

Budget Consultation for Carers' Services, Eastbourne 21 March 2018

Consultation: Tamsin Peart – Carers commissioning Manager - Chair
Jennifer Twist – Care for the Carers (CFTC) CEO
Martin Hayles – Assistant Director, Adult Social Care & Health
Teresa Flower – Partnerships Manager, CFTC

In Attendance: Caroline Moyes – ESCC, Annie Mannion – CFTC

Introductions and General Update

Jennifer introduced the meeting and welcomed everybody. A short video was shown to outline the savings proposals – the link to this can be found here: [East Sussex Adult Social Care Budget 2018/19](#)

Martin Hayles gave a further outline and brief about the council savings proposals and consultation opportunities. Tamsin followed this with a presentation on some of the detail, savings proposals and consultation process. This presentation is attached with these notes.

Note: all members of the public can respond to all proposals in a consultation or just the areas they are interested in. For more information and to take part, visit www.eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay the consultation closes on Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

Q & A

Q: What savings do carers make?

MH: There are national estimations of how carers save the NHS money and carers 'prop-up' the health and social care system. CFTC estimate over 65 thousand carers in E. Sussex and this figure is growing, the calculation of savings is based on using average salaries and the average time spent caring, however with lots of factors to take into account it is difficult to give an exact amount.

Q: Is it really a consultation? Have things already changed, staff are moving already i.e. Parkinson's Nurse.

MH: Yes, we are consulting. Staff do move around to maximise resources and the same staff can't always be provided for consistency.

Comment: Must push the government and let Theresa May know of the issues that councils are facing – she said she wouldn't make the cuts.

JT: CFTC are in contact with all MPs in the county and continue to highlight the significant contribution that carers make. Care for the Carers can provide template letters for you to raise your concerns with MPs.

Q: Why has the Alzheimer's Society closed what help is available in East Sussex?

TP: New Dementia Support Service which will start on 1st April. This covers both the services that the Alzheimer's Society is currently providing to support people living with dementia and their carers. The Carers Breaks Engagement Team, based in Adult Social Care, will be providing this service from April 2018.

Q: Are the Carers Breaks Engagement Team voluntary or paid?

TP: Paid.

Comment: My husband has had some bad experiences with hospitals following a brain tumour but he is happy where he is now and I will fight to keep his place especially as he is unable to return home (can advise of his placement after the meeting).

TF: Acknowledged and noted – thanked for sharing carer story.

Q: Why are carers' budgets being refused this year (for budgets that have been claimed in the past)?

TP: The Care Act resulted in a change in criteria and the way funds are allocated to meet as many peoples' eligible needs as possible. You can appeal the carers budget decision if you are unhappy.

Q: Are you challenging Continuing Health Care failed assessments?

MH: Yes, there are joint NHS and ASC meetings held weekly, cases are looked at individually. NHS facing financial deficit pressures and work is underway to consider a single NHS and ASC budget.

Q: What has the feedback been from the petition (Stand Up for East Sussex Campaign) to government?

MH: Generally positive but waiting more responses. 6 thousand people took part in E. Sussex and Becky Shaw (Chief Executive) has been promoting the campaign.

Q: How do people know where the savings go?

MH: Essentially the money is reduced from the council's budgets – there is less government grant.

Q: How is the budget calculated to look at losses?

MH: The Community Care budget is the primary budget – adjusted quarterly and reviewed to establish where the pressures are. The Government is unable to project against trends and demands and want councils to be self-sufficient. The trouble is the East Sussex economy is not as buoyant as other councils. It needs to attract businesses and build infrastructure. Council tax was raised as a result.

Comment: Care for the Carers are so helpful and provide great support.

Q: How can we engage with MPs – we need to challenge the Eastbourne MP.

JT: Stephen Lloyd is a member of the Board of Trustees and we will take forward as a discussion with him.

Comment: Can't close day centres that are really needed for carer respite.

Comment: If the carer loses their support, this will result in more help needed in the future and where will the extra resources be found.

MH: Council members to make decisions on how the money is spent. Cuts will force situations where can't meet need. Increasing pressure - services targeted and caring for fewer people – tightening eligibility criteria with a stronger reliance on the Voluntary sector.

Comment: Important to make sure more carers are identified and their voices can be heard, plus get the support they need. Often carers don't recognise themselves as carers.

Comment: To advertise CFTC using their brochures to leave on cars parked in disabled parking spaces – Morrison's is a good place.

Comment: GP surgery registered as a carer but need to follow up and signpost for support.

JT: Scheme started in April 2018 with GPs to identify carer and record on Medical records. Carers' social prescription goes straight to Care for the Carers

Q: How will the closure of Milton Grange help bed blocking at the hospital?

TP: Important to consult to look and consider a range of other opportunities.

MH: Re-provision may be an option the unit cost at Milton Grange is more expensive than a hospital bed - maybe a combination of other services. People are living longer with complex health conditions and need to aim to support people in their own homes as much as possible.

Comment: to have monthly carers' meeting for people with dementia like the one held at Milton Grange - Care for the Carers can help to establish carers to facilitate groups.

JT: Closure remarks - thank you for your fantastic and inspiring ideas and suggestions. We are in contact with all MPs in the county and continue to highlight the significant contribution that carers make.

Care for the Carers can provide template letters for you to raise your concerns with MPs. There is an additional meeting that carers can attend on the 12th April in Bexhill

MH: Thank you all for your participation, constructive feedback and comments.