

Decisions taken by the Healthier Communities Select Committee on Tuesday, 1 November 2022

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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Part A – Items considered in public

A1	Minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2022	That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 th September 2022 be agreed.
A2	Declarations of interest	Cllr Jacq Paschoud declared a personal interest in item 3 as she had a close family member in receipt of a care package from Lewisham Social Care.
A3	Budget Reduction Proposals	<p>The Committee requested that the following comments be referred to the Public Accounts Select Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reducing hours at Lewisham Libraries (COM_SAV_08). The Committee felt that in light of the policy on “Warm Welcomes” it was essential that the impact of the cut to library hours did not contradict the Warm Welcome Policy and that those groups particular effected should be carefully considered before any hours were reduced. 2) Sexual and reproductive health services in Primary Care (COM_SAV_10). The Committee felt that having a £30,000 underspend did not show that the money was not needed and that the outcomes for the service such as Lewisham exceeding the London and national average in use of Emergency Hormonal Contraception and in abortion rates including very high repeat termination rates showed that there was already high levels of unmet need. 3) ASC Empowering Lewisham (COM_SAV_04). The Committee wanted reassurance that the savings listed were genuinely new savings and not double counting savings that had already been promised in previous budget reduction rounds. The Committee requested a report back on the delivery of the work from the Newton Europe Review. 4) Reassessment of Care Plans (COM_SAV_03). The Committee felt the proposal highlighted the importance of the DFG Grant and ensuring it was easy for residents to understand and to apply for grants. The Committee wanted to stress the importance of maximising the spend on the DFG as it was an annual capital grant from central Government and in the past had been underspent. The Committee felt

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		<p>it would be useful to know the previous spends and current spend on the DFG.</p> <p>5) The Committee also highlighted that it was concerned with the implications of the economic context in which the cuts were being taken. The additional pressures faced on residents and the Council from the cost of living crisis combined with uncertainties around the overall budget and financial settlement to local authorities, the Government's Fair Cost of Care initiative, and the Adult Social Care pre-cept coming through to the Council's general fund budget, meant that it was challenging to fully understand all the affects the combination of these and the savings proposals would have on vulnerable residents and to key services.</p>
A4	Proposed changes to Lewisham and Greenwich Trust - sexual health services in Lewisham	That the report be noted.
A5	Proud to Care update	That the report be noted.
A6	Cost of Living Crisis	That the report be noted.
A7	Select Committee work programme	<p>That the report be noted.</p> <p>That following the item on the Budget Reduction Proposals, regarding ASC Empowering Lewisham (COM_SAV_04), the Committee requested a report back on the delivery of the work from the Newton Europe Review.</p>