

Budget Consultation for Carers' Services, Peacehaven 06 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, 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](#)

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.

Attendees were given post it notes to write down their views - these have been collated into a table for circulation.

Q & A

Q: Firwood House and Milton Grange are both proposed to close, could one of these centres remain open to reduce the impact on clients? (Chair of the Parkinson's Support Group)

MH: The department management team are aware of some of the different ways to achieve the services both these centres provide. The unit cost of Firwood and Milton Grange are very high and more expensive than acute services. There is an opportunity to consider how the same provision can be achieved in a different way, ensuring people's needs and expectations are met. Milton Grange has a day service and there will be a review of all day services to consider if these services are 'fit for purpose' now and for the future.

TP: Offered to visit the Parkinson's Support Group organisation.

Q: What is an EIA?

TP: The council must have due regard to its Public Sector Equality Duty when making all decisions at council member and officer level. An Equalities Impact Assessment is the best method by which the council can determine the impact of a proposal on equalities and to assess that any changes made do not adversely affect different groups of people e.g. race, disability and age.

Q: How are people's voices heard fairly, how do you prioritise what is important to different people?

JT: Care for the Carers is campaigning alongside carers, colleagues in the local authority, voluntary sector and charities – carers' voices are really important and to campaign for the needs of the person they care for.

TP: If something is important to one carer it's likely that it will be important to other carers. Please use the survey and any other method to express your views, concerns and ideas.

Q: Many services are subsidised by the council, day care at Warwick House, meals and transport for example. Day care is an essential service for my husband and provides good carer respite. Council tax has increased to pay for some of these subsidies, could a further increase be made to help keep services running? Some of us would be willing and able to pay a higher amount for these services.

MH: The council continues to look at ways income can be raised e.g. from business rates, government grant and council tax and this can be politically complex. Different councils are applying different methods for this including voluntary charging, however this would require sign-up from the public which is difficult. 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: I don't agree with further council tax increases as this will negatively impact on low income families. Some carers had an opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament to express their views and concerns as carers, but I feel MPs did not listen and I would like to know how many in government are carers. Carers save the government a lot of money, where does this saving go? It's a false economy as many people will end up in hospital.

MH: Savings go back into the treasury – the money is no longer available and the government grant is significantly reduced. All councils have to make large savings.

Comment: The single access point which is needed is wrongly defined and should be re-named multi-access to find the correct answer.

Comment: Every carer is important. I have been a carer for many years for different family members. I would like to promote the neighbourhood support schemes more. I'm still working but if I become ill that will be two people that need looking after. More thought is needed for the future.

Q: How will the savings impact on respite care?

TP: It is recognised that respite care is one of the most important services. The 'cared for' person is charged for the services they receive.

MH: Respite services including day care and residential care are being looked at to see how much can be delivered and in different ways to meet needs.

Q: How can the council deal with budgets that are already stretched?

MH: People are living longer and often with long term health conditions. Joining with health, East Sussex Better Together for example is one way to look at different models of care especially around preventing hospital admission. Working within communities to build community resilience and support networks.

Comment: There are two issues politically and for local people. Pleased that voluntary organisations work more with the council and other organisations to provide fit for purpose services that have been researched and implemented in an organised way.

Comment: The Royal Voluntary Service is self-funding and does a good job supporting people in the community. Care for the Carers must be doing a good job - need to protect valuable voluntary sector.

Q: Can savings be made elsewhere i.e. bus passes, could the issue of these be reduced and review the people who really need them?

MH: This alongside other savings ideas will all be considered. Some councils have stopped bus passes or are now means tested – the transactions however can outweigh the offer of a bus pass.

Q: What about the heating allowance – could there be savings?

MH: This is not currently changing and is dealt with by Department of Work & Pensions as with most benefits. Nonetheless, these are sound ideas.

Comment: Note that some villages don't have gas and heating schemes are needed for vulnerable people.

Comment: Day care is reducing, this is crucial care and access to respite is important. The Care Act is a mechanism whereby the government can be challenged. Urge people to write to their MPs to protect the social care system. There is a legal duty for the local authority to apply the Care Act in securing funding.

I have a 33 year old severely disabled son who has critical care needs.

I want to fight for the future of social care as we need to protect this system. The Care Act is a 148 page document that I have studied; we need to challenge the government with that. It is a legal duty to apply by what the Care Act has set out. Adult Social Care could refer to it for funding.

I want to protect Care for the Carers as it is such a valuable service.

My son has had continuing health care for 9 years and it was reviewed last year. His needs are a lot more now than they were 9 years ago yet he has been taken off continuing health care because he does not meet the criteria. ASC have now taken on the Health Service costs of £20,000 per month for him. This is not a them and us situation, we are all in it together.

Comment: Day care support is a 'life-line' and I couldn't work without it.

JT: 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.

MH: Thank you all for your participation, constructive feedback and well-made points.