

## Appendix 1

### Lewisham Future Programme 2015/16 Revenue Budget Savings Report

#### Mayor and Cabinet 12 November 2014

Housing Select Committee Referral Response – Reduction and Remodelling of Supporting People Housing and Floating Support Services – B1

#### 1. Background

1.1 Housing Select Committee requested further details in relation to saving proposal B1 - Reduction and remodelling of Supporting People Housing and Floating Support Services.

#### 2. Referral

2.1 *The Committee raised concerns about the combined impact of this proposal with reductions in funding for support services across the Council. The Committee recommended that the Council should work in a joined up way to mitigate the impacts of this proposal. The committee believes that available resources should be focused on preventative services, where this is feasible.*

#### 3. Response

3.1 Officers are working hard across departments to ensure that the impacts of these reductions are kept to a minimum. Due to these actions officers are confident that the savings can be delivered with the minimum of disruption to services and service users.

3.2 The risks relating to this proposal outlined in the original paper were highlighted to demonstrate that a full analysis had been undertaken rather than to suggest that these impacts would necessarily be felt as a result of the proposals.

3.3 Further details of the mitigating actions for each of these risks are presented below:

Risk	Mitigation actions
1. Households becoming homeless	The impact of this will be mitigated by targeting the remaining services at those most in need.
<i>Any losses to the floating support service will carry increased risk of</i>	The majority of the reductions to floating support services will be from 1 April 2016.

<p><i>more households becoming homeless</i></p>	<p>During 2015/16 officers will undertake a full review of the provision and consult on the most appropriate access and referral criteria. This is will be undertaken in partnership with colleagues in housing and other frontline services to identify need.</p> <p>The new floating support service to run from 1 April 2016 will have a contract value of c£750,000 per annum which is considered sufficient to provide a service to prevent single people in the borough experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p>2. Impact on statutory services/temporary accommodation/residential care</p> <p><i>Loss of hostel bed spaces will inevitably lead to pressure elsewhere within council resources.</i></p>	<p>Officers have considered this risk carefully when drafting proposals and the savings are designed to ensure that there are very few hostel or supported housing spaces due to the funding reductions.</p> <p>The vulnerable adults' pathway will provide step down accommodation from front line hostels allowing enough throughput for those with the most complex needs to continue to access high level support for longer periods in order to stabilise their physical health and chaotic behaviour preparing them for a more independent lifestyle.</p> <p>In addition to this officers are undertaking a full review of the accommodation support provided to people with Mental Health problems to ensure that this resource is effectively targeted and the most vulnerable individuals in the borough have easy and rapid access to in to prevent admissions to hospital or residential care.</p>
<p>3. Increased risk of safeguarding cases and services failure</p>	<p>In order to protect against reduction in the quality of the workforce, decreased morale and increased staff turn-over officers have rejected wholesale 'salami-slicing' contracts</p>

<p><i>Further reductions in funding my impact on staff quality and morale to such an extent that service users are put at risk</i></p>	<p>and looking for continued savings while delivering similar services.</p> <p>Instead a range of services which are considered low risk will simply be ended and fundamental reviews of floating support and MH services will be undertaken to redesign services and procure new contracts against revised outcomes.</p>
<p>4. Increased use of existing hostels by high needs out of borough clients</p> <p><i>The loss of buildings currently used as hostel accommodation is in itself a significant one.</i></p>	<p>As highlighted above the savings proposals have been designed to ensure that no units of accommodation are lost to the borough. This also ensures that other boroughs do not begin to place high need clients within Lewisham.</p>
<p>5. A rise in rough sleeping</p> <p><i>Numbers of people living on the streets in Lewisham will rise significantly</i></p>	<p>All services are being remodelled to target those most likely to end up sleeping rough or requiring high support services.</p> <p>This includes ensuring that floating support services have effective referrals mechanisms to get to those in need before they lose their accommodation, protecting high support hostels for those that need them and ensuring there is a 'Pathway' of support so services work more effectively and efficiently to move people into independent accommodation.</p> <p>Officers also continue to work closely with a range of service in the borough funded through other sources including the 'No Second Night Out' Hub and the Bench and Deptford Reach outreach services to ensure that all rough sleepers are housed in</p>

	accommodation as soon as possible.
<p>6. A rise in Anti Social Behaviour on the streets</p> <p><i>Anti-social behaviour on the streets in Lewisham may rise significantly</i></p>	<p>Again, the reduction of high support services that often contribute to this type of behaviour have been protected against.</p>
<p>7. Financial Viability</p> <p><i>Remaining services become financially unsustainable for providers and they withdraw from provision.</i></p>	<p>Officers are working closely with all providers to ensure that they are financially viable. There are currently a number of mergers taking place across the sector that will mitigate risk for individual providers and officers will continue to undertake market management activity to ensure that individual cuts do not have a cumulative impact on providers.</p>

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