary of key points: Comments/suggestions on the proposals

Comments talk about the value of the service, particularly for the NHS and the role THT plays in supporting people, which makes their health interventions more effective. People say they could not function without the support they are given and lives would be put at risk. The way the organisation treats people, ensuring they are not stigmatised, was also seen as critical.

The equality impact of removing funding for the service and the cost to other services was also raised.

Comments such as:

- "THT's clients would not feel safe that the support or advice they seek would not be discriminatory, patronising or prejudicial - despite 20 years of HIV many professionals do not understand the needs of people with HIV."
- “You CANNOT remove HIV services as it is a valuable resource for people in the area. It would mean no educative and anti-stigma work locally and the service users would become isolated and likely to require other more EXPENSIVE services - Short term- ist thinking is going to mean long term EXPENSIVE reparation.”
- “THT work with people who are disengaged from care or who use services ineffectively: miss appointments, are infrequently monitored, are at risk of loss to follow up, interrupt and stop antiretroviral therapy, struggle to maintain adherence to antiretroviral therapy, etc. THT’s essential support of vulnerable people living with HIV increases the effectiveness of their clinical management.”

Summary of key points: Impact if the proposals went ahead

Removing this value for money service would leave people isolated and unable to cope, putting lives at risk. There would be a cost impact for the NHS and an equality impact of removing funding for the service.

Comments such as:

- “THT's clients would not feel safe that the support or advice they seek would not be discriminatory, patronising or prejudicial - despite 20 years of HIV many professionals do not understand the needs of people with HIV.”

Summary of key points: Preparing people if the proposals went ahead

A number of people commented on the savings and the impact and the need to honour the contract. In terms of helping people to prepare, the only suggestion was to phase in the savings rather than cut it in one go.

Learning disability and autism services

Providers: Autism Sussex, Culture Shift, Pepenbury, Project Artworks, Railway Land Wildlife Trust – Lewes, Southdown Housing, Stay Up Late and Zest (was Norwood)

Summary of key points: Comments/suggestions on the proposals

A number of comments said the funding shouldn't be stopped and that services would have to close if funding is removed. Some people said the savings should at least be phased in so the services have time to become self-funding or find alternative funding.

Comments raised the issue of people ending up in crisis and the increased risk of social isolation and exclusion. The impact on people of removing services, in terms of being involved in the community, supporting people to be independent and preparing them for employment was also raised.

One comment said that the ASC funding is helpful in raising money from other sources and one person suggested that people could pay towards the services.

Comments such as:

- “These cuts are really promoting social isolation / exclusion and have the potential to damage clients resilience and self belief. It may be possible for clients to pay towards stay up late and culture shift.”
- “The services provided by Autism Sussex which may be affected are a vital lifeline for people with autism & their families. They are literally life-changing for many of the service users. How can it be right to remove services that help autistic people to find work & play a part in their community? How would it be right for them to stay at home & do nothing.”
- “Choice is a key factor in everyone's life, but even more important in the lives of people who have learning disabilities. Cuts in ESCC funding to voluntary services will reduce the services that the sector can offer, many of whom support individuals in a holistic way which supports well-being.”

Summary of key points: Impact if the proposals went ahead

Many of the comments talked about the significant impact on people: being stuck at home, not seeing friends, not being involved in the community, losing opportunities to socialise and taking away people's jobs.

The comments said this would affect people's general wellbeing, but also could have

serious mental health implications for some, leaving them isolated and socially excluded. There would also be an impact on carers.

All this would lead to additional costs elsewhere in the system and could push people into residential care. The issue of the wider impact on an organisation's funding was also raised, for example, their ability to fundraise and the impact on other services provided.

Comments such as:

- "We would be ISOLATED, ABANDONED, UNABLE TO SOCIALISE, we would GET ILL and be a further cost to Social Services of the NHS"
- "Q-Kit may not be able to continue and it is a needed service which helps me be involved, and supports people to have a voice so they can be heard in a different way. It's against my rights to have choice and control."

Summary of key points: Preparing people if the proposals went ahead

A number of people commented on the savings and the impact and the need to honour contracts. In terms of helping people to prepare, clear information and support to help clients understand the changes and find alternatives were all mentioned by a number of people. Some people said the Council needs to talk to people directly and tell them what alternative services are available.

Some comments also said that more notice and phasing of the cuts is needed: for example, reducing the funding over time to allow for fundraising. The issue of the wider impact on an organisation's funding was also raised, for example, their ability to fundraise and the impact on other services provided.

Comments such as:

- "By putting information together with easy read. The survey is not easy read! Not use jargon not use letters instead of the full words (ASC=Adult social care) Help me understand properly."

Long term condition services

Providers: Stroke Association

Summary of key points: Comments/suggestions on the proposals

The comments said that people who've had a stroke need this valuable service. Removing funding would increase social isolation and affect people's quality of life. There is a national requirement to review people who've had a stroke so that need would still have to be met. This would put pressure on other services and budgets.

Comments such as:

- "It is important that people who have had a stroke receive support, information and signposting."

Summary of key points: Impact if the proposals went ahead

It would affect peoples' lives and mean they would need more support from health and social care professionals and GPs, with the costs associated with that.

Comments such as:

- “This will just remove some of the helpful services that make life a little easier for our wife/mother who suffered a massive stroke and has partial sight and hearing.”

Summary of key points: Preparing people if the proposals went ahead

One comment said they would need more support from other services as a result.

Long term condition and physical disability services

Providers: East Sussex Disability Association

Summary of key points: Comments/suggestions on the proposals

The comments noted the positive role ESDA has in helping people to be independent and live in the community. The service was described as a valuable resource, with a number of professionals noting that it is a key resource for staff to refer to.

It is described as offering independent advice and providing a good resource for self-funders. A number of comments noted that removing the service could lead to people needing more Adult Social Care support in the community or to move into residential care.

One comment noted that there is a national requirement for councils to fund one centre for independent living.

Comments such as:

- “This service is critical for the elderly and disabled people of East Sussex. As an OT I use this resource, and encourage my clients to use this resource regularly. This service helps maintain clients in the community reducing costly residential and nursing placements and packages of care.”

Summary of key points: Impact if the proposals went ahead

There would be an impact on people's lives and independence, possibly leading more people to need to move into residential care. It would also remove a key independent resource for getting advice on the most suitable products.

People felt this would put pressure on Adult Social Care workers, create budget pressures elsewhere and increase the risks of falls and injury from people buying unsuitable equipment.

Comments such as:

- “I, and other Disabled people, will experience a significant deterioration in our quality of life, which will in turn impact negatively on our physical and mental health. This will of course also impact negatively on ASC, because they will then have to place vulnerable Disabled people in residential care because they will be unable to live independently in their own homes.”

Summary of key points: Preparing people if the proposals went ahead

A number of people commented on the savings and impact. In terms of helping people to prepare, they said it needs to be clear how peoples' needs would be met if the service was not funded any more. The voluntary sector also needs notice to prepare for the change.

Comments such as:

- “Consider how the services currently being provided by these agencies will be met in the future. There will still be a need for these.”

Mental health services

Providers: Alzheimer's Society, HARC Hastings Advice and Representation Centre, Recovery Partners, Seaview Project, Southdown Housing, Southdown Housing, Sussex Oakleaf, Together

Summary of key points: Comments/suggestions on the proposals

The majority of the comments talked about the value of the services in question: to the individual, their family and carers, and to the wider community. Many people also said they disagreed with the proposals, with some saying that mental health services would be disproportionately affected.

The services are seen as critical, value for money services which support people's wellbeing, encourage independence and recovery, and support people into employment. In the case of the Alzheimer service a number of comments said this is a unique service with nothing else available for those suffering from early-onset Alzheimer's or dementia.

Suggestions include streamlining services instead of cutting them, asking people to pay a contribution, cutting management costs and requiring providers to demonstrate the value of services.

Reducing or removing funding would:

- affect the most vulnerable, having a domino effect for clients and putting lives at risk
- increase social isolation and exclusion
- increase the pressure on family and carers, in some cases meaning they can't work any more
- remove community resources and buildings
- increase hospital admissions and put pressure on other budgets and services
- leave more people reliant on benefits
- mean that Adult Social Care would not meet its statutory duties in relation to people with mental health needs

Comments such as:

- “Potentially the service could be compromised and unless a great deal of consideration is given to how a reduced budget service can be delivered there is a risk of the hubs becoming stale and reverting to "old style day centres".”
- “Very unfair. 1 in 4 people will have mental health issues but this is not reflected in the budget allowed”
- “If money is reduced to mental health services, then there will be a domino effect right across the board. I believe the "hubs" are a starting point for most people, after NHS protection, for all levels of mental illness and conditions. Many conditions are unseen, for instance if someone has had a head injury or stroke.”

- "You will be putting lives at risk from the cuts as well as the health and wellbeing of the community."

Summary of key points: Impact if the proposals went ahead

Comments said that removing or reducing funding would leave people with no services and no support for their illness. There would be an impact on the individual, with a real risk to people's lives and safety as well as their quality of life and wellbeing, and a wider impact on families and the community. People would be pushed into acute services and there would be more hospital admissions.

There would also be a social impact, with a lot of people saying they would be at home all day. The knock-on effect to people's mental health would be felt through greater risks of depression, homelessness and exploitation.

People would need more funded support from Adult Social Care and it may push people into institutions or mean they need more NHS care.

Comments such as:

- "All my support would be taken away and I would be left isolated & insecure which would be detrimental to my mental health being."
- "My daughter would be more likely to overdose as she cannot cope with uncertainty and needs to feel secure."
- "There is very little help for mental health issues as it is before the cuts. I'll have no one to help if I get really ill again and there be no support for family and friends to help me."
- "People from BME communities would be disproportionately affected as we work with a higher number of people from these groups. Also people who have more than one health condition will be disproportionately affected."
-

Summary of key points: Preparing people if the proposals went ahead

A number of people commented on the savings and the impact. In terms of helping people, giving people as much notice as possible, providing information on alternatives and if possible phasing in any cuts were suggested.

Transparency is important, as is providing easy access to information for those affected (information sessions suggested). It's also important to work with the NHS to manage any changes, ensure GPs are better at signposting and make sure people still have access to support when they are in crisis.

Organisations should also be supported to access other funding sources.

Comments such as:

- "Phase in the savings over an extended period of time. Offer alternative sources of support."
- "Help us find alternative sources of funding and/or show us how to run our services on a reduced budget."

Older people's services

Providers: Age Concern Eastbourne, Alzheimer's Society, Age UK East Sussex, Marsham Older People's Project, RVS Royal Voluntary Service, Sound Architect Creative Media

Summary of key points: Comments/suggestions on the proposals

Comments included general views and comments on particular services, particularly Home from Hospital services and Marsham Older Peoples Project.

Home from hospital services were recognised as excellent services that should be protected, with a number of people raising the issue of pressure on the NHS and bed blocking if funding stopped.

The Parish Council responded regarding MOPPs, explaining the value of the service and the fact that the needs of people would still need to be met. Isolation was also mentioned as an issue of removing funding for this service.

Increased costs through people needing other services and the risk of voluntary sector closures were also raised.

Suggestions included raising Council tax, cutting out duplicate services and cutting management and administration costs.

Comments such as:

- "I think this will prevent people getting home early from Hospital and therefore block beds and cause more costs and frustrations. It is important to talk to the NHS, they may well save money if they supported some of this."
- "Most of them will fold because they are already on minimum funding so any further cuts even those that say they are only a part will result in the closure of the service."
- "MOPPS provides services which, if it did not provide them, would still have to be provided through Social Services or the NHS. Examples would be toenail cutting and hearing aid maintenance. It is likely that the overall effect of the proposed cut would be to increase the cost to the public purse."

Summary of key points: Impact if the proposals went ahead

People would be housebound and isolated, with others being stuck in hospital without help to get home. All of this would put more demands on social care in the long term.

Comments such as:

- "Isolation, loneliness, lack of stimulation."
- "It may not be possible for some elderly people to return home after a hospital procedure so soon, without help from outside agencies. Many are not in a position to pay for the help they need. So more bed blocking!"

Summary of key points: Preparing people if the proposals went ahead

A number of people commented on the savings and the impact. In terms of helping people, keeping them informed and offering alternatives were raised, as was reducing or phasing the cuts so organisations can look for alternative funding.

Comments such as:

- “Reduce and Stagger cuts to help us seek outside funding.”

Sensory impairment services

Providers: Action for Blind, East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre, East Sussex Vision Care, The Sussex Deaf Association

Summary of key points: Comments/suggestions on the proposals

People said the funding shouldn't be cut from critical services such as these, which encourage independence and reduce social isolation. These are value for money services which are already dealing with the impact of reduced funding. Services could be forced to close if the savings went ahead, leaving people isolated and unable to cope.

The hearing impairment services are doing things the private sector doesn't want to do and in some cases there isn't an alternative service. Services that understand what deaf people need could be forced to close if the savings went ahead leaving people isolated.

There is also the equality impact to consider around people's communication needs, particularly relating to British Sign Language and managing written communications, and the wider implications of losing support in managing finances and health needs etc. People need to know what alternatives there would be if the funding was stopped.

Comments such as:

- “Please do not cut funding to these vital Voluntary Sector support groups. Without the help of Eastbourne Blind Society, who provide activities, companionship and transport contact, I would be cut off from the community and most likely in need of Mental Health support.”
- “I consider 100% cut in 2016/2017 to be irresponsible. Deafness isolates people and if this charity cannot survive the cuts inflicted many of them will suffer a great deal. By their very nature they would not be able to protest vociferously or in any meaningful way draw attention to their plight.”

Summary of key points: Impact if the proposals went ahead

The impact would be on people's whole life, their health, wellbeing and mental health. People risk being isolated and getting into debt if their communication support needs and BSL needs aren't met. These services provide preventative support, so removing them would lead to costs elsewhere.

One comment focused on the implications of the cuts across the voluntary sector and knock-on effect.

Comments such as:

- “There would be a huge impact on the health and wellbeing of service users. Many are socially isolated and coming together as a group for social inclusion and information gathering is vital. Staff know the service users well and are able to recognise when situations are deteriorating and offer support and early intervention.”
- “To repeat - isolation, loneliness, less support resulting in increased ill health,

mental health (5 times more incidence of mental ill health in deaf people than hearing people) I could go on but this has created so much more work for me in ending the lease on our building, redundancies, selling off vehicles etc.”

Summary of key points: Preparing people if the proposals went ahead

A number of people commented on the savings and the impact. In terms of helping people to prepare, a key issue is providing equal access to all services for people with BSL needs and supporting this through technology. Other suggestions included being clear about alternative options and continuing to provide training and guidance to organisations.

Comments such as:

- “ASC would need to continue to support organisations with training and guidance or seeking alternative funding. They would need to offer assurances that those who need the most support would still be able to receive this from ASC.”

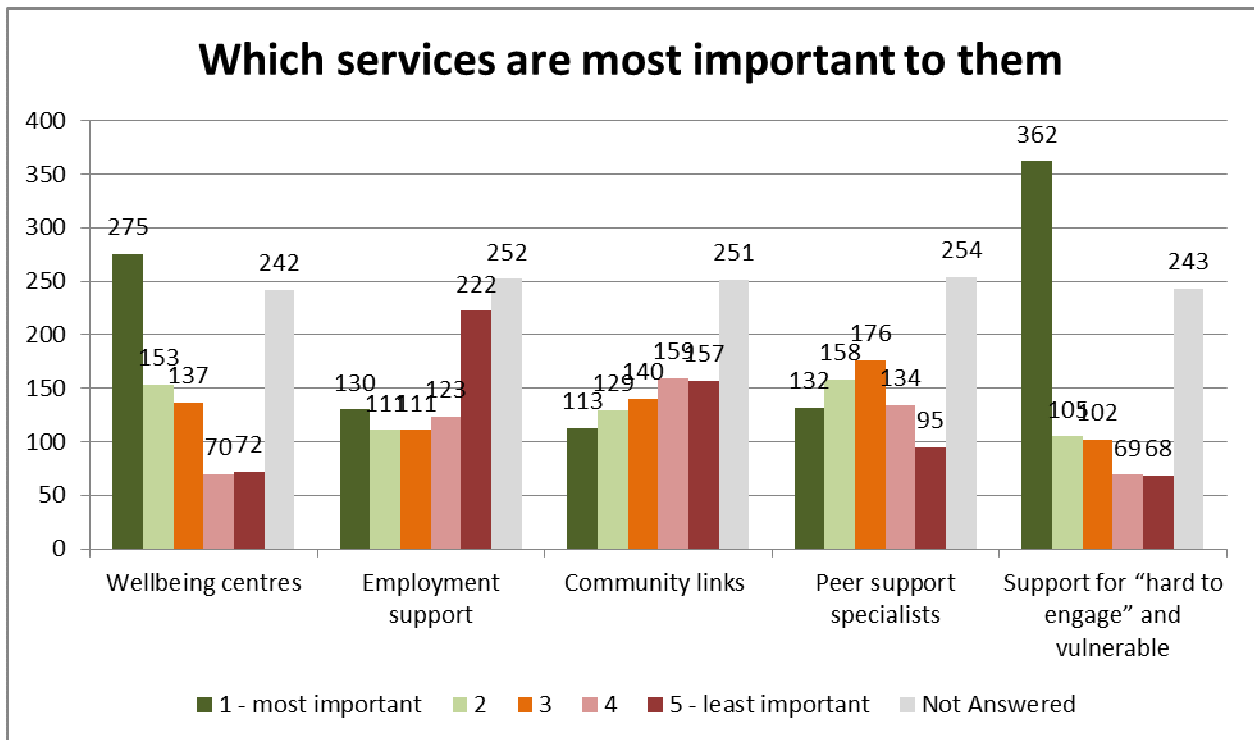
Survey feedback: mental health ranking questions

For mental health services we asked people to rank the importance of the services for themselves and for others. 795 people ranked the services for importance to them, with 595 people providing a comment, while 696 people ranked them for importance to everyone, with 420 people providing a comment.

Most important to them

The services that all respondents felt were **most important to them** were:

- Support for 'hard to engage' and vulnerable people with 362 rating it most important
- Wellbeing Centres with 275 people rating it most important

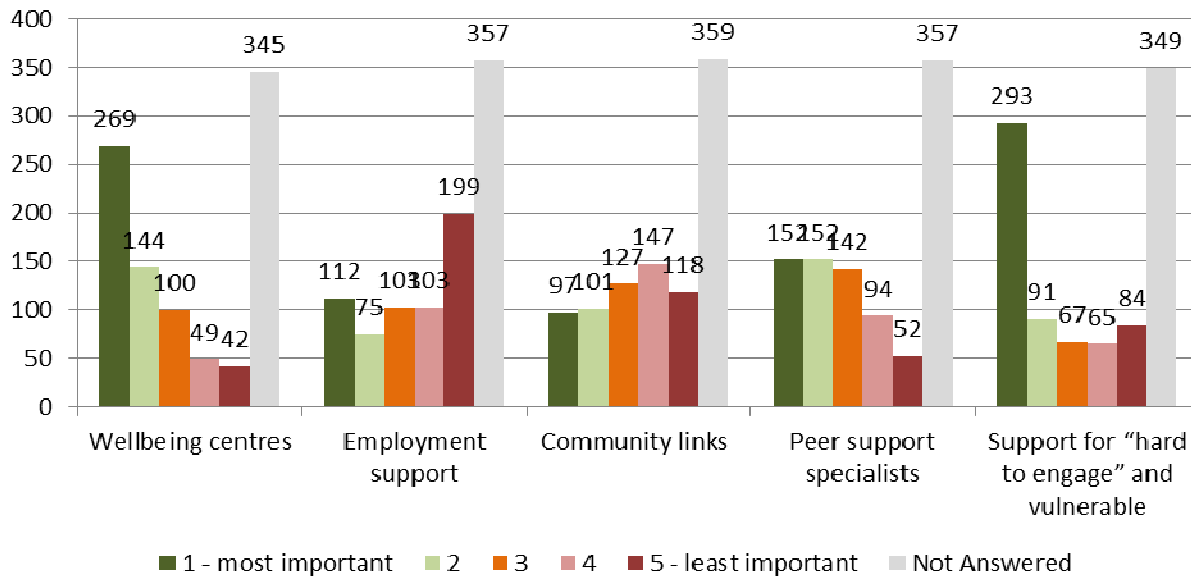


Most important to others

The services that respondents felt were **most important to everyone** were:

- Support for 'hard to engage' and vulnerable people with 293 rating it most important
- Wellbeing Centres with 269 people rating it most important

Which services are most important to everyone who uses MH services



Explaining their ranking

We asked people why they ranked the services as they had. The summary below covers comments relating to services for themselves and for everyone. People did talk about the services they have personally valued across both comment questions.

The services are listed in the same order as the consultation survey.

Summary: General points

Many comments raised the fact that people were unhappy about being asked to rank the services. Reflecting this, many people said all the services are equally important to them and were worried about the impact of the cuts on services. Many people talked about how much they valued the services and how they had helped them. Some people referenced the interconnectedness of the services and how people are funnelled in through one service but eventually use them all as they move towards recovery. The particular importance of these services for young people was also raised.

Comments such as:

- "Mental health is intensely personal and requires a relationship with a trustworthy person."
- "Good mental health has a path way – not always the same for everyone."
- "I see it as a progression from one to five: The most important thing is to get engage the most vulnerable so that is number one priority as they need the most help. Then once you have engaged with them you can move on to giving Peer Support to decide on their recovery so that is step 2. Once you have done that you can move on to number three, help find employment. The next move number 4 is to address the person`s wellbeing to keep them in good health and then finally engage them in community activities."
- "Because I feel if we aren't tackling support for hard to engage and vulnerable

individuals, this is going to become more of a cost in the long term. Cost savings need to look at changing universal services into targeted ones if public sectors services are going to survive cost cutting.”

Summary: Wellbeing centres

Wellbeing hubs also have a crucial role in supporting people, improving their health and wellbeing and stopping people from becoming isolated.

Comments such as:

- “Hospital wards have been closed in favour of care in the community. The proposed cutbacks remove care and communities. Wellbeing centres are essential to many people.”
- “Wellbeing centres, are unique there is nothing else in the community to replace this service. There are other services which provide employment support and peer support.”
- “Because wellbeing centre with support has been a great help in my recovery. Meeting new people who understand.”
- “People with mental health problems are not accepted in mainstream venues and need wellbeing services to provide support, motivation, sense of community and improved quality of life.”

Summary: Employment support

The role of employment in long-term recovery was raised by a number of people. There were also a number of comments from people who said they didn't see themselves being able to work so other services were more important. Some people felt that other services, such as Job Centres, are already available.

Comments such as:

- “Because employment is proven to be one of the most important things to improve an individual's wellbeing. It also reduces the amount of re-referrals into mental health services therefore reducing the amount of ongoing care needed.”
- “It is important for everyone to have a job and feel of use in the community. It is also important to socialise and feel accepted by others.”
- “People with mental health issues first of all to support their recovery need a centre they can go to, and a lot of these people getting back into employment is not their primary goal.”

Summary: Community links

Some comments talked about the value of community links services for recovery and improving wellbeing. There were some people that felt community links could be delivered through over services, such as the wellbeing hubs.

Comments such as:

- “I feel it is important for vulnerable people to have confidence to go out in the community.”
- “The Employment Specialists provide a demonstrative link between ASC and

reducing long-term unemployment. Their positive support without pressure is invaluable.”

- "Having a job helps with all other areas. Guidance about community activities could be given by other services."
- “Employment makes a huge impact on a person’s life, community links is an added extra that could be part of the work of the wellbeing hubs or peer service.”

Summary: Peer support specialists

Peer support has great value in engaging and empowering people, and offering evidence of the possibility of change.

Comments such as:

- “Peer support and IPS employment are evidence based and wanted by people with mental health challenges. They lead to savings elsewhere. I personally know people who benefit from these.”
- “Peer support quite often involves working with "hard to engage and vulnerable people". It is a vital service as it offers direct evidence of the possibility of change. If you can't engage people or offer hope to begin with, people are less likely to engage with the other services mentioned.”
- “I am a member of a number of peer support groups who have been most helpful. Builds confidence and support and advice from peers.”
- “Peer support is worth its weight in gold as it encourages independence and therefore less reliance on other services.”

Summary: Support to “hard to engage” and vulnerable people

People felt that services for the hard to engage are particularly important, as these services can be crucial in helping people out of crisis and getting them into the right place to accept support.

Comments such as:

“Service providing support to “hard to engage” and vulnerable people is such a specialist area and needs to continue to be funded.”

“My experience is that these hard to engage clients are often at the most risk, and also often most likely to commit crimes which impact on the community so services to support them and help them are most important in my view for the individuals themselves and the wider community.”

“Again these hard to engage people are often at the most risk and unable to actively seek help themselves.”

Organisation responses by other methods

The table below provides a summary of comments received by letter and email from organisations about the proposed savings to ASC funded voluntary sector services. The original documents will be available in Members Papers.

Service area and organisation	Summary: ASC funded voluntary sector services proposals
General comments	
3VA, Hastings Voluntary Action and Rother Voluntary Action	It questions the level of cuts to the voluntary sector and the wider impact of what would be lost if funding to services is stopped. The short term savings would be offset by the long-term damage to individuals and communities. It says the Compact has not been met, while failing to have discussions about alternatives with the voluntary sector in advance has meant the opportunity to propose other options has been missed. It believes the proposals would pose a significant threat to the future of some organisations.
Age Concern Eastbourne	The letter recognises the difficult decisions and the value of voluntary sector services generally. It references the announcement that a social care precept of 2% can be used to increase council tax bills and urges the Council to take up this opportunity. It also asks Members to phase the savings over the three year period in order to give organisations time to seek alternative funding, even though this would not be easy as some bodies won't fund services previously funded by the statutory sector. Not phasing in the savings would mean there is a risk that organisations may have to close. If this is not possible the letter argues that charities which would lose all their funding should be given six months' notice.
Age UK East Sussex	The letter summarises the results of the affected services and client feedback (details are included in the individual feedback section). The blanket proposal to make savings from ASC funded voluntary sector services mean that highly effective interventions would be lost. There is also the wider impact on the voluntary sector, which would be damaged by the cuts.
East Sussex Disability Association	The response says the size of the cut to the voluntary sector is drastic and would have a devastating effect on thousands of people supported by it. It asks the Council to reject the cuts or postpone them until the full impact is known or other options have been explored. It also says the Council should use the social care precept for council tax to fully fund the voluntary funding that is at risk. The response raises concerns about the validity of the consultation which it describes as flawed, unwieldy and not held over a long enough time period. It also questions the lack of a publically available impact assessment. The cuts programme does not prioritise direct support to clients and could well impact on related health funding. Many services would close and the viability of organisations would be compromised, as they would find it harder to bring in other funding. This means that the cumulative impact and the knock on effect of demand for adult social care and health services are not captured. Vulnerable people would lose their support

	and have their independence compromised. The effectiveness of the East Sussex Better Together integration programme would be affected with a robust voluntary and community sector.
Hailsham District Committee	The letter urges the Council to change its mind about the drastic 80% cut proposed to the voluntary sector budget. The proposal would have an enormous impact on people dependent on social funding and care – especially disabled people.
Wealden District Council	The voluntary sector savings are described as disappointing, with particular concern raised about losing services that prevent interactions with statutory services such as health, housing and care.
Advocacy services	
POhWERher	The response recognises the need to reduce spending due to reductions in funding and the Council's commitment to its key priorities. Further reductions in funding for statutory advocacy services are not possible, particularly as there is likely to be an increased demand for services. The organisation is concerned about the proposed reduction in Supporting People funding and increased need for mental health services and re-homing. Further integration of health and social care, which is needed and provides opportunities for improvements, could be affected by the savings to adult social care. In addition, much of the savings would remove support that provides early intervention. More people would be placed in crisis and need more statutory support.
HIV services	
Terence Higgins Trust	The organisation's submission sets out its mission and the role it plays in building independence and wellbeing. This work helps to absorb pressure on public services and finances. The response recognises the strains on the local budget. The organisation is working to respond to these changes, but this is made more difficult by the cuts that have already taken place. It believes further cuts would be hugely detrimental to its core service and could lead to the service no longer having an office base in the county. It says there is no other provider that can give the holistic range of services. The organisation explains the context of the work it does and the impact the service has already had for clients in supporting them and their families, helping them to understand HIV and to challenge the stigma associated with it. Many clients come from minority groups who already dealing with discrimination, so need support to access traditional services. The response is supported with a case study, client letter and a comment from the National AIDS Trust.

Learning disability and autism services	
Culture Shift	The letter explains the service background and how the organisation has helped people to engage with the consultation. Over 120 people have responded and more people have taken part directly in the consultation. Cutting the funding for the organisation would mean losing a unique county-wide cultural offering and reduce the opportunity to develop transferrable skills. This would affect the health and wellbeing of people who use the service and have a negative impact on carers and support workers. There would also be a wider impact on the organisation, particularly in terms of funding opportunities and its long term viability. The letter also references the videos, photographs and data submitted giving clients' views.
Railway Land Wildlife Trust	The letter raises the organisation's concern about the proposed removal of funding to Nature Corridors for All. It says the ground breaking project makes a real difference to the lives of people who are often marginalised and ensures that achievements are properly appreciated. In the context it plays an important role in meeting the public sector equality duty. The people involved in the project have also played an integral part in the building of a community environmental change centre. The most recent contract was dependent on a paid worker being employed and the organisation has worked tirelessly to develop the service so it can be rolled out elsewhere. The plan is to provide a community hub running activities, which would also free up spaces with in the day care setting. The proposed cuts would undermine all this work and would result in people returning to day care centres. The organisation asks that the Council to retain the funding to the point where participants can complete their project. It would also give the organisation time to explore alternative funding options. The letters states that rather than being subject to cuts, the project should be seen as model for future day services and support for adults with learning disabilities.
Zest	The organisation provided a large folder of information for their consultation response including: introduction to the services; Zest appeal by the directors; appeals from the people who use the service; summary of media and social media exposure; petitions; survey responses; correspondence and Zest awards. The appeal explains the Zest story and the value the service has for people with a learning disability or autism. The proposed savings would see the contract end six months earlier than agreed. This means the organisation's plan to become self-sufficient won't be given the time it needs to succeed. The email says that telling the team was one of the hardest things they've ever had to do. Removing funding for the service would take away their hope for the future. Zest helps people to learn new skills, be more independent and

	work towards getting a paid job.
Long term condition services	
Stroke Association	<p>The letter sets out the organisation's deep concerns regarding the plan to reduce the funding for stroke services and the impact that the reduction of the service would mean in real terms for stroke survivors and their families. It also provides comments from clients about the vital role the service has played in helping them to rebuild their live following a stroke.</p> <p>The meeting notes set out what was discussed: current funding and grant agreement, impact of proposed cuts, the consultation process, the client perspective and the current service. The value of the service provided, including its tailored approach which uses peer support, was raised and a client talked about the benefits for him. The organisation said that's peer support cafés would no longer be able to run if the proposals went ahead. Issues highlighted at the meeting included the fact the cuts would impact on other areas, such as the budget for community care and health services, and the significant numbers of stroke survivors who suffer from depression and anxiety, meaning that the proposed cuts to mental health services would affect them too. The poor accessibility of the consultation process for stroke survivors was also raised.</p>
Long term condition and physical disability services	
East Sussex Disability Association	<p>For ESDA, this would mean losing the funding for the Centre for Independent Living, affecting around a significant number of people and creating more demand for social care and health services. The email describes the service offered and the benefits it provides in offering impartial advice. The service is also able to see people much quicker than adult social care can complete assessments. Without the Centre people would deteriorate rapidly and their carers would face increased pressure. A similar centre in Brighton recently closed, so if ESDA's centre closed the impact on services in East Sussex would be even greater. Disabled and vulnerable people would be hardest hit by the cuts. It also provides information about the support ESDA provides to the community.</p>
Hailsham District Committee	<p>ESDA offers so much to disabled people and losing it would remove support from people who need it the most. The organisation questions whether the Council is acting within the law, particularly in terms of the proposal that each local authority should have a user-led Centre for Independent Living. The impact of previous cuts have already affected disabled people and the quality of service they receive through community care. The letter explains how the organisation helps people and provides some comments about the positive role ESDA plays in their live. Funding raising generally is difficult for smaller organisations like ESDA which play an</p>

	important role locally.
Mental health services	
Hastings & Rother Mind	<p>The response states the organisation's deep concern over the proposed cuts to mental health community services. It argues that the consultation process is flawed as people are not able to provide their views easily. It also pits organisations against each other. There has not been a risk assessment on the impact of the proposals on clients and their families.</p> <p>Organisations that provide services would also see a knock-on effect as other projects would suffer too. Removing adult social care funding could undermine the continued receipt of funding from other sources. When acute mental health beds were reduced it was on the basis that community support would provide appropriate, timely and preventative provision. Reducing funding would go back on this agreement and put financial pressure on NHS services. People on Section 117 are entitled to appropriate support in the community and this would be at risk under the proposals. The cut to mental health community services is disproportionate and shows the lack of parity in the way the Council is treating services.</p> <p>The ability of individuals to recover would be hindered and safeguarding would be impeded, probably leading to an increase in negative incidents. Difficult decisions need to be made, but the consultation is not adequate engagement and decisions should be made following appropriate consultation with people who understand the sector.</p>
Recovery Partners	<p>The email draws attention to the severe implications of the proposed cut in funding for the service. It provides details on the organisation, which is led and run by people with lived experience of mental health challenges. The proposals would decimate the organisation's preventative services, which are already run on a shoestring. The service saves money for social care and the NHS by preventing people from becoming more isolated and ill, stopping them needing to use statutory services. It is a low cost service with highly successful outcomes. Everyone who uses the service says they would recommend it to others, with many positive benefits. Most importantly, 26% say the service has saved their lives. The email provides a link to a petition and also raises the fact that the proposals would see funding for mental health voluntary sector organisations cut by a massive 36%.</p> <p>Information provided to councillors explains the impact that such a significant cut in funding would have for the organisation and the people it supports. It sets out the more limited services it would have to consider providing and the additional costs this would put onto adult social care and the</p>

	NHS. It sets out in detail the cost savings provided by the service and shares the petition results so far.
Seaview	The letter explains the organisation's history and the support it provides to the community of Hastings. If the proposals for savings go ahead then the service would be under threat. The service has a complex funding picture and has already absorbed a 25% cut to its income six years ago. There is currently unprecedented need in the community, so a reduction in the services would be devastating to clients and other services which rely on the organisation.
Sussex Oakleaf	The letter raises the detrimental impact the cuts would have on the organisations clients, in addition to the impact of previous savings. It urges the Council to continue funding mental health services at the same level and says the organisation would continue to argue for further investment. Many clients say that A&E would be the only service left to them if funding were withdrawn for the service. Any reduction in mental health funding would have serious and far reaching implications for clients and their carers. It would increase the pressure on NHS services, which is clearly a false economy. Clients have openly discussed self-harming since hearing that the services are at risk.
Older people's services	
Age Concern Eastbourne	The letter also asks Councillors to watch a video of people who use the Eastbourne Shed service. In addition, information is provided about the two affected services: Home from Hospital and Eastbourne Shed. Home from Hospital has exceeded its targets and is a vital transition service. Stopping the service would affect the work of East Sussex Better Together and increase NHS costs. Eastbourne Shed is an innovative service that has been a model for other local groups. Stopping funding would increase social isolation with direct impacts on peoples' mental and physical health.
Fairlight Parish Council	The letter explains that the organisation also funds Marsham Older People's Project and the local context. The effect of the proposal on MOPPS would be serious, as it would probably mean that it would no longer be able to afford a qualified carer. This would make it difficult to cater for those most in need. Transport support would also have to be cut, making it difficult for the most isolated to attend. Services that MOPPS currently provides would still need to be provided by social care and the NHS, so the savings would probably increase the cost to the public purse. The letter notes that since the consultation started the government has outlined plans for a social care precept on council tax, meaning that circumstances have changed. The organisation invites the Council to reconsider its proposal to cut MOPPS' grant.

<p>Marsham Older Peoples Project</p>	<p>The Council's funding accounts for 50% of the project's funding from external sources. It would be very difficult to replace. This would mean that the organisation would no longer be able to afford a qualified care worker. It would also mean reducing transport costs and free services such as toe-nail cutting. This would mean those most in need, such as those with disabilities and in need of professional care, and those who are most geographically isolated would not be able to attend. It would also place more costs on the NHS.</p>
<p>Sensory impairment services</p>	
<p>Eastbourne Blind Society</p>	<p>The letter explains the services the organisation provides that would be affected. It says that the proposals would have a major impact on the ability of the county-wide consortium to deliver statutory and necessary services. A proven additional benefit of the service is the Certificate of Visual Impairment – this service enables people to access support, advice and referrals from a Low Vision Support Worker. This support significantly reduces this emotional impact of sight loss. The organisation hosted a highly emotional client event during the consultation. Clients at the meeting were concerned that the service they received is not lost to those who follow them into visual impairment. The impact the service can have was demonstrated through the personal stories people shared of contemplated and attempted suicide before receiving the help they needed. Delaying support for people also has an impact on the NHS, as people need more medical intervention to cope. The letter also provides information on the low vision contract and training services that it provides. The letter asks the Council to reflect very carefully on the decisions the organisation recognises must be taken.</p>
<p>East Sussex Association of Blind and Partially Sighted People</p>	<p>The letter explains the services it provides that would be affected by the proposals and the reduction in services that would follow if the proposals went ahead. The impact would be enormous and even though services would have to reduce the number of people needing support would not. Visually impaired people make up 4.18% of the population in East Sussex and that number is only going to increase due to the ageing population. The cuts would also affect the other services provided by the organisation, as it would have to focus on essential services. It would also mean early intervention won't be possible, despite that fact that this is shown to lead to better and sustained independence. The effect of the proposed cuts would be devastating to the organisation and its members. For those diagnosed with sight loss their life chances for good and their confidence falls. The organisation is there to help them live a full and independent life, which can only be done through the services offered to people. If it is not able to do this members would become more isolated and eventually look to statutory services for help. This</p>

	<p>would be hugely more expensive. The letter provides some comments from clients about the positive value of the services provided to them and detailed information on the services provided that would be affected: low vision support worker, mobility and orientation training, aid and equipment service, and training courses on modern technology and skills and strategies for daily living etc.</p>
<p>East Sussex Vision Care</p>	<p>The response provides information on the organisation which is a partnership of three societies that deliver services through the Commissioning Grants Prospectus. It says that proposed cuts would result in considerable unmet need for people with impaired vision. The proposed reductions would have a devastating impact on a very vulnerable group and is likely to result in increased calls on GPs and Accident and Emergency services. A significant proportion of the funding supports Low Vision Workers. These workers have taken on the statutory duty for making contact with new clients very quickly. The response provides more detail on the work they do and says that under the proposed cuts the level of support that could be funded would be very limited and many clients, particularly in rural settings, would be left without any effective support. The funding also allows the organisation to provide sensory aid and equipment services and orientation and mobility support (including a statutory requirement to provide training). Both services would have to be significantly scaled back if the savings went ahead. The number of training courses provided by the funding would also have to be reduced, leading to unmet need as no other providers offer suitable training. There are also administration and related costs associated with managing the service.</p>
<p>Hastings and Rother Voluntary Association for the Blind</p>	<p>The letter explains the services that charity provides which would be affected by the proposed savings to voluntary sector services funded by adult social care. It shows the current provision and the significant reduction in services that would take place if the savings went ahead. The challenge with the cuts is that money would disappear but the people would not. Of the population of East Sussex, 4.18% have a visual impairment. The ageing population in the county means this is only going to increase. It urges the Council to reconsider these cuts and to ensure that vulnerable visually impaired constituents are not left without the services they so desperately need. The cuts would also affect the other services provided by the organisation, as it would have to focus on essential services. It would also mean early intervention won't be possible, despite that fact that this is shown to lead to better and sustained independence. The letter provides detailed information on the services provided that would either affected: Low vision support worker, aids and equipment service, and training courses on modern technology</p>

	and skills and strategies for daily living etc.
SHORE	The organisation is concerned that the cuts to the voluntary sector would be a false economy, removing services that reduce demand on more expensive services, risk organisations losing match funding and expertise.
Sussex Deaf Association	The letter says that its client group is one that is regularly overlooked. They are isolated because of their vulnerability, especially the older generation. Removing the funding would affect the service provided and could mean the charity becomes unsustainable. The result would be that all the hard work and commitment in building up the organisation would be lost. This would put more pressure on statutory services, which this client group already has difficulty engaging with. The effect on the deaf community would be devastating. The cost differential between using the organisation's services and using British Sign Language interpreters is significant. The service is also used by other organisations to ensure provision for deaf clients is met. The organisation also provides case studies, explaining the value of the service to people and how it is used.

Group or coordinated client responses by other methods

Service area and group or client group	Summary: ASC funded voluntary sector services proposals
General comments	
Lewes and District Seniors' Forum	Removing the Supporting People... is likely to lead to an increasing demand on the voluntary sector even as it also faces cuts to Council funding.
Inclusion Advisory Group	Loss of voluntary sector capacity and services. Big impact on mental health clients -loss of community based services now helping people learn independence and recovery skills. Loss of buildings and staff- hard to replace once gone. Hard to source other funds- loss of smaller more vulnerable organisations. Risk of loss of peer support networks and skills. Risk to volunteering - volunteers may be impacted by cuts and less able to carry out voluntary work. Increased charges for voluntary organisations services - risk to people on low incomes.
South-East Network of Disabled People's Organisations	The ability of the Council to meet its statutory duties is questioned, as is the ability of the voluntary sector to step into the breach considering the cuts it is facing.
Young People's Takeover Day	Voluntary sector services funded by ASC: The group questioned the level of cuts to this area and said that more people would need support from the NHS if these services were cut. They said:

	<p>“People will just end up in crisis sooner!” A couple suggested increasing council tax to reduce the savings required.</p>
<p>Advocacy services</p>	
<p>PoWher coordinated client responses</p>	<p>The organisation gathered feedback from clients, carers and staff at the Council. People questioned the proposal to make savings in this area and said they don't know what they would have done without the service. It helped them to have a voice and to successfully challenge Council decisions. In many cases the decisions would have had a serious impact on the care and support they receive. People felt that this service helped them to have control over the way care and support is discussed and organised. One response also raised issues with the consultation process, in terms of the lack of notice and the accessibility of the survey for people with learning disabilities. Comments included: “This help and support [from the advocate] enabled me to get back most of my care package, keep my PA and continue to access the community. I could not have managed this without the support of an advocate.” “I am not able to function if I am pressured and I needed the help of an advocate to get my point across.” “I think without an advocate they would not have looked more closely and I could have ended up in Court as I did not have the money to pay.” “It has helped me to have someone independent present... Service Users tell advocates things they may never tell us and it is essential I know this to make sure my assessment is as full as it can be.”</p>
<p>South-East Network of Disabled People's Organisations</p>	<p>The response says that provision of advocacy is a legal requirement and particularly important when there is pressure on community care budgets.</p>
<p>HIV services</p>	
<p>Sussex HIV Network/ Operational Delivery Network</p>	<p>The letter says its members strongly disagree with the proposal to cut funding to the Terrence Higgins Trust. While the enormity of the cuts required is recognised, the letter argues that making savings to this particular service would increase costs in the longer term through increased hospital admissions. There are also particular concerns about the impact on East Sussex patients who receive their clinical care outside of the county, with a high risk of people disengaging from their care. Marginalised groups are likely to be disproportionately affected and would not get the support they need to enable people to understand their diagnosis and tackle the other support needs that affect their health. The organisation also plays a crucial role in tackling stigma around the disease. The service is requirement of the HIV Service Specification and as such as to be provided.</p>
<p>Learning disability and autism services</p>	
<p>Autism Sussex coordinated client</p>	<p>The response summarises how Autism Sussex has promoted the consultation and the services it provides that would be affected by</p>

responses	<p>the proposed savings: Adult support groups; 1:1 mentoring; Talk 1:1 online forum; and Pathway to employment. These are preventative services provided at minimal cost and often to people who don't receive any other support. Removing or reducing funding would increase the need on social care, mental health and NHS budgets and services. The employment support service is helping people into the workplace and is leading to wider partnership working with other voluntary sector organisations. Clients comments about the services include: "The [support groups] provide a place to be safe, similar traits hence acceptance of each other, not being judged." "I have been desperate for a way for people to take me seriously and I have it [through the support group]. I have found friendship through the group something I have always struggled with as it was never based on the truth." About the online forum, someone said: "A real valuable asset hence it should not be made redundant for all the unfunded people who use it. This information is not widely available if you don't receive funding." "I know that without the help and support from Autism Sussex Jason would not be where he is now: being able to take orders, serve customers, operate the till, arriving on time and traveling on the train independently – and just having been offered a couple of hours paid work (something I was not sure we would ever get to)!!!"</p>
Culture Shift	<p>Over 120 people contributed, including those who use the service, carers and volunteers. People who use the service wrote their comments down and had their picture taken. Comments include: "Devastated." "Sad." "Why the cuts to Arts Connect and disabled. Pick on the rich not poor." "Arts Connect helps me to build confidence and fit into society." "Disappointed. Support needs not met." "Connections and opportunities are so important. We should all be able/have opportunity for them." "If taxpayers saw the work going on here, they would never want it cut. Seeing people's faces - the joy and pleasure they get, the feeling of being part of a community, the chance to feel part of things and understood."</p>
Involvement Matters Team for learning disabilities	<p>The group use some of the projects that might lose their funding from the Council and they think all the services are good. The letter says that without the projects people who use the services would be: more lonely, have less activities, less choice about what services they use, and they may not get help to get a job. It might make them feel sad, depressed and even suicidal, meaning they need to go to their doctor and may need help from mental health services. If the proposals go ahead then people need to know exactly what it means for them and how much people would have to pay for services. Advocacy may be needed to help people speak out about cuts. The letter concludes: "Please do not make these cuts."</p>
Parchment coordinated parent	<p>The organisation gathered responses from parents and carers, who are extremely worried about the threat to services. They feel the proposals could push people and their families into crisis. They</p>

and carer responses	<p>emphasised the toll of the process on the carers health and wellbeing and their ability to continue to provide care. The proposals could put additional pressure on support accommodation, respite and residential services if people are no longer able to live at home. It could also mean that some parents and carers would be unable to continue working. Comments included: "You can't make cuts without meeting the person" "Lay off Learning Disabilities!" The response asked whether East Sussex will use the social care precept to increase council tax and how this would money would be set. It also suggested that Councillors allowances be cut to the same degree. People also fed back about the consultation process, saying there was inadequate notice and time for it; there was no opportunity to ask questions at the drop-in events; and people at the events seemed uninformed about learning disability issues.</p>
Nature Corridors for All coordinated client and parent responses	<p>Parents wrote to say that clients took a lot of pleasure and pride in being involved in the scheme, and that it had improved skills and self esteem. Ending the scheme would cause a lot of sadness and possible regression for some. Partners wrote in support of the scheme's unique work, and of challenging perceptions of adults with learning disabilities. "This experience has helped X's self-esteem... made a real difference... taken pride at being recognised as being aware and responsible ..a vital cog in the wheel of conservation." "this project has helped immensely by allowing X to become involved in a worthwhile project ...helped develop existing skills as well as developing new ones." "The project is exceptional in the outcomes it delivers" "the group's quality of work and commitment to nature and wildlife that is the key reason for working together."</p> <p>Most of the clients felt upset and angry at the prospect of the project ending, and some were shocked and confused. They would miss the activities that the group undertook and felt they were a team: they really enjoyed the different elements of being in nature and the skills they had developed, and would miss them a great deal. "If the project stops, I won't be able to come to the Linklater and I might not go to St Nics either. It's not just now, it's cuts for 4 years and its stupid'. "I would miss the project. I like coming here. I like the building. It makes me feel like I am at home and I feel good. It's in my comfort zone. It's different from a day centre, - it's quieter and more space and it makes me feel happy. It took a long time to make the building. "</p>
South-East Network of Disabled People's Organisations	<p>It notes that the fact that mainstream provision does not meet the needs of people with learning disabilities or autism, so losing these services would be devastating.</p>
STEPS coordinated client responses	<p>The organisation gathered feedback from clients. People talked about what the service has meant for them, for example, giving them more confidence, helping them to learn new skills, and providing access to voluntary work. They say using the service has</p>

	made them feel happier and they would be upset and disappointed if it was to lose funding. Comments include: "From doing the programme, I have come out a lot, meeting people, confidence building and getting a voluntary placement. " "I would feel hurt, disappointed [if I'd never had a chance to take part in the programme."
Zest	The response said the team have struggled to understand the consultation and what the proposals would mean for them. It also questioned the length of the consultation. Comments from people who use the service include: "We are like a big family. Without Zest I will feel like hanging myself." "I won't have a reason to get out of bed." "Zest has changed my life, it's helped me with my confidence... If Zest closes I will feel very sad because I've learnt so much." "I will not have any help in being more independent and no help in getting a job." "It has made me a better person by coming here." "I have learnt team leading skills and team working."
Long term condition services	
Stroke Association coordinated client, carer and staff responses	The organisation submitted comments from clients, carers and staff of the Council. They also provided information on the commissioned services they have delivered under the contract to date and how many people have benefited. Many people said they could not have managed without the support they received from the service. They said the support they receive improves their quality of life, contributes to their rehabilitation, enables them to rebuild their life, improves their communication skills and provides much needed ongoing support. The peer element of all the services is also really valued. Staff said they value the role of the service in providing reviews and feel that people find it invaluable for receiving advice and guidance after suffering from a stroke. Comments included: "With the input of the Stroke Association Coordinator and the peer support of other stroke survivors my quality of life has been enhanced." "It could make the difference in being supported to avoid complications and possible readmission." "What's happened has been both sudden and shocking and although friends mean well they do not have the understanding of stroke and the devastation it causes. This is where the Stroke Association is vital."
South-East Network of Disabled People's Organisations	The importance of receiving information and advice to manage your condition after a stroke is raised.
Long term condition and physical disability services	
ESDA meeting	The meeting started with a presentation on the background and what is being proposed in the consultation. Questions included whether the social care precept would be used in East Sussex; how adult social care and health budgets support people; the impact of removing early intervention and preventative services; how the impact will be assessed; whether the consultation is

	Compact compliant; how people are being supported to take part; whether people really understand what is being proposed; and why the cuts can't be done once the integration picture with health is clearer.
South-East Network of Disabled People's Organisations	It covers the value of the ESDA service to the community and the fact that it is the organisation's largest source of funding, meaning that removing funding could threaten its survival.
Mental health services	
South-East Network of Disabled People's Organisations	Removing or reducing funding from preventative mental health services puts people at risk of crisis and needing hospital care. They are also likely to need more support from social care in the long run. It explains the value of the Recovery Partners service and says that due to the value it provides and the focus on developing peer support services it would seem counterproductive to reduce its funding.
Older people's services	
123 coordinated client responses	The organisation asked clients who would have supported them if the service didn't exist and whether the potential loss of the service would be a significant loss, a loss or no loss. Of the 8 people who responded, 7 said they would have had no one to help them and 1 person said family would have helped them. Nearly everyone (7 people) said the service would be a significant loss and 1 said it would be a loss. Comments included: "I had lost my confidence and your service helped me - my volunteers were very good." "I would not have met my neighbours as quickly or have confidence to join groups in common lounge. I would have felt isolated."
Home from Hospital coordinated client responses	The organisation asked clients who would have supported them if the service didn't exist and whether the potential loss of the service would be a significant loss, a loss or no loss. Of the 35 people who responded, 26 said they would have had no one to help them and 11 people said family or friends would have helped them. Nearly everyone (32 people) said the service would be a significant loss and 3 said it would be a loss. Comments included: "I would have a really found it hard to cope as I am on my own with no support from my family. HfH also helped me find support for long term." "Very slow recovery if no support." "I would have got in a real mess because I would have tried things that I was not fit enough to do after my surgery. I would have injured myself and got ill again."
South-East Network of Disabled People's Organisations	The significant cuts proposed to home from hospital services would set back recovery times and put more strain on social care and health budgets in the longer term.
Take Home and Settle coordinated client responses	The organisation asked clients whether they would have had to stay in hospital longer, who would have supported them if the service didn't exist and whether the potential loss of the service would be a significant loss, a loss or no loss. Of the 36 people who

	<p>responded, over a third (13) said they would have stayed in hospital for another night and the rest said might have stayed in longer (18 people). 21 said they would have had no one to help them and 11 people said family and friends would have helped them. Nearly everyone (35 people) said the service would be a significant loss and 1 said it would be a loss. Comments included: "I would not have had food in or help tidying and all the washings up." "I would not have been supported at home - I could not even have got in my house." "I would have made my own way home by public transport against the advice of the hospital staff." "Would have had to wait for much needed equipment - advice on life line, bathing, shopping and hand rails." "I would have had to wait for equipment, which might result in another fall."</p>
<p>Sensory impairment services</p>	
<p>Deaf Choices meeting and client comments</p>	<p>The group discussed the background to the proposals. They were very concerned about how the proposals would affect the deaf community and the support that enables them to avoid getting into crisis or debt, stay in work, negotiate health and benefits service, and to do everyday things like manage paperwork. Removing or reducing the funding for this service would increase the risk of deaf people becoming isolated. They feel that there would be no alternative support available if funding was cut. Many people say they would not be able to cope without the help they receive, as it stops people getting into crisis and prevents isolation. It could also delay people getting vital services while an interpreter is arranged. People are also concerned about deaf people being able to stay in employment. People found the survey difficult to complete. Comments include: "If we lose our community worker for the deaf it will have a knock-on effect... 40 years ago families cared for their own by they are more spread out." "Hearing world is very different. English is their first language so completing forms for most people is not a problem... Who will help with this and book interpreters?" "If there is no support because of the cuts that means the deaf will have to go to social services for support. They will then have to book an interpreter to be able to understand the deaf person and this will take time and money. No one will be able to receive help as soon as they need it." "DLA is changing to PIP and we are seeing an increase in people coming to the Association for support with applying for the new benefit... If there is no one to help them to do this many people will not complete the form as they find it too daunting and in some cases cannot understand it."</p>
<p>East Sussex Vision Care event</p>	<p>Attendees felt that vulnerable people are being targeted by the savings. If the proposals went ahead people would become isolated, which could affect their health and wellbeing. Coordinated support would be lost, while the needs of people with multiple impairments must be considered. Sensory teams at the department do have enough specialist knowledge to replace what would be lost if funding was removed. They also felt health should be involved in the discussion as people's health would be affected. The group felt</p>

	<p>that video contributions were more accessible for them and a number of videos were later submitted.</p> <p>The organisation also filmed people talking about what the service has meant for them. Comments included: "I'm lucky, because I've got a family who supports me, but some people are totally on their own and this is a complete lifeline for them and if you withdraw it, it would be horrible!" "If it wasn't for East Sussex Association of blind and partially sighted people working with the RNIB, I wouldn't have a job right now... [but I] will very soon almost become unemployable... because the charities are not being supported by the government." "Blind people have a very special requirement, and its emotion, and emotion doesn't come over in reports and responses in the normal way... There are hundreds of volunteers in East Sussex, and they will have nobody to lead them." "I was left for four months totally without care [by the social care sensory team], during which time I lost my job, I tried to take my life twice and I have to say that if it wasn't for ESAB, I would not be sitting here today because I would have succeeded in taking my own life."</p>
Group from Eastbourne Hearing Resource Centre	<p>The letter explains the work that the East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre does, highlighting the value the service provides to people with a hearing impairment and their families. In particular, it mentions a group that meets regularly to learn and practice sign language and the joy deaf people experience when you communicate in their language. Cutting services like this would increase the isolation deaf people experience and the letter urges Councillors not to cut the funding for this charity.</p>
South-East Network of Disabled People's Organisations	<p>Some of the sensory impairment services covered were previously outsourced by the Council, so if the services were cut there would be no one providing support in the county. All the sensory impairment service providers offer a range of valuable services, many of which reduce isolation.</p>

Individual responses by other methods

Individual responses: ASC funded voluntary sector services proposals

There were many comments on the ASC-funded voluntary service proposals across all response forms (letters, emails, comment forms and videos). The majority of the responses were about the services that people receive or work for, and how they benefit people in the community. There were lots of comments about how the services reduce isolation and how without all of the services that would be affected, people would be cut off.

Social isolation was a particular concern for those with sensory impairments, physical disabilities and learning disabilities who have limited options in terms of support or may struggle to access mainstream services. Within this, there were many comments about the support deaf people (whose first language isn't English) get to attend GP appointments, read letters and find employment opportunities. Further to this, clients of the Terence Higgins Trust service highlighted how difficult access to services is for them because of stigma, and how marginalised and isolated clients can be as a result. People said there

wouldn't be alive if it wasn't for THT.

Many people said that without the support they get from voluntary organisations, they would be far more reliant on statutory services – particularly the NHS because of health implications, and there were concerns about what would happen if services stop. Lots of comments raised the issue about the impact on carers of services for those they care for being reducing or being removed.

Many people talk about the value of mental health services, with a particular focus on the wellbeing hubs and the holistic service they provide. A significant number of people wrote to support ESDA and urge that funding is retained for this service. The value it provides to the community would be at risk if it was not. The value of services such as the support for those who've had a stroke, those suffering from dementia and MOPPS was also raised through the letters.

It was noted that some people might choose to use specialist voluntary sector services rather than adult social care services because they feel the support better meets their needs.

Comments such as:

- “Your proposals to leave elderly and disabled people even more vulnerable than they already are.”
- “Blind & partially sighted people will be disproportionately affected - they are more likely to experience greater physical and mental ill health.”
- “Cuts will result in Deaf lack of communication, loneliness, isolation - also access to health services.”
- “THT serves an already marginalised community, without service impact will be huge and affect isolated people”

Petition responses

The table below provides a brief summary of the petitions relating to voluntary sector services that adult social care funds. Please note that printed copies of petitions will be available in Members Papers.

Petition title	Signatures	Comments such as...
Don't cut funding to Recovery Partners - East Sussex mental health services	14,392 (around 200 East Sussex based)	“There is already a paucity of mental health services in our area and this is particularly true in respect of peer led support services. In the current climate of budget restrictions this kind of support is a key part of mental health services and should be prioritised.” “My daughter wouldn't be here if it wasn't for these services. Mental health affects everyone one way or another. The services need to be improved not cut. Early help means the opportunity of life for so many people. Many

		<p>police still aren't trained in dealing with people with mental health. The ambulance service is missing its targets already. How much time do you want to waste on other resources when they should be fighting crime and saving lives? Keep everyone safer. Do not make cuts to cost more money and damage in the long run. Thank you”</p>
<p>Don't let the funding cuts squeeze Zest Sussex dry</p>	<p>3,332</p>	<p>“There is so little for people to access to improve their work prospects that this small project punches above its weight in terms of funding. It should be supported.”</p> <p>“I know how life changing working at Zest has been [for her] and the other learning disabled adults. They would be lost without the motivation or routine it provides.”</p>

Feedback on the drug and alcohol prevention service proposals

Note: There were no petitions or individual responses by other methods for the area of the proposals.

Survey feedback

We asked for people's comments/suggestions on the proposals, the impact on them and how we could help them prepare if the proposals went ahead. The table below summarises the key points raised in the comments.

Summary of key points: Comments/suggestions on the proposals

The majority of the comments talked about drug and alcohol services generally, although there are also quite a number focused specifically on LASAR and Star.

Many of the comments state that people disagree with the proposed savings. In contrast to other areas though, there are also a minority of people who support making savings in this area. Sometimes this is because people don't think such services should be funded and in other cases it is because they think priority should be given to other services facing cuts.

Some people commented on national policy around drug and alcohol prevention or said the local government savings should be challenged. A number of people questioned whether the Council would still be meeting its statutory duties. Comments also noted the link between drug and alcohol abuse and mental and physical health issues.

People felt that cutting the funding for these already stretched services would remove an important community resource, particularly as some feel there is a greater need than ever for these services. It is seen as a short-term approach that would just push costs elsewhere. It may also be the only chance some people have to recover and many would be lost without these services.

A number of professionals questioned whether STAR has the capacity to provide the required level of service, particularly around building trust, 1-2-1 support and safeguarding. In contrast, there was some feeling that stopping the LASAR service would remove an unnecessary layer.

Comments also suggested ways for managing the change, in particular the need to understand the impact of the proposal, providing a clear referral pathway for GPs and social workers and monitoring the impact if it went ahead. Some people commented that the service should be funded by health, while one suggested using the STAR cap to fund LASAR.

Reducing or removing funding would:

- lead to people losing their lives if they don't get the support they need
- remove a service from a vulnerable group of people, with many comments focusing on the impact on young people and the cumulative effect of service funding cuts in other areas such as housing support services (Supporting People funding)
- increase hospital admissions and the chances of people reaching crisis point

- lead to higher consumption for people with a drug or alcohol problem
- increase the chances of people losing their accommodation and becoming homeless
- affect the families of people who use services, pushing families into crisis or leading to relationship breakdowns
- affect the community through increased street drinking and crime
- increase costs for the NHS, particularly acute mental health services and A&E
- put pressure on other budgets and services, such as the Police
- ESCC could fail to meet its statutory obligations and it could affect the success of the East Sussex Better Together project
- affect communities through increases in drug and alcohol use, anti-social behaviour, drink driving, and crime

Comments such as:

“There are many people who use these services with success in reducing/abstaining from drugs and alcohol. Without them the NHS would have to accommodate more individuals who through drug/alcohol use would require treatment for long term illness.”

“These prevention services have already been cut & should not be cut further - our young clients in particular are vulnerable to abuse of both drugs & alcohol, with often devastating results for themselves & others.”

“This is a big problem in Hastings and affects so many other areas that good support and treatment for people is vital.”

“This is a service for both young people and adults. There is a concern of the impact of these cuts, especially for young people (with cumulative impact of removal of other YP support services) increases the risk of offending, exploitation and these individuals becoming victims of crime.”

“This is an important area of support for people with mental health and needs to work in conjunction with supported housing, redesign a sustainable service.”

Summary of key points: Impact if the proposals went ahead

Many of the comments focused on what the proposals would mean for them, family or friends. People feel that a vulnerable and hard to engage client group would be left with no support, affecting their mental health and making them more at risk of isolation, exploitation and neglect. There is also a danger that people would lose their lives if they don't receive the support they need.

There would be no one to support them or challenge their behaviour. They would be more likely to drop out of treatment as trust and 1-2-1 support is crucial to recovery. This would also put them at greater risk of harm and put other people at greater risk of harm from them.

There would also be a significant impact on families, carers and children and their wellbeing. There is also a risk that family relationships would break down.

The result would be increased use of NHS services and the risk of increased homelessness, anti-social behaviour and crime. As well as the impact on other services it

would also affect the community, as the streets would become more unsafe. This is raised as a particular issue in areas like Hastings and St Leonards.

Professionals have queried whether adult social care teams have the specialist knowledge and capacity required to give this client group the support they need. A number of comments also flag the issue of the cumulative impact of cuts in other areas, such as housing support services (Supporting People) particularly for younger people and young mothers.

Comments such as:

- “We simply cannot leave this client group to fend for themselves. They desperately need help and support. Without this, it can lead to terrible problems including crime, homelessness, mental health issues and suicide.”
- “Less support for individuals and families. Possible increase in substance misuse, offending and unaddressed safeguarding children and vulnerable adults concerns.”
- “Our community is made the poorer. There will be more street drinkers, more petty theft and break ins, more young people and old stuck as users who don't want to be.”
- “The safeguarding currently provided will be significantly reduced, and will be directed to emergency and front line services. The issues by this population of people will not be addressed to the degree that they are at this time, serving to safety net so that more service users go into abject crisis. An inevitable increased in deaths of this client group due to alcohol and substances, self neglect and homelessness.”
- “We will pick up the pieces along with local drug/alcohol services, but it's the individual themselves who will find the path to recovery that much harder to find. You need those services to be accessible for that moment when the individual want to make a change. More barriers to services will mean less success.”
- “Reduction of these [drug and alcohol] services would lead us to have concerns about the impact on carers, including young carers whose caring roles may intensify if caring for an adult previously accessing a service.”
- “Our service users (learning disability) may suffer more disability hate crime or be afraid to independently access our services and the local community as our local area has a high number of people with drug and alcohol dependency. Currently this is fairly well managed but wouldn't cope with cuts.”

Summary of key points: Preparing people if the proposals went ahead

A number of people commented on the savings and the impact and the fact we can't help people to prepare. In terms of helping people to prepare, general points include explaining the national policy context, providing clear information, giving people notice and ensuring people have a safety net.

For existing clients having time to plan a clear exit strategy for ending or transferring support is key, as is having some additional floating support during the transition. Better partnership working is also required to support the process.

Suggestions to support clients and carers through any changes include self-help groups, providing clear online information, providing access to a source of advice, using technology more to support younger people, having specialists in the Adult Social Care

teams and providing information in accessible formats.

Suggestions for supporting organisations through any changes include working with health commissioners, funding workshops, providing information on alternative services and understanding/monitoring the impact of the proposals.

Comments such as:

- “Give 6 months’ notice, to get funding from other sources.”
- “Ensure that the voices of the practitioners are heard in helping configure what would be left to ensure the best outcomes for the clients.”
- “An alternative solution is essential if the face to face provision is to be reduced. Digital models of self awareness and support would be beneficial similar to those used in Australia. Young people are very used to modern day technology and could be encouraged to use this model as part of the reduced service by the drug and alcohol prevention team.”
- “Prepare the police force for the impact of cutting the budget for drug and alcohol prevention services.”

Organisation responses by other methods

The table below provides a summary of comments received by letter and email from organisations about the proposed drug and alcohol prevention service savings. The original documents will be available in Members Papers.

Organisation	Summary: drug and alcohol prevention service proposals
Community Rehabilitation Company	The drug and alcohol service proposals are likely to impact on reoffending rates too.
Wealden District Council	Access to drug and alcohol services is already difficult in rural areas, so any reduction in services would be very concerning.

Group or coordinated client responses by other methods

Group or client group	Summary
East Sussex Recovery Alliance	The group felt that the removal of LASARS was overdue and would improve the service by reducing assessment times. They felt LASARS were a cultural barrier as the workers were less likely to have a history of substance misuse. Some of the group reported that they had previously dropped out during the LASARS assessment due to the time delay.
Inclusion Advisory Group	Increase in substance misuse.
South-East Network of Disabled People’s Organisations	The response notes the fact that people using services may have mental health or physical impairments. Any savings made to the other services are likely to impact on the health and wellbeing and may increase their need for drug and alcohol

	preventative services. They would be at increased risk of crisis.
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What happens next?

The Council's Cabinet will consider the savings proposals for the whole Council at its meeting on 26 January 2016. Councillors are appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader of the Council. The Cabinet must make its decisions in line with the overall policies, priorities and budget set by the Council.

There is a tough planning and decision-making process ahead for elected councillors. They will carefully consider the different views shared in all the consultation and engagement activity that has taken place around the budget.

All surveys, letters, emails and comments submitted to the Adult Social Care budget consultation will be shared with Cabinet as part of the department's savings proposals. We will provide a detailed summary of the consultation results and printed copies of responses will be available for Councillors in the Members Papers.

After Cabinet has made its decision the budget proposals for the whole Council will be considered by all elected councillors on 9 February 2016.

After that, we will share the decisions as widely as possible with partners, providers, voluntary organisations and clients and carers. Nearly 500 people have already asked to receive a copy of the consultation results.

We know that many people who use adult social care services will be affected by the savings we need to make. It will be a difficult time for people who use services, their carers and family, everyone working in the department and all our partner organisations, providers and the voluntary sector. We'll make sure we work closely with you to ensure that any changes to services are managed as sensitively as possible.

Appendix 1: Template survey

Please find below the survey questions for reference.

Q1) Are you completing the survey as...

Please tick one box.

- Someone who uses adult social care services
- On behalf of someone who uses adult social care services
- A carer or family member of someone who uses adult social care services
- A member of the public (go to Q4)
- An East Sussex County Council employee (go to Q4)
- A statutory organisation (go to Q4)
- A provider of social care services (go to Q4)
- A voluntary or charity organisation (go to Q4)
- Other (please explain below)

Please explain:

Questions 2 & 3 are for people, and their carers, who use adult social care and other services.

Q2) How long have you, or the person you care for, been using services covered by our three main areas of savings?

Please tick one box for each row.

Note: Please see the relevant sections of this document for more details on what is covered by the three budget areas below.

	Less than a year	1-5 years	More than 5 years	Not applicable
Supporting People services (See p18-23 for details)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Voluntary sector services that ASC funds (See p24-32 for details)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drug and alcohol prevention services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(See p33-34 for details)

Q3) How long have you, or the person you care for, been using other services?

Please tick one box for each row.

	Less than a year	1-5 years	More than 5 years	Not applicable
Adult social care services For example, receiving home care or accommodation support as part of a planned package of care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sussex Partnership Trust services For example, psychiatric out-patient or community psychiatric nursing visits as part of a planned package of care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Our savings proposals

Q4) How much do you agree or disagree with our main areas of saving?

Please tick one box for each row.

Note: Please see the relevant sections of this document for more details on what is covered by the three budget areas below.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Supporting People services (See p18-23 for details)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Voluntary sector services that ASC funds (See p24-32 for details)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drug and alcohol prevention services (See p33-34 for details)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Why is this?

Q5) Do you have any comments about the other areas where we are proposing to make savings?

Note: Please see the savings proposal table on p10-17 for details.

Q6) Do you have any other suggestions for how we could make the savings?

The following sections ask about each of the proposed main areas of savings. If you don't want to answer any of the questions just leave them blank.

Supporting people savings

This section refers to the services covered on p18-23.

Q7) Which Supporting People services are your comments about?

Please tick all that apply.

- Sheltered housing
- Extra care housing
- Learning Disabilities services
- Mental Health services
- Single homelessness
- Young People at risk
- Refuge service
- Young mothers
- Supported Accommodation and Independent Living Solutions (SAILS)
- Home Works
- Other

If you ticked other please explain:

Q8) Do you have any comments or suggestions about the proposed savings to Supporting People services?

Q9) How would you, or people who are important to you, be affected by the savings we propose to make to Supporting People services?

Q10) If we did go ahead with our proposals, how could we help you to prepare for the impact of the savings?

ASC funded voluntary sector savings

This section refers to the services listed on pages p24-32.

Q11) Which service (or services) are your comments about:

Q12) Do you have any comments or suggestions about the proposed savings to voluntary sector services that ASC funds?

Q13) How would you, or people who are important to you, be affected by the savings we propose to make in voluntary sector services that ASC funds?

Q14) If we did go ahead with our proposals, how could we help you to prepare for the impact of the savings?

ASC funded voluntary sector savings: Mental health services

The mental health services commissioned through the Commissioning Grants Prospectus are jointly funded by Adult Social Care and the local NHS. Adult Social Care needs to make savings of £666,000 from the £1.85 million joint budget for these services. These services are listed on p14-15.

We want to understand which of the services are most important to you. Please use the questions below to rank the services in order of importance to you and everyone who uses mental health services. This will help us to decide how we spend the budget in future.

Q15) Please tell us which of these services is most important to you, from 1 for most important to 5 for least important:

Please write the numbers in the boxes below – you should only rank one service as most important and so on.

Wellbeing centres offering support, advice and guidance in the community

- Employment support to find and keep a job
- Community links to take part in community activities
- Peer support specialists to help people decide on their own recovery pathway
- Service providing support to “hard to engage” and vulnerable people

Why did you rank them as you did?

Q16) Please tell us which of these services is most important to everyone who uses mental health services, from 1 for most important to 5 for least important:

Please write the numbers in the boxes below – you should only rank one service as most important and so on.

- Wellbeing centres offering support, advice and guidance in the community
- Employment support to find and keep a job
- Community links to take part in community activities
- Peer support specialists to help people decide on their own recovery pathway
- Service providing support to “hard to engage” and vulnerable people

Why did you rank them as you did?

Drug and alcohol prevention savings

This section refers to the services listed on pages p33-34.

Q17) Do you have any comments or suggestions about the proposed savings to drug and alcohol prevention services?

Q18) How would you, or people who are important to you, be affected by the savings we are proposing for drug and alcohol prevention services?

Q19) If we did go ahead with our proposals, how could we help you to prepare

for the impact of the savings?

Comments and suggestions

Q20) Do you have any other comments, suggestions or concerns about the adult social care savings proposals?

Thank you for completing the survey.

Feedback

We are aiming to share the survey results on our website by January 2016. If you would like to receive the results directly please provide your details below.

Email or address:

About you – organisations

Q21) If you are completing this survey on behalf of an organisation please provide the following information (you don't need to provide individual 'about you' information as well):

Your organisation name:

Your position in the organisation:

Contact details (optional):

About you – individuals

If you are completing this survey as an individual please fill in this section.

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.

Q22 Are you.....? Please tick one box.

Male

Female

Prefer not to say

Q23 Do you identify as a transgender or transperson?

Please tick one box.

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

Q24 How old are you?

Q25 What is your postcode?

Q26) To which of these ethnic groups do you feel you belong? (source: 2011 census)
Please tick one box.

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White British | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White and Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British other* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White and Black African | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi | <input type="checkbox"/> Arab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Gypsy/Roma | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White and Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British other* | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Irish Traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed other* | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White other* | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British African | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

Q27 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

Q27a If you answered yes to the previous question, 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.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sensory impairment (hearing and sight) | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long standing illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (* please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health condition | |

*** If other, please specify:**

Q28 Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion or belief? Please tick one box.

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Q28a If you answered yes to the previous question which one? Please tick one box.

- Christian Hindu Muslim Any other religion
 Buddhist Jewish Sikh (*please specify)

* Please specify:

Q29 Are you... Please tick one box.

- Bi/Bisexual Gay woman/Lesbian Other
 Heterosexual/Straight Gay Man Prefer not to say

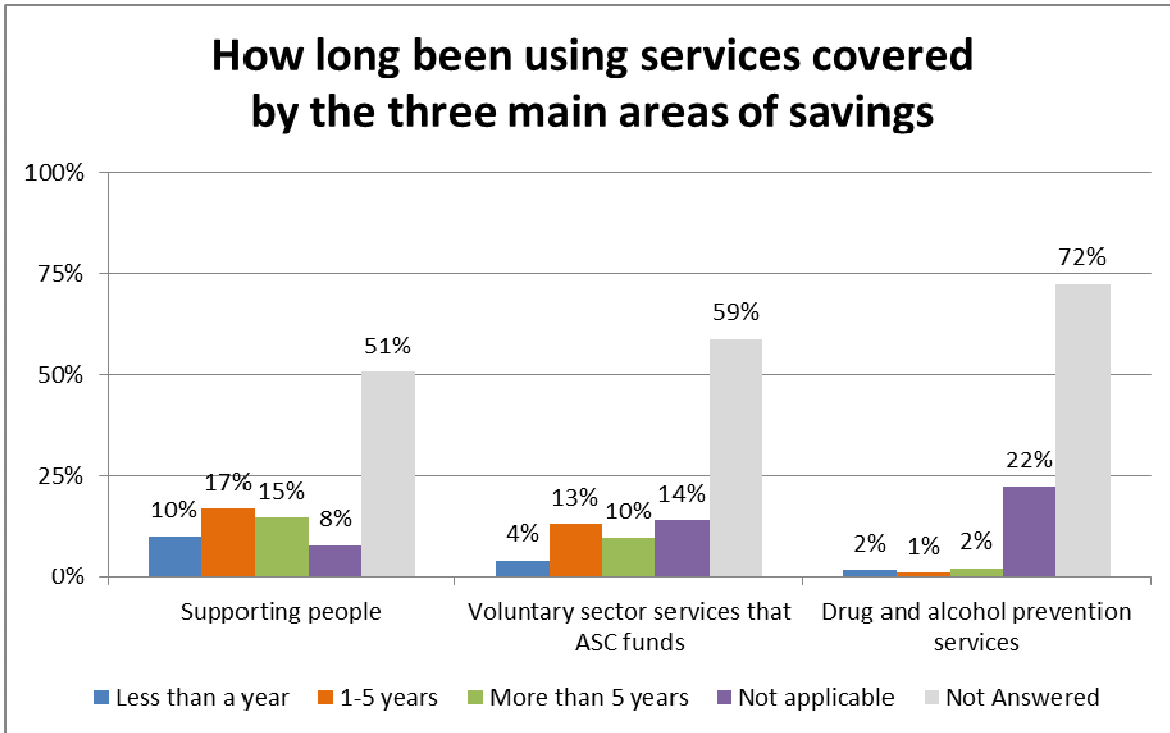
Q30 Are you married or in a civil partnership?

Please tick one box.

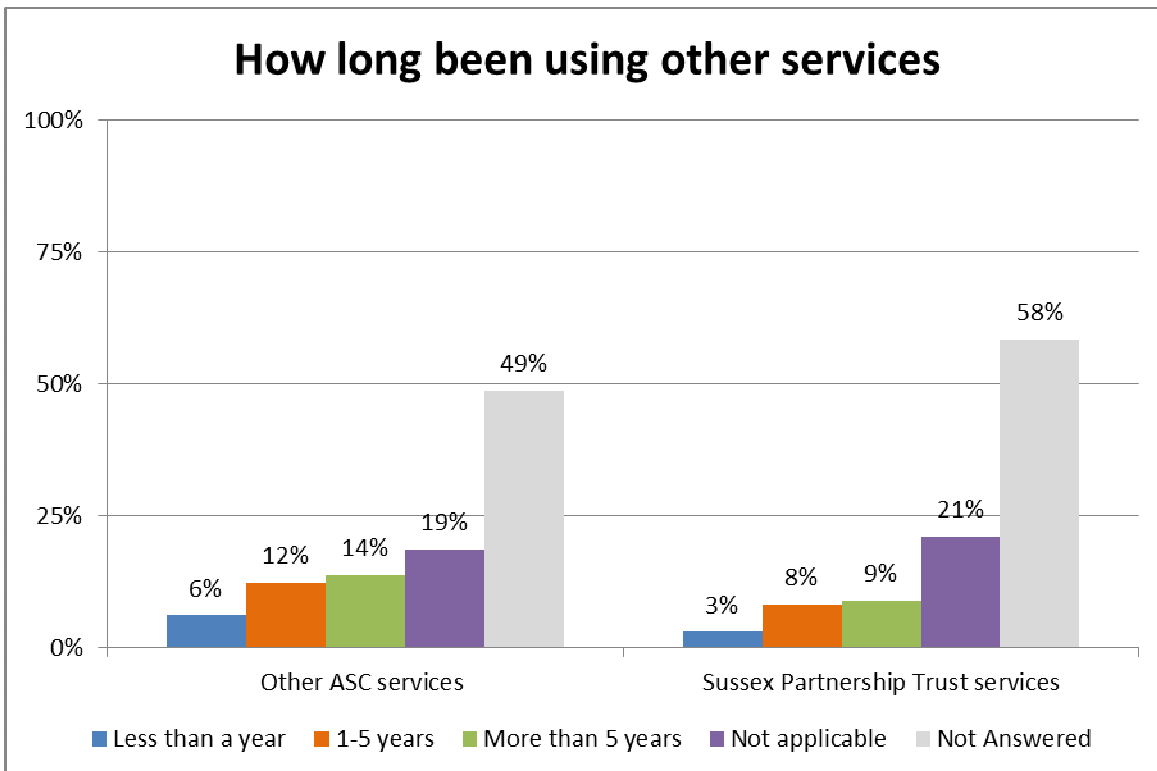
- Yes No Prefer not to say

Appendix 2 – Additional survey data

How long have you, or the person you care for, been using services covered by our three main areas of savings?



How long have you, or the person you care for, been using other services?



Comment themes explaining why people agree or disagree with the proposals

Comment theme	Number of times covered
Commenting on the negative impact on people's lives and the community of removing the services	216
Commenting on the knock-on effect, cost or longer-term impact of removing these preventative services	167
Commenting on the value of services generally or praising particular services	163
Commenting on the pressure that would be placed on other services/budgets by removing these services, eg ASC, NHS, Police and so on	157
Commenting that savings areas affect or target the most vulnerable people	156
Commenting on their personal experience of the services (whether they are a client, carer, family or staff)	135
Other theme (only mentioned by a few people)	82
Commenting that the services that would be affected promote independence and wellbeing	64
Commenting that the proposals would increase homelessness and put people in danger	59
Commenting on the value of mental health services or the negative impact of cutting these services	57
Commenting on the value that Supporting People services provide	56
Raising an equality issues relating to one of the protected characteristics (which are age, disability, race, gender reassignment, disability, pregnancy, religion or belief, sex, sexuality, carers)	60
Commenting on the danger of removing services, particularly in causing deaths or suicides	53
Commenting that they are generally against the cuts	47
Commenting that there is already not enough support for people	39
Commenting that they are against or concerned about the Supporting People cuts	35
Commenting on national issues – policy, austerity, tax, benefits and so on	33
Commenting that the proposals would increase crime and/or drug/alcohol use	31
Commenting that they recognise that savings or difficult decisions need to be made	25

Commenting that they are against or concerned about the proposed voluntary sector cuts	24
Commenting on the value that voluntary sector services provide – eg, they are community based and people trust them more etc	21
Commenting on the role of housing/supported accommodation in supporting people, increasing their independence and helping people in recovery	20
Commenting that they accept or agree with the drug and alcohol prevention service cuts	17
Commenting that the Adult Social Care savings could be open to challenge or are discriminatory	15
Commenting that Council Tax should be increased	15
Commenting that Hastings would be particularly affected	12
Commenting on the value that drug and alcohol prevention services provide	10
Commenting that the impact of cuts is already being felt	10
Commenting that the Council should refuse/resist nationally imposed cuts	8
Commenting that they are against or concerned about the drug and alcohol prevention service cuts	8
Commenting that they accept or agree with the voluntary sector cuts	8
Commenting that the ESCC budget puts too much of a savings burden on Adult Social Care	6
Commenting on the impact on other voluntary sector fundraising of removing ASC funding	6
Commenting on the element of choice with drugs/alcohol but not with old age or impairments	6
Commenting that the Council should save money by cutting bureaucracy, wages and so on	5
Commenting that savings would mean Care Act duties aren't met	5
Commenting about integration and the role of East Sussex Better Together in the context of the savings	4
Commenting that they accept or agree with Supporting People cuts	3
Commenting on the value of referrals to certain services from a professional point of view	2
Commenting that Adult Social Care has not shown it is doing the required risk/equalities assessment	2

Who took part in the survey

Gender

Gender	Respondents	Census
Male	35% (331)	48%
Female	52% (498)	52%
Prefer not to say	3% (24)	N/A
Not answered	10% (96)	N/A

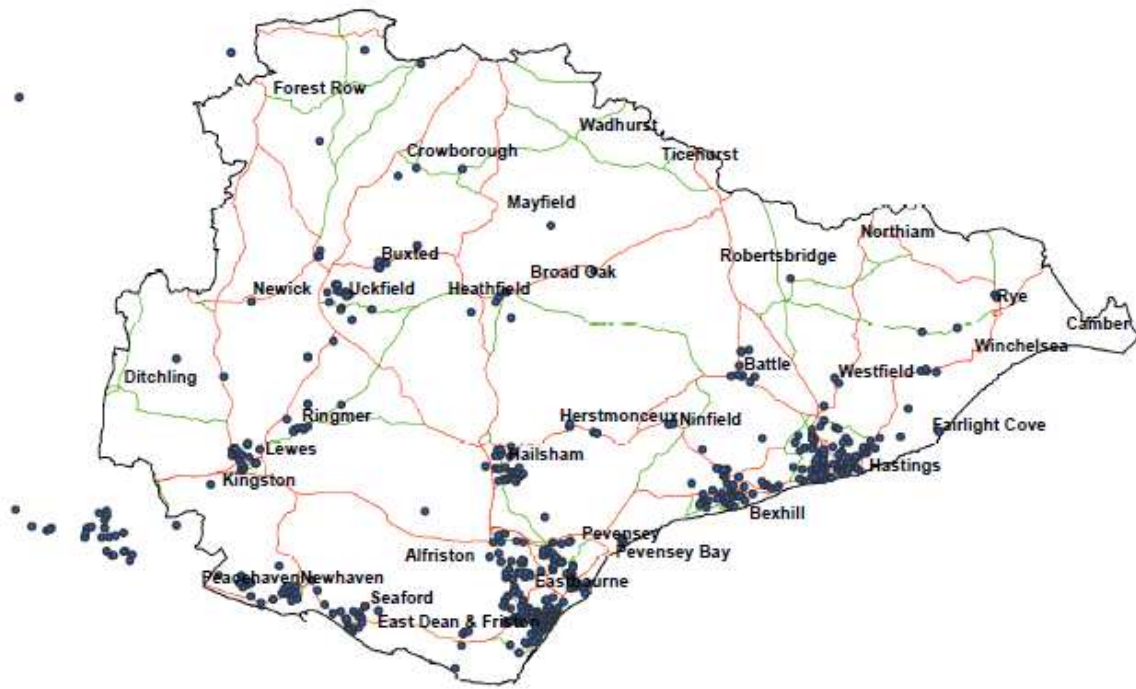
1% of respondents (10 people) consider themselves to be transgender.

Age

Age	Respondents	Census
under 18	1% (11)	19.8%
18-24	8% (59)	7.3%
25-34	12% (94)	9.6%
35-44	17% (133)	12.5%
45-54	20% (154)	14.2%
55-59	11% (87)	6.3%
60-64	11% (89)	7.5%
65 plus	19% (148)	11.2%
Prefer not to say	1% (10)	N/A

Location

The map below shows the post code areas of people who responded to the survey (620 that were in East Sussex and the surrounding area are included). Please note that dots may represent more than one post code.



Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Respondents	Census
White British	77% (726)	98%
White Irish	1% (11)	
White Gypsy/Roma	0.2% (2)	
White Irish Traveller	0% (0)	
White other	2.5% (24)	
Asian or Asian British Indian	0.1% (1)	0.6%
Asian or Asian British Pakistani	0.1% (1)	
Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	0.1% (1)	
Asian or Asian British other	0.1% (1)	
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	0.5% (5)	0.5%
Mixed White and Black African	0.3% (3)	
Mixed White and Asian	0.9% (9)	
Mixed other	0.7% (7)	
Chinese	0% (0)	0.2%

Black or Black British Caribbean	0% (0)	0.3%
Black or Black British African	0.2% (2)	
Black or Black British other	0.4% (4)	
Other	0.8% (8)	0.3%
Prefer not to say	2.2% (21)	N/A
Not answered	12.8% (121)	N/A

Disability

33% of respondents consider themselves to be disabled (311 people).

Impairment type	Respondents
Physical impairment	8% (93)
Sensory impairment (hearing and sight	4% (51)
Long standing illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy	8% (88)
Mental health condition	18% (208)
Learning disability	5% (62)
Other	2% (19)
Prefer not to say	2% (21)
Not answered	52% (595)

Religion

33% consider themselves to have a religion or belief

Religion	Respondents	Census
Christian	30% (282)	60%
Buddhist	1% (6)	.4%
Hindu	0% (0)	.3%
Jewish	0.4% (4)	.2%
Muslim	0.7% (7)	.8%
Sikh	0.1% (1)	0%
Other	3.7% (35)	.7%
Not answered	64.7% (614)	N/A

Sexuality

Sexuality	Respondents
-----------	-------------

Bi/Bisexual	2.6% (25)
Heterosexual/Straight	67.4% (640)
Gay woman/Lesbian	2.1% (20)
Gay Man	1.6% (15)
Other	0.8% (8)
Prefer not to say	10.8% (102)
Not answered	14.7% (139)

Marriage or civil partnership

33% are married or in a civil partnership.

Organisation responses via the survey

The following organisations completed a survey (please see organisation responses by other methods in the main report for responses that came in via letter and email):

- Amicus Horizon
- Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team
- Bexhill Caring Community
- Brighton Housing Trust
- Care for the Carers
- Churches Together Eastbourne
- Clifton Court
- Diversity Resources International (DRI)
- East Sussex Disability Association (ESDA)
- East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre
- East Sussex Young Mothers Service
- Eastbourne Food Bank
- Eastbourne Seniors Association
- EW YMCA
- Ewhurst Parish Council
- Fairlight Parish Council
- Hastings & St Leonards Seniors Team
- Hastings and Bexhill MENCAP
- Hastings and Rother Rainbow Alliance (HARRA)
- Homegroup
- Improving Carers Experiences (ICEPRO)
- Managing Bipolar CIC

- Newhaven Town Council
- Peacehaven and Telscombe Housing Association
- Project Art Works
- Recovery Partners
- SAHA
- Seaview
- Southdown Housing
- Stay up Late
- Sussex Deaf Association
- Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)
- Sussex Police
- Terence Higgins Trust (THT)
- Wealden Residents' Action Group
- YMCA
- Youth at Risk

Appendix 3 – Drop-in events

We arranged five daytime drop-in events. People could attend at any time during the session. There was a video summarising the savings proposals and staff were available to answer questions and help people complete a survey or comment form. At one event the video wasn't working, so a short presentation was provided. Two sessions included a group Q&A on the request of attendees.

A BSL interpreter supported four events: 13 Nov; 26 Nov; 30 Nov; and 3 Dec.

Following a request from a voluntary organisation, we arranged four additional events. These were held in the evening to allow people who work to attend.

The table provides details of all the events.

Drop-in event details and key themes

Time	Date	Venue	Approximate headcount
12-2pm	2 November	Hastings Town Hall	70 people
12.30-2.30pm	3 November	Battle Memorial Hall	28 people
12-2pm	4 November	Lewes Town Hall	70 people
12-2pm	11 November	Uckfield Civic Centre	49 people
11am-1pm	13 November	Eastbourne Town Hall	200 people

6-7.30pm	26 November	Crowborough Community Centre	No take-up
6-7.30pm	30 November	Seaford Head School	3 people
6-7.30pm	3 December	De La Warr Pavilion	10 people
5-6.30pm	4 December	Robertsbridge Village Hall	3 people