

Title: Reductions to the Supporting People budget	
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Cabinet lead: Councillor Helen Holland	Director lead: Terry Dafter

Idea origin: <i>BCC Staff</i> Date idea generated: 01/02/2017
Decision maker: Mayor Decision forum: <i>Cabinet</i>
Timescales: Decision date – 4 th December 2017 at Cabinet
Purpose of Report: The Supporting People service is required to reduce spend by £1.8m from the revenue budget and this report details the changes proposed to achieve this.
Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations: Cabinet is asked to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. apply a budget reduction of 15% across all current Supporting People funded services with effect from 1 April 2018 2. Note that a coproductive approach will be taken with service users, providers and key partners to shape longer term provision of targeted preventative services for vulnerable adults with effect from 1 January 2019 *
Evidence Base: This report informs Cabinet of the consultation undertaken in relation to the proposed budget reduction to the Supporting people (SP) budget and recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to implement the savings delivery for 2017/18 • to work in coproduction with key stakeholders and system partners to develop new affordable ways to safeguard our most vulnerable people by reducing reliance upon costly and complex services in order to deliver full savings in 2018/19

Revenue Cost: £	Source of Revenue Funding: 12330
Capital Cost: £	Source of Capital Funding: <i>e.g. grant/ prudential borrowing etc.</i>
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Finance narrative: In setting the 2017/18 Revenue Budget a reduction of £1.8m in the funding available to the Supporting People was approved. The reduction of £1.8m was spread over two years, £643k in 2017/18 and the remainder in 2018/19. Due to the type of services funded by the Supporting People budget any reductions in funding had to be carefully considered and consulted upon. The consultation was undertaken from June until September 2017. It was also recognised that the impact of any changes to funding on service users needed to be fully understood. Even with taking this considered approach, the saving for 2017/18 of £643k is expected to be delivered as a result of the recurring underspend in the Supporting People budget. The delivery plans to realise the remaining £1,157k have now been developed. The reduction comprises two elements, firstly a 15% reduction in contract value implemented with effect from 1st April 2018 that will deliver £1,080k in a full year and a balance of £77k delivered from 1st January 2019 delivered through remodelling and recommissioning all existing contracts. There are potential risks in any reduction in services funded by the Supporting People budget where low level services reduced or removed may result in increased costs elsewhere in adult social care and possibly in the health system.

Risks:

Reducing the capacity of services and transition to a longer term support model to target preventive services for vulnerable adults does carry an inherent risk for the council, providers and people. A table of key risks and mitigating actions is included in Section 9.3 of Appendix A.

Legal Consideration:

Consultation - the consultation responses must be taken into account in finalising the decision. The process has complied with the established consultation principles:

- Consultation should occur when proposals are at a formative stage;
- Consultations should give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit intelligent consideration;
- Consultations should allow adequate time for consideration and response;

Cabinet must demonstrate that it has considered the consultation responses, or a summary of them, before taking its decision.

Equality Act - the decision maker must also comply with the Public Sector Equality duty to consider the need to promote equality for persons with “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and have due regard to:

- i) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation
- ii) advance equality of opportunity
- iii) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

In order to do this Cabinet will need to have sufficient information about the effects of the proposed changes on the aims of the Equality Duty. The Equalities impact assessment is designed to assist with compliance with this duty and so Cabinet must take into consideration the assessment and the public sector equality duty before taking the decision.

Sarah Sharland, Senior Solicitor, Legal

Benefits:

The recommendation in this report will contribute to the following key benefits for the City:

- in which services and opportunities are accessible
- where life chances and health are not determined by wealth and background
- getting involved early to reduce reduces the impact of problems later on
- supporting people to live as independently as possible in their community
- fulfilling the statutory responsibility of the city to protect vulnerable children and safeguard adults

Consultation Details:

An extensive public consultation period and an open and transparent approach to fully and actively engage with service users, providers and the general public has taken place in order to inform the options for making budget reductions to Supporting People services.

Appendix B provides the full details of the consultation process and outcomes.

DLT sign-off	SLT sign-off	Cabinet Member sign-off
[John Readman] [18/10/2017]	[SLT] [30/10/2017]	[Helen Holland] [09/11/2017]
Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal		YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external		YES
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny		YES see Appendix B
Appendix D – Risk assessment		YES see Appendix A
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal		YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal		NO – not required
Appendix G – Exempt Information		NO

