

Briefing note: Update from ESCC re Adult Social Care Proposals

LSP members will recall that at the last LSP meeting we discussed ESCC Adult Social Care Consultation which included, proposed cuts to a number of preventative services and a reduction on the overall budget.

Discussions took place regarding the impact of these proposed changes on local organisations and smaller charities that often provided a lifeline to local people. The LSP agreed a proposed response to the consultation and forwarded it to ESCC.

The Cabinet meeting at East Sussex County Council was delayed from its original date to the 26th of June, Over 6000 responses were received by the county regarding the consultation.

The documents of the Cabinet meeting can be found below:

<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=3353&Ver=4>

Sarah Feather, Policy Manager at ESCC has provided a summary of the decisions for the LSP partnership, as seen below.

Cabinet members made several key decisions about how we will achieve the £17 million of savings across the council which were agreed in February for this financial year subject to consultation. The proposals related to Adult Social Care and the waste service. Extensive consultation with residents, staff and stakeholders has taken place and the findings fully considered by the Cabinet

The agreed budget reductions in Adult Social Care will mean:

- Changes in the way we provide intermediate care beds
- Closing some older peoples' day services and providing the services elsewhere
- Reducing the services available to people with learning disabilities, for stroke recovery services and HIV support
- Reducing the number of people being offered support in their own homes through community support services
- Focusing the discretionary support service for people, which provides emergency funding for people on benefits, on payment of rent in advance
- Staffing reductions in Assessment and Care Management, Strategy Commissioning and Supply Management

Cabinet also agreed to:

- introduce disposal charges for rubble, soil, plasterboard, asbestos and tyres in our Household Waste & Recycling Site
- close the Household Waste and Recycling Sites at Forest Row and Wadhurst and vary opening times at Lewes and Mountfield.

In many instances ESCC are finding new and flexible ways to continue services as well as cutting services. As well as reducing services ESCC are making the most of the resources they have by re-commissioning, introducing charging or asking communities to do more in partnership with us. Cabinet did not take these decisions lightly: they reflect the severe financial pressures on East Sussex. As a council ESCC must set a balanced budget by living within our means, even though we can all agree those means are insufficient to meet the needs of the county's population. ESCC will continue to lobby the Government hard to recognise those needs and to fund the Council so that ESCC can provide the services our residents deserve.

Sarah Feather

Policy Manager

Chief Executive's Office