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

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

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

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

Why we are consulting

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

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

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

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

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

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

What happens next?

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

We think we can make a reasonable proportion of savings by making changes to how our residential services in the east of the County are provided. We will be working directly with the people who would be affected and their families and carers.

That leaves us with just over £1 million that we would need to save from the services we directly provide such as day services, respite and community support.

**Directly Provided Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross budget 2017/18 (including external funds)</th>
<th>Savings target 2018/19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£8,291,900</td>
<td>£1,170,000</td>
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We had a budget of just over £8 million to spend on learning disability directly provided services in 2017/18. We are proposing to make savings of just over £1 million on these services in 2018/19, giving us a budget of around £7 million.

In previous years, we have been able to make savings without reducing services, but the amount of money we need to save means that is no longer possible. There are no easy decisions, as we know that however we choose to make the savings many people are likely to see a reduction in the support and services they receive.

**We would like to emphasise that no changes will made to services before September 2018 at the earliest.**

The services we looked at in coming up with our proposals were:

- Community support services covering support and supported employment services
- Residential and supported living schemes
- Day services
- Respite services
- Shared lives and supported accommodation
- Central Management support and administration

While we know all these services are greatly valued by the people who use them, we feel that it is most important to protect day services and respite and to continue to provide residential and supported living services. In order to avoid closing down any of our day or respite services, we’ve instead focused on reducing these services.

Choosing to protect these services from the worst of the savings would mean we have to severely limit access to community support services. We’ve also tried to avoid making savings that will lead to higher costs elsewhere, such as cutting access to day services for the independent sector.

The savings proposals set out in this summary are just that: proposals. We want to use the consultation to help us better understand the risks and impact that the proposals would have, and hear about any alternative ideas for making savings.
The current proposals would reduce the amount of money we spend on each service area by:

- Day Services: Just over 10%
- Community Support Services, including supported living schemes and supported employment: Just over 30%
- Shared Lives and Supported Accommodation: 22%
- Central Management and Administration: 16%
- Respite Services: 3%

In addition to the above savings, changes are proposed to the way in which we structure respite services so that we can offer support to a greater number of people.

**Day services proposals**

We think the best way of making savings from day services, but limiting the impact on people, is to close each service for one day a week and limit the number of days that people can attend to four days a week. This would save us money and mean we can keep all our day centres open.

For some people this proposal might mean going to the day centre for less days, while for others it might mean going to the day centre on a different day. We think we have enough space for everyone who attends for four days or less to continue with their current level of service. Any changes to people’s services would only happen after we have looked at their needs.

We have tried to choose days to close the centres when less people attend and we are proposing that we close each centre on a different day so that our skilled and experienced staff may be able to cover different services if needed. (Please note that this information has been amended to remove an incorrect statement about not closing centres on a Monday due to bank holidays.)

We are also proposing to stop the extended day service that runs in Crowborough one day per week until 9pm.

The table below sets out the days when we are proposing to close each service:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beeching Park</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td><strong>Closed</strong></td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hookstead</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td><strong>Closed</strong></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linden Court</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td><strong>Closed</strong></td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Nicholas</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td><strong>Closed</strong></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the buildings are owned or leased by the Council, it is likely that they would be used for other purposes on the days when the learning disability day service wasn’t running.
We have worked hard to improve the respite services over the last few years. Our occupation figures are high and we are providing support to more families since our buildings have been refurbished. We’ve been able to limit cancellations by building a better service. Our proposals in this part of the service would allow us to make a small saving, but they would also allow more people to use the service as we face growing demand.

As a result, we are proposing to lower the cap for the number of days people can use respite services. People can currently use the service for up to 55 nights each year according to assessed need. We are planning to change it to 49 nights per year as a maximum and for those people who have a high level of need

Exceptions to this policy may be possible for limited time periods. For example, where there is a safeguarding need or an urgent situation. We are also proposing to use the community support service to offer at-home respite (see community support section below).

We are also proposing to change how respite is booked. This would allow us to manage staffing better and create equality of access to respite services. It will also make the service more efficient by making full use of all of the available bed spaces.

This would mean being able to book:

- Weekday blocks – four nights from Monday.
- Weekend blocks – three nights from Friday.

Single night bookings would only be available as a last minute booking, within seven days of the requested night.

We have already been working with families towards this aim. The savings we need to make mean that we are now proposing to enforce this policy.

**Community support services**

We consulted a few years ago about charging people to use the community support service where they could afford to pay. At the time, people were broadly supportive of the charge as they felt it would help preserve the service.

Introducing the charge has helped to raise some money towards the cost of running the service, but not enough in the light of the current savings needed. As we are proposing to protect day and respite services, we are proposing to significantly limit access to community support services, particularly support that is offered on a one to one basis which is expensive.

Under the proposals, only the following people would use the service:

- People who live alone and would be at risk without some support
- People who live in accommodation where we are the support provider
- People who are the subject of a safeguarding review or legal intervention
At the moment just over 120 people use the service. If the proposal went ahead, we think this is likely to drop to around 60 people. This would obviously be a big change for a lot of people. We would work closely with people who would be affected and their families before making any changes to their services.

We are also proposing to use the community support team to provide at-home respite support. This would allow us to limit the impact in the proposed reduction to respite services and changes to the booking process. This new ‘outreach’ respite service would be tailored to the needs of the family but would largely involve the person being supported in their own home for up to a few hours at a time. The service would be offered for a time limited period or booked as and when needed rather than an ongoing regular support arrangement. We would like your views on this in order to develop this service.

**Supported employment services (ChoicES)**

We are proposing to close public access to the supported employment service, although we would retain one worker to support people to move on from day services into employment.

We could look at offering access to people who don’t use day services, but we might have to charge for this.

**How to take part**

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

You can visit [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/ascsavings](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/ascsavings) to download or fill in the survey online.

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

Visit the website: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/ascsavings](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/ascsavings)

Email us your feedback: consultationasc@eastsussex.gov.uk

Post us your feedback: ASC Savings Consultation, North A Floor, County Hall, St Anne’s Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE

You can also call us between 9am-12pm Mon-Thurs on: 01273 481 242
### Learning disability directly provided services survey

**Q1) Which of the following services does your family member or the person you support use?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Use now</th>
<th>Used in the past</th>
<th>Not used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Community support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Respite</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Supported employment (ChoicES)</td>
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</table>

**Q2) How much do you agree or disagree with the way we are proposing to make savings?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>No view</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Close each day centre one day a week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cap the number of days people can attend day services to 4 days a week</td>
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<td>Change the eligibility for our community support services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Only offer employment support to day services users</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower the maximum number of respite nights to 49 a year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offer respite breaks in block bookings for the week (4 nights) or weekend (3 nights)</td>
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<td></td>
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**If you wish, please explain why you agree or disagree:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q3) How would your family member or the person you support be affected by the proposals?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4) How would you be affected by the proposals?</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Q5) If you have caring responsibilities for your family member, would the proposals affect your ability to maintain your employment?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Yes □ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please explain:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Under the proposals, only the following people would use the community support service:

- people who live alone and would be at risk without some support;
- people who live in accommodation where we are the support provider; and
- people who are the subject of a safeguarding review or legal intervention.

Q6) What do you think about this proposal for who would use the community support service in future?

Q7) Would you be interested in using the at-home respite service?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Any comments:

Q8) Do you have any suggestions for how we prioritise access to the at-home respite service?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Your suggestions:
Q9) Do you have any suggestions for other ways we could make the savings?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Your suggestions:

Q10) Do you have any other comments about the proposals?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Your comments:

Thank you for completing the questionnaire.
About you

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

Q1) Are you......? Please tick one box.
[ ] Male       [ ] Female       [ ] Prefer not to say

Q2) Do you identify as a transgender or trans person? Please tick one box.
[ ] Yes       [ ] No       [ ] Prefer not to say

Q3) How old are you? ________

Q4) What is your postcode? ________

Q5) To which of these ethnic groups do you feel you belong? (source: 2011 census) Please tick one box.
[ ] White British
[ ] White Irish
[ ] White Gypsy/Roma
[ ] White Irish Traveller
[ ] White other*
[ ] Asian or Asian British Indian
[ ] Asian or Asian British Pakistani
[ ] Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi
[ ] Asian or Asian British other*
[ ] Black or Black British other*
[ ] Black or Black British Caribbean
[ ] Arab
[ ] Chinese
[ ] Prefer not to say

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

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

Q6) Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010? Please tick one box.
[ ] Yes       [ ] No       [ ] Prefer not to say
Q6a) If you answered yes to Q6, please tell us the type of impairment that applies to you. You may have more than one type of impairment, so please select all that apply. If none of these apply to you please select other and write in the type of impairment you have.

- [ ] Physical impairment
- [ ] Sensory impairment (hearing and sight)
- [ ] Long standing illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy
- [ ] Mental health condition
- [ ] Learning disability
- [ ] Prefer not to say
- [ ] Other (* please specify)

* If other, please specify: 

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

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Prefer not to say

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

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

* Please specify: 

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

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

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

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Prefer not to say