

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 summary of all the savings proposals

We will have a gross budget of over £250 million to spend on Adult Social Care services in 2018/19.

The savings proposed here are just that: proposals. The fact remains though that we need to save nearly £10m overall in the department, so if not from one service, it will need to come from another. We also know that we are likely to have to make further savings in the coming years.

We are asking for people's views on these savings proposals:

Service area	Gross budget 2017/18 (including external funds)	Savings target 2018/19
Community based housing support services	£5,684,000	£2,500,000
Accommodation based housing support services	£2,049,000	£800,000
Learning disability directly provided services*	£8,533,000	£1,530,000
Intermediate care and day services at Milton Grange and Firwood House	£5,490,000	£1,232,000
Older people's day centres	£706,000	£59,000
Carers support	£4,056,000	£422,000
Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme (DESSS)	£557,000	£390,000
Stroke Recovery Service	£159,000	£79,000

* We think we can make a reasonable proportion of savings by making changes to how our learning disability 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 learning disability services we directly provide such as day services, respite and community support.

In addition to these savings, there are some proposals that look at reducing management and staffing costs. These proposals would allow us to make savings of more than £2.5 million. We will be consulting directly with the staff that would be affected by the proposals.

Services that aren't included in this consultation process, but have contracts which are due to end in 2018/19, will be reviewed as part of our contract management process.

About the services

Service area	Description
Community based housing support services	These services (Home Works and STEPS) help people who need support to live independently and/or who are at risk of losing their home or who are homeless.
Accommodation based housing support services	This covers accommodation based services for young people at risk; young mums; refugees; single homelessness; and mental health.
Learning disability directly provided services	These services cover: community support services covering support and supported employment service; residential and supported living schemes; day services; respite services; shared lives and supported accommodation.
Intermediate care and day services at Milton Grange and Firwood House	Intermediate care offers short-term residential services to older people who need support to return home after a hospital stay or to prevent older people needing to go into hospital.
Older people's day services	Day centres typically offer daily activities and support with things like personal care.
Carers services	This relates to the carers services that we commission to support people in their caring role.
Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme (DESSS)	The scheme provides emergency help in certain situations with things such as food, utilities and household items.
Stroke Recovery Service	The service supports stroke survivors through: 1-to-1 information and advice; group information sessions; communication support; exercise courses; and six month reviews.