

## **Budget Consultation for Carers' Services, Hastings 22<sup>nd</sup> February 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, Debbie Reid - CFTC, 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](#)

Tamsin gave a presentation on the background, 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](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay) the consultation closes on Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

### **Q & A**

**Q:** Is it a £10 million reduction?

**TP:** Yes.

**Q:** Doesn't mention the withdrawal of the Alzheimer's Society Services?

**TP:** Hastings and Rother and Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford Clinical Commissioning Groups tendered for a new Dementia Support Service which will start on 1<sup>st</sup> April. This covers both the services that the Alzheimer's Society is currently providing to support people living with dementia and their carers. The Society chose not to bid to deliver the service. The Carers Breaks Engagement Team, based in Adult Social Care, will be providing this service from April 2018.

**Q:** Will there be a transition from the Alzheimer's Society to the new Dementia Support Service?

**TP:** Yes and you will have been contacted by the Alzheimer's Society to ask for your consent for your details to be passed to the new service.

**Q:** What is meant by voluntary sector providers?

**TP:** Non-statutory and charitable organisations that provide services in the community with paid staff and/or volunteers.

**Q:** What is meant by the Carers Centre and where is it?

**JT:** It is essentially Care for the Carers – the main office centre is in Eastbourne and we provide services across the county. Carers Centre is a term used to describe carers' organisations that provide a range of services to carers including information, advice and support.

**Q:** How can carers' own needs be recognised?

**TP:** Carers' needs including health and wellbeing are included in a carer's assessment.

**Q:** How qualified are the staff that carry out the assessments and is an assessment straightforward?

**TP:** Adult Social Care has a well-trained workforce. Assessments are based on individual carers' needs and will ask a number of specific questions to help establish what needs a carer may have and to look at what might help them in their caring role.

**Q:** Carers save money for the NHS and councils. How have you reached the savings figures, has there been an impact assessment completed and have decisions been made?

**MH:** No decisions have been made and impact assessments are being completed relating to all savings proposals and will be presented alongside the consultation feedback to Council Cabinet Members (decision makers) in June 2018. The budget savings are a proposal and we are consulting to hear the views and ideas of where the priority should be.

**MH:** It is very important that we talk to carers and clients about the savings proposals and collect as much feedback as possible about our priorities, what we could do differently or better and how the money we have available can be best spent to meet as many carers' needs as possible.

**Q:** The Golden Ticket initiative has been endorsed in other parts of the county. But now there are proposed savings, how can this be?

**MH:** There have been a number of areas of search to see where the £10million can be saved. The Golden Ticket is directly funded by the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and not the local authority.

**Comment:** The local authority could work more effectively with better partnership working. An in-house review with a proposal to look at savings on senior managers could be taken forward.

**A:** We are looking at everything as part of the savings plans including Adult Social Care staff

**Q:** A lot of money has recently been spent on Greenwood respite centre providing a hotel experience – was it necessary to spend so much money on one service?

**MH:** All services should be considered within the wider context and carers should be treated the same within the system.

**Comment:** Carers should be treated as active partners and be given the recognition and support they need.

**Comment:** Important to be supported in terms of the needs of the cared for person, that their needs are met and their care not reduced as this also impacts on the carer.

**Q:** SENSE is campaigning for better long term support for disabled people and their families – what is the long term fix? The effect on carers will increase.

**MH:** Agree. We need to campaign to government for long term resolutions. We are engaging at both national levels with the Stand Up for East Sussex Campaign (as shown in the video) also at local level. I advocate for health & social care and will strive to protect

services but the envelope of money to spend has reduced and since 2010 it has reduced by £112 million, we need to be ready for the reality of savings required.

**Q:** Are the equality impact assessments being sent to government?

**MH:** Meetings with MPs continue to take place to state the negative impact that the savings may have. Central government has allocated an extra 1.6 million to East Sussex, it has not yet been decided how this money will be prioritised.

**Comment:** We will Stand up for East Sussex and give our support as carers to the Council.

**Q:** Can you streamline services available?

**MH:** We have begun to make these improvements; an example is Health and Social Care Connect, a single point of access jointly provided by health and social care. We are trying to remodel services where we can but some services may need to stop.

**Q:** Whose job is it to make improvements?

**MH:** We work with our partners, stakeholders, clients and their carers to seek any areas to improve and develop support services however the lack of finance can impact on this.

**Comment:** To have one social worker to build a relationship with, to enable continuous help and support would be better especially for people who have a learning disability.

**MH:** Many social workers move jobs and recruitment to these posts can be difficult. However a social worker may not always be necessary as there are a range of professionals and trades, for example the increase of care co-ordinators. The provision of a whole life disability service continues to be considered.

**Q:** Is the decline in social workers budget led?

**MH:** No, social work can be a stressful job and staff move on or get promoted. It is important is to get the right person at the right time.

**Q:** From the £17 million savings required, why is more that 50% of this being taken out of adult social care?

**MH:** Adult social care has the biggest budget proportionately. ESCC has said it will protect adult social care and children's services as the council's 'core offer'. There is opportunity to campaign to your elected members. The government are set to publish a green paper on care and support for older people, but this may not be until next year.

**Q:** Can a commitment be made to protect the learning disability budget? The review process could be changed to save some money by reducing reviews to every three years.

**MH:** We need to prioritise and protect those with eligible needs. Preventative services cannot be protected.

**Comment:** If the council cut services even by one day a week this be will taking away what people need.

**Q:** What are the cuts on the local economy and can there be more savings made?

**MH:** Cuts to services are happening throughout ESCC. It is important we invest in the local economy to attract more business rates as central government are reducing their grants.

**Comment:** Carers are cheap and give dedicated quality care.

**Q:** Are there any MPs attending the consultation meetings?

**JT:** Huw Merriman (for Bexhill and Battle) is attending the carers' forum on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

**Comment:** Not had a response about my query from Huw Merriman.

**JT:** I will take the details and look into that. 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.

**Comment:** To disseminate more information - meetings like this be recorded and broadcast and streamed as a live feed via social media to reach more people.

**Comment:** I don't agree with the cuts and no longer wish to participate in any discussions that seem to be endorsing the cuts.

**TP:** All the feedback taken from the consultation (meetings, survey & all correspondence) will be used to look at the longer term commissioning plans for carers in East Sussex.

**Comment:** Please can all good voluntary sector services remain as they are and ESCC to support them in any future developments.

**TP:** Legally, the council has to tender for services as a fair and competitive process and to ensure best quality and price.

**Q:** How does ESCC ensure best value for money and to get the best service?

**TP:** When ESCC look at bids they consider quality over price however ensuring best value is important. Contracts are now given over longer periods.

**Q:** What services do you have in mind, are ESCC providing practical support?

**TP:** We do provide these services now but can streamline or provide differently, we don't want to reinvent the wheel. Some providers may bid for same as they provide now.

**Q:** Are contracts coming to an end soon?

**TP:** Yes, end of September and we will know the budget decisions in June.

**Q:** Do you use Hastings Voluntary Action to get information out to the voluntary sector?

**TP:** Yes.