

Report to:	<b>Cabinet</b>
Date:	<b>26 June 2018</b>
By:	<b>Director of Adult Social Care and Health</b>
Title of Report:	<b>Accommodation Based Housing Support Services</b>
Purpose of Report:	<b>To consider proposals for Supporting People Accommodation Based Housing Support Services</b>

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Cabinet is recommended to:**

- 1. agree to use £404,000 of the additional 2018-2019 Government funding allocation of £1,616,000 to fund Accommodation Based Housing Support Services; and to commission services within the available resource ensuring that priority is given to those with the highest level of need; and**
  - 2. delegate to the Director of Adult Social Care and Health authority to take all necessary actions to give effect to the implementation of the above recommendations**
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### **1. Background**

1.1 The Supporting People programme funds and regulates housing support services that help vulnerable people aged 16 years and over to live independently. Accommodation based services enable people to live independently with on-site support.

1.2. Accommodation based housing support services are provided to people with a wide range of often complex needs including: adults and young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; people who have mental health problems; people with learning disabilities; people with physical disabilities; people with sensory impairments; young mothers; people with substance misuse problems; people who have recently come out of prison.

1.3 The aims of accommodation based support include:

- Provision of a person-centred service that promotes choice and independence
- Provision of a non-institutionalised approach that enables people to live in ordinary housing
- Improvements in service user's health (physiological and psychological) and overall quality of life
- Increasing social inclusion and companionship – both within scheme and with family, friends and wider community
- The prevention of hospital admissions and readmissions
- A greater sense of security for clients, not only within their home, but should they fall ill or require support this is readily available and can be accessed
- Improved access to other support services, tailored to the individuals' needs
- Improvement in life skills and preparing people to transition into mainstream accommodation
- A pathway to independent living arrangements
- Impact on wider family members through knowing the individual is living in a secure environment and the removal of caring responsibilities

### **2. Supporting Information**

2.1 The current gross annual budget for the accommodation based housing support services is £2,049,000. The savings proposal is a reduction of £396,000 to the current annual budget. The original 2018-2019 savings proposal agreed by County Council for the Supporting People accommodation based housing support services was £800,000. Following the allocation of an

additional £1,616,000 government funding for 2018-2019, it is proposed that £404,000 of this additional government funding is used to mitigate the level of savings required against these service, reducing the savings requirement to £396,000.

2.2 Based on the level of risk and complexity of need supported by the accommodation services, it is proposed that the funding reduction of £396,000 will be made equally across the five service areas: Domestic abuse; Homeless; Mental Health; Young People and Young Mothers.

2.3 All services are short term (with stays of usually less than 12 months) and have been procured via competitive tendering. There are 287 units (bed spaces) accommodated in 22 buildings. The average unit cost is £7,139 per annum or £137 per week. Service providers are also the landlord and collect weekly rents and service charges to cover the cost of accommodation and housing management activities. All providers have made efficiency savings in recent years. To ensure sustainability of service provision, savings will be released by negotiation with current providers and, where contract status and EU procurement rules require, via a competitive tender process.

2.4 In East Sussex there are a total of 287 accommodation based housing support units which provide support for people with different needs. This portfolio of accommodation based services includes six services for young people, three for young mothers, three for homeless people, three for homeless people with mental health issues and five for women at risk of domestic violence. Appendix 1 provides additional information in respect of the services, outcomes achieved and client profiles

2.5 A summary of the number of units (or beds) by area and by service area is shown in the table below:

Local Authority area	Total number of units by service area					
	Domestic Abuse	Homeless	Mental health	Young people	Young mothers	Total
Hastings	10	31	12	19	11	83
Eastbourne	9	9	19	57	5	99
Lewes	6	0	0	37	5	48
Rother	12	0	12	13	0	37
Wealden	10	0	0	10	0	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>287</b>

## 2.6 Women at risk of domestic violence

- The service offers temporary refuge accommodation to women aged 16 and over, with or without non adult dependents, who are experiencing domestic violence.
- There are 47 domestic abuse beds currently provided in five refuges located across East Sussex. The service is delivered by the national charity Refuge.
- In 2016-2017 131 women and 181 children received a refuge service in East Sussex. In accordance with best practice the bed spaces are available to all women and their children escaping domestic abuse; as a rule, women will not be placed within their immediate local area as this is usually where they are most at risk.
- In East Sussex any voids in local refuges are initially held for local women for 48 hours. In 2016-2017 39% of women using the refuges were from East Sussex. Voids in East Sussex are usually less than 3% annually.

- 2.7 **Homeless people**
- The service provides accommodation and support to clients who have been homeless or at risk of homelessness and who have a range of vulnerabilities including health inequalities.
  - The 40 homeless beds are currently provided in three properties situated in Hastings and Eastbourne and delivered by the registered provider Sanctuary Supported Living. 78 people of working age received a service during 2016-2017. Referrals are from the local housing authority. Voids are less than 3% annually.
- 2.8 **Mental health**
- All clients have been homeless or at risk of homelessness and have poor mental health as well as having a range of other complex needs.
  - The 43 mental health and homeless beds are currently provided in three properties situated in Hastings Eastbourne and Rother. Two services are delivered by the registered provider Sanctuary Supported Living and one by Family Mosaic. 72 people of working age received a service during 2016-2017.
  - Referrals are from the local housing authority and mental health professionals. Voids are less than 3% annually.
- 2.9 **Young people**
- These services provide accommodation and support to vulnerable young people who are at risk of being homeless or isolated. The services provide a move-on pathway from the “crash pads” funded by ESCC via Corporate Transformation Funding to address the emergency needs of 16-25 year old care leavers and homeless young people aged 16-17.
  - The 136 young people beds are currently provided in six services (11 properties) situated in each of the district and boroughs. The services are provided by Sanctuary Supported Living, Brighton Housing Trust (BHT), Salvation Army Housing Association (SAHA), Downslink YMCA and the Home Group. In 2016-2017 321 young people received a service. Over the last five years 179 homeless 16 and 17 year olds and 130 Care Leavers have received a service. Voids are less than 6% annually.
- 2.10 **Young mothers**
- These services provide accommodation and support for vulnerable young mothers aged 16 to 25. Three properties situated in Lewes, Eastbourne and Hastings provide 21 beds for young mothers, managed by the Salvation Army Housing Association. In 2016-2017 29 young mothers and their children received a service. Voids are less than 3% annually.

### **3. Consultation Summary**

- 3.1 A ten week public consultation ran from 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018. In addition to an on-line survey, a series of consultation meetings have taken place with clients and key stakeholders. A total of 300 surveys and comments were received about accommodation based housing support services from people during the consultation period.
- 3.2 Overall, across all accommodation based housing support services, people disagreed with the proposals to cut funding to accommodation based housing support services. They said there is a need for these services and they should get more funding, not less.
- 3.3 Across all services people said that the people who use these services are some of the most vulnerable in society. They said reducing or cutting these services would have a big negative impact

and be more expensive in the long term as people needed more expensive support or more involvement from other statutory services, such as the NHS, Police, and housing services.

- Across all services, people said they could, or would have been, homeless if this service wasn't available. Many also said they don't know what they would have done without it
- For young people, people said there aren't housing options for under 18s and reducing or cutting the service would put people at risk of suicide
- For young mums, people are concerned that people will be offered or have to live in temporary B&B accommodation which is unsafe for young children
- For single homeless, people said reducing or cutting the service would mean people are more likely to end up in prison or they might die
- For mental health, people said they would probably have had to stay in hospital for longer or would have ended up back in hospital
- For refuges (domestic abuse), people said they would have been forced to stay living with their abuser if the service hadn't been available. Reducing or cutting the service would put people at risk of serious harm and at risk of suicide

3.4 A consultation report is provided at Appendix 2. A full set of consultation responses is in the Cabinet and Members' Rooms, and Members should consider these prior to the meeting.

#### **4. Changes to Service Provision**

4.1 In order to operate the service within the budget agreed by Council it will be necessary to proceed with the proposals set out in this paper. Future service delivery will continue to be aligned to support the different needs set out in paragraph 2.2 above. The way services are delivered may need to change but there is no plan to withdraw fully from any of the service areas already being supported. It is envisaged that the consequential reduction in funding will be applied equally across each service area. We will work with current providers to support the provision of the accommodation and the delivery of a housing management service. The services will need to focus on those most at risk of destitution and those for whom there is a statutory duty to provide. Irrespective of the resulting geographic location of the re-modelled services, they will be available to all East Sussex residents (and people from outside of the county for domestic abuse accommodation services).

4.2 Key stakeholders including District and Boroughs and Children's Services will be involved with the service redesign. The same number of accommodation based housing units cannot necessarily be offered with a £396,000 budget reduction. Although we will work closely with current providers to prevent service closure it is likely that we will see change to the way some services are delivered.

4.3 It is not possible to quantify the number of clients who would be directly affected by the reduction in spend on the service. The service remodelling which will take place across all services within a reduced budget which will determine the future level of service provision and the number of units (beds) across the different service areas.

4.4 The reduction in budget does mean fewer bed spaces can be funded and therefore less will be available for this cohort of clients. However the use of £404,000 from the additional one-off 2018/19 government funding to mitigate the reduction across the 287 units means the average weekly deficit per unit has reduced from £53.60 to £26.53. Opportunities for alternative funding will be sought to cover the reduction in funding.

#### **5. Impact of delivering the proposed service changes**

5.1 In considering the proposals in this report, Cabinet Members are required to have 'due regard' to the duties set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the Public Sector Equality Duty). Equalities Impact assessment (EqIAs) are carried out to identify any adverse impacts that may arise as a result of the proposals for those with protected characteristics and to identify appropriate mitigations. A summary of the key impacts from the EqIA can be found at Appendix 3 and the full

version of relevant completed EqIAs have been placed in the Members' and Cabinet Room and are available on the [Cabinet](#) pages of the County Council's website. They can be inspected upon request at County Hall. Members must read the full the EqIAs and take their findings into consideration when determining these proposals.

5.2 The impact assessment was based on the service changes needed to give effect to a budget reduction of £800,000. Key impacts identified through the EQIA include:

- an increase in youth homelessness and young people living in unsafe environment with an increase in the risks associated with young people who have nowhere to go:
  - physical, emotional, financial and sexual exploitation
  - self-harm and harm from others
  - youth offending
- an increase in the number of women and children fleeing domestic abuse living in unsafe environments
- an increase in women and children staying with abusive partners with the associated risk of hospitalisation and homicide
- An increase in street homelessness and risk of suicide and death on the streets
- Increase in need for safeguarding, mental health services and primary health services

5.3 The impact of a mitigated budget reduction of £396,000 on service delivery for future clients is still significant but would reduce the impact on clients and services and therefore there still may be, albeit reduced, a negative impact on clients and service provision.

5.4 If the mitigation is agreed, the impact on other service providers is likely to reduce. Other service providers who are likely to be affected are: Children's Services within the County Council; District and Borough Councils; health services; mental health services; Police and substance misuse treatment services. The newly introduced Homelessness Reduction Act is designed to ensure housing authorities take all reasonable steps to prevent people from becoming homeless and they have a legal duty to provide meaningful support. However, there are likely to be challenges around the provision of suitable temporary accommodation, particularly for young people.

5.5 The impact on some current clients of needing to move out of their current accommodation can be mitigated by ensuring providers have time to source alternative accommodation. The needs of all clients will be reviewed by current providers and those ready to move into different accommodation within four months will be identified and a related action plan agreed. We will work with providers to ensure no one has to move on before they are ready and that clients move to an appropriate housing solution. Home Works currently support clients moving on from the accommodation based services and, despite the proposed savings to Home Works, this cohort will be prioritised and supported by Home Works when they move to more independent housing.

5.6 It is not possible to quantify how many staff members will be directly affected by the proposed savings. However a reduction in funding of £404,000 will have an impact on staffing levels and is likely to result in redundancies.

## **6. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendations**

6.1 The accommodation based services within this report provide support to a range of vulnerable adults and younger people with multiple support needs. Demand for the services is high and the unit costs represent good value for money.

6.2 The proposal to utilise £404,000 of the additional £1,616,000 to fund Accommodation Based Services is based upon the vulnerabilities and complexity of need, in addition to the need for accommodation and support, presented by clients accessing the services. The impact of reducing the

budget by the original £800,000 would have resulted in the closure of some services. The impact of the £404,000 mitigation has significantly reduced this risk.

6.3 The recommendation to proceed with the proposals set out in this report is in line with the strategic priorities of East Sussex County Council but will be delivered with less resource. The Council is no longer in a position to continue providing the same level of service or capacity in terms of units (beds) of support. Over time, the reduction in service provision will increase pressure on other care services.

**KEITH HINKLEY**  
**Director of Adult Social Care and Health**

Contact Officer: Jude Davies, Strategic Commissioning Manager  
Lead Member: Councillor Maynard  
Local Member: Countywide services

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Appendix 1: Service profiles  
Appendix 2: Consultation report  
Appendix 3: Equality Impact Assessment summary

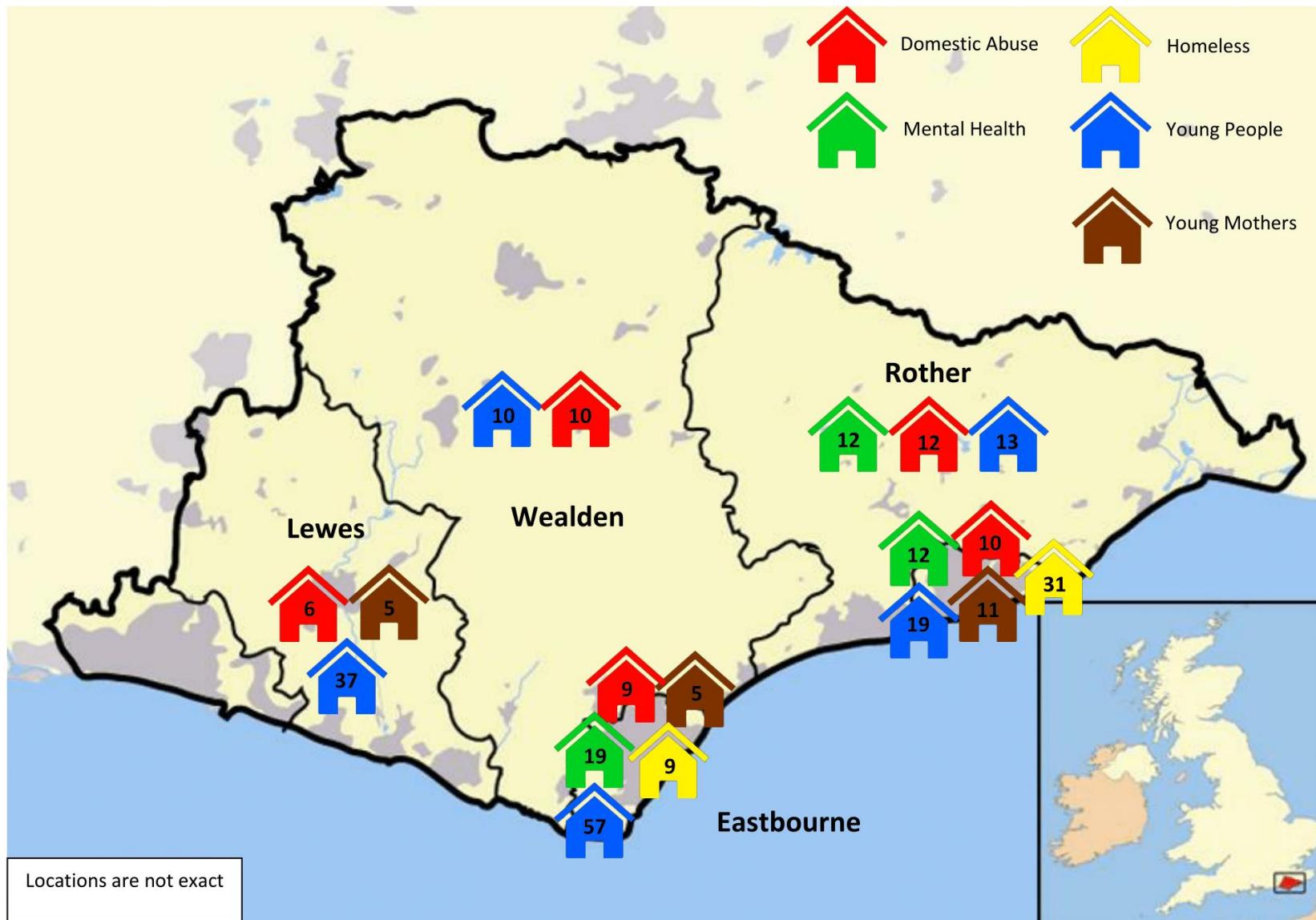
## **Appendix 1 Accommodation Based Housing Support Services**

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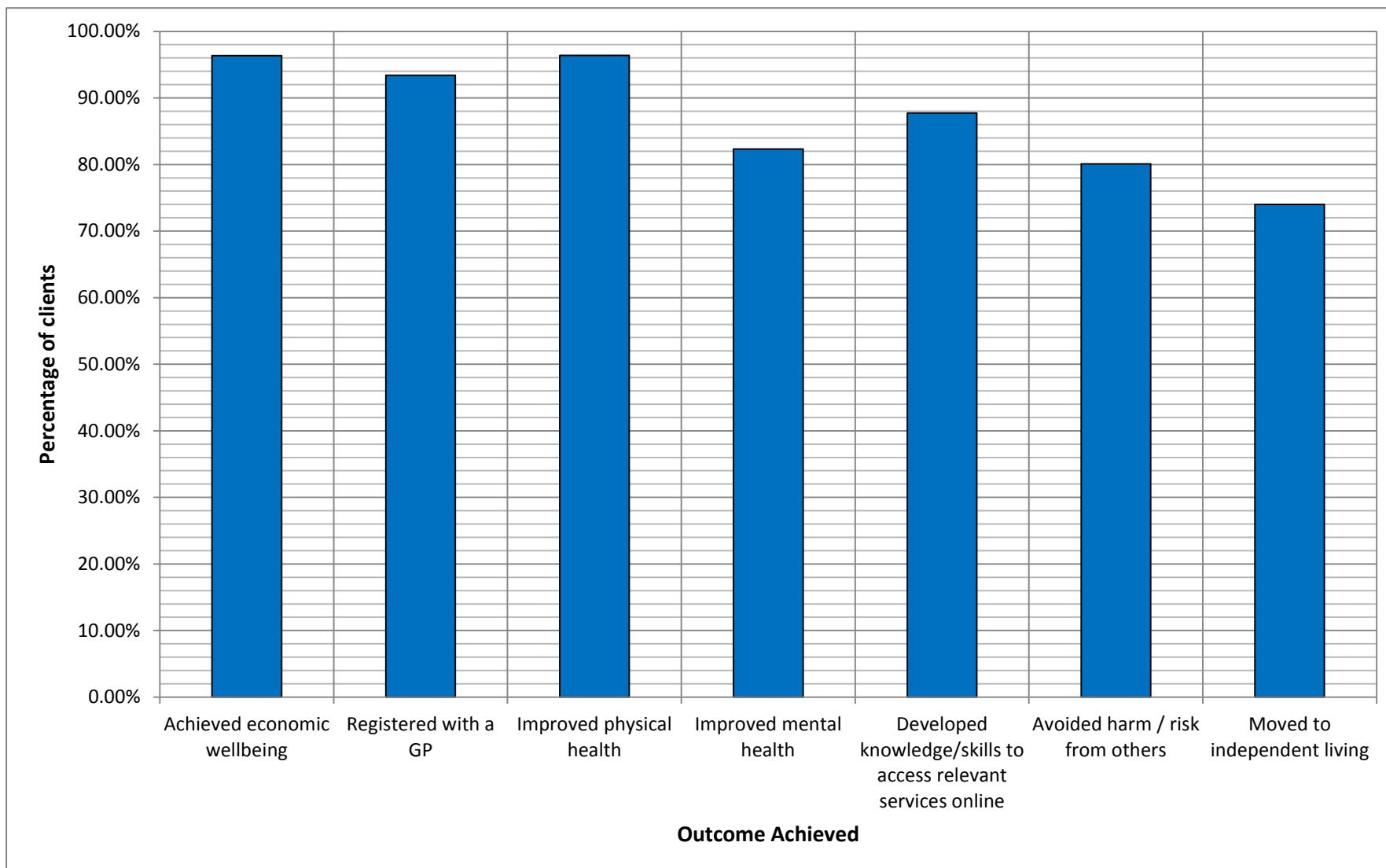
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**Map 1: Location of 287 units of accommodation based housing support**



**Chart 1: Wellbeing outcomes achieved by those leaving accommodation based services (2016/17)**



**Table 1: Homeless Services – Client Profile**

This data refers to 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

<b>Total number of units</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Total number of new clients</b>	<b>39</b>

<b>Age of new clients</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
16 - 44	32	82%
45 - 64	7	18%

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Female	14	36%
Male	25	64%

<b>Sexuality</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bisexual	2	5%
Gay man	1	3%

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White British	38	97%
White Other	1	3%

<b>Mental Health Needs</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Anxiety	2	5%
Bipolar	4	10%
Depression	17	44%
Personality Disorder	4	10%
Schizophrenia	2	5%

<b>Housing Situation at referral</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bed + Breakfast	10	26%
Insecurely Housed	16	41%
Sleeping Rough	9	23%
Prison	1	3%
Own home	2	5%
Supported lodging	1	3%

**Table 2: Domestic Abuse Refuges – Client Profile**

This data refers to 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

Total number of units	47
Total number of new clients	130

Age of new clients	Total number	Percentage
16 - 44	104	80%
45 - 64	25	19%
65 - 74	1	1%

Gender	Total number	Percentage
Female	130	100%

Sexuality	Total number	Percentage
Bisexual	4	3%

Ethnicity	Total number	Percentage
White British	112	86%
White Other	3	2%
Mixed Heritage	7	5%
Romany	2	1%
Black British	3	2%
Asian	2	1%

Mental Health Needs	Total number	Percentage
Anxiety	10	8%
Bipolar	1	1%
Depression	7	5%
Personality Disorder	5	4%

Housing Situation at referral	Total number	Percentage
Bed + Breakfast	4	3%
Insecurely Housed	15	12%
Sleeping Rough	4	3%
Hospital	1	1%
Own home	49	38%
Supported lodging	13	10%
Other Accommodation	44	34%

**Table 3: Mental Health Services – Client Profile**

This data refers to 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

<b>Total number of units</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Total number of new clients</b>	<b>30</b>

<b>Age of new clients</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
16 - 44	25	83%
45 - 64	5	17%

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Female	9	30%
Male	20	67%
Transgender	1	3%

<b>Sexuality</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bisexual	2	7%
Lesbian	2	7%

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White British	27	90%
White Irish	1	3%
Mixed Heritage	1	3%
White Other	1	3%

<b>Mental Health Needs</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Anxiety	3	10%
Bipolar	2	7%
Depression	5	17%
Personality Disorder	10	33%
Schizophrenia	10	33%

<b>Housing Situation at referral</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bed + Breakfast	6	20%
Insecurely Housed	13	43%
Sleeping Rough	2	7%
Hospital	6	20%
Own home	3	10%

#### **Table 4: Young Mothers Services – Client Profile**

This data refers to 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

<b>Total number of units</b>	<b>21</b>	
<b>Total number of new clients</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>Age of new clients</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
16 - 44	29	100%
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Female	29	100%
<b>Sexuality</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bisexual	1	3%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White British	28	96.5%
Mixed Heritage	1	3.5%
<b>Mental Health Needs</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Anxiety	9	31%
Depression	4	14%
<b>Housing Situation at referral</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bed + Breakfast	3	10%
Insecurely Housed	24	83%
Sleeping Rough	1	3.5%
Own home	1	3.5%

**Table 5: Young People Services – Client Profile**

This data refers to 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

<b>Total number of units</b>	<b>136</b>	
<b>Total number of new clients</b>	<b>183</b>	
<b>Age of new clients</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
16 – 44	183	100%
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Female	73	40%
Male	109	59.5%
Transgender	1	0.5%
<b>Sexuality</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bisexual	4	2%
Lesbian	3	1.5%
Gay Man	7	4%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White British	169	92%
White Other	2	1%
Mixed Heritage	6	3%
Asian	1	1%
Black British	1	1%
Romany	4	2%
<b>Mental Health Needs</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Anxiety	38	21%
Bipolar	3	1.5%
Depression	41	22%
Personality Disorder	13	7%
<b>Housing Situation at referral</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bed + Breakfast	14	8%
Insecurely Housed	116	63%
Sleeping Rough	22	12%
Hospital	2	1%
Own home	18	10%
Prison	1	0.5%
Residential home	3	1.5%
Supported Lodging	7	4%



# ASC savings consultation 2018

## Accommodation based housing support services



**Date:** June 2018

### Document summary

Results from the ASC savings consultation carried out between February and April 2018, focusing on the Accommodation based housing support services

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## About this document:

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## **Background**

The Council agreed its budget for 2018/19 at its meeting on 6 February. It will see the Council make savings of £17 million. This includes a budget reduction for Adult Social Care and Health of nearly £10 million.

We used the consultation to ask for people's views on how we are proposing to make the savings. Shortly before the consultation launched, the Government announced some extra funding for social care provision. No decisions have been made yet on how the Council will spend the £1.6 million it will receive.

This report is about the savings proposals for accommodation based housing services. We are proposing to make a saving of £800,000 from a budget of just over £2 million.

The Council's Cabinet will consider recommendations, the consultation results and Equality Impact Assessments at its meeting on 26 June. All responses received in the consultation will be presented in Members Papers.

## **Summary**

This section provides a summary of the key themes and activity from the consultation. You can find the full results in the appendices.

We consulted on our savings proposals for accommodation based housing services between 15 February and 25 April 2018.

## **Respondent numbers and response methods**

The table below shows the different ways that respondents shared their views. Some people may have taken part more than once.

<b>Method</b>	<b>Volume</b>
Survey for people who use services (Paper and online)	142
General survey about the savings (Paper and online)	101
Other feedback (Email, letter, call, video, feedback form)	Indiv: 44 Org or group: 13
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>300</b>

## **Key messages**

These key messages reflect the feedback received from organisations, groups and individuals across surveys and other feedback such as emails and letters.

### **All accommodation based services**

- Residents across all of the services say that feeling safe is one of the most important things it does for them.
- Across all services, people disagreed with the proposals to cut funding. They said there is a need for these services and they should get more funding, not less.
- People said that the people who use these services are some of the most vulnerable in society.
- The proposed level of cuts is likely to make the existing services unsustainable.
- They said reducing or cutting these services would have a negative impact and be more expensive in the long term as people needed more expensive support or more involvement from other statutory services.
- Vulnerable people would be put at increased risk of exploitation, harm, and suicide.
- Across all services, people said they could, or would have been, homeless if this service wasn't available. Many also said they don't know what they would have done without it.
- Across all services, people talked about the role the services play in helping people to turn their lives around and live independently.
- Organisations said these accommodation based services are essential in helping people to develop tenancy readiness skills.
- Organisations suggest closer partnership working across statutory services to maximise efficiency in service provision and devolving commissioning for these services to the local level so they can be better targeted.

### **Young people at risk**

- The service helps people to become independent and choose their own future. There aren't housing options for under 18s.
- Organisations say would increase the demand on housing services and the Police, particularly in terms of the impact on the ability of the Police and partners to disrupt exploitation of young people by organised crime groups.
- Reducing the services would increase sofa surfing, and the number of people sleeping rough, and could lead to preventable deaths.

- Reducing the services would impact on care leavers.

### **Young mums**

- People are concerned that in future people would be offered, or have to live in, temporary B&B accommodation which is unsafe for young children.
- Without the service people won't be able to fulfil their potential and it would increase the need for foster care placements.

### **Single homeless**

- Reducing or cutting the service would mean people are more likely to end up in prison or dead.
- Organisations said that spaces are already limited and this is an essential service.

### **Mental health**

- People said they would probably have had to stay in hospital for longer or would have ended up back in hospital.
- Organisations said that spaces are already limited and this is an essential service.
- It would limit housing options and increase the revolving door for mental health and hospital services.

### **Refuges**

- People said they would have been forced to stay living with their abuser if the service hadn't been available.
- Reducing or cutting the service would put people at risk of serious harm and at risk of suicide.
- Services already fall short and any savings mustn't put provision at risk or make changes to staff levels that put lives at risk.
- Reductions in services would impact on Children's Services and the need for services.

## Summary of themes by response method

### Young people and young mums survey

#### Young people at risk accommodation services

*Most helpful about the service:* Feeling safe; the day to day interactions with staff; key work sessions; and moving on plans.

*Support that has made the biggest difference to living independently:* Support to better manage their mental health and emotional wellbeing; and support to maximise their income.

*Where they would have gone for accommodation and support:* Over half of the people who answered the question said they could, or would have been, homeless if this service wasn't available. Other key themes included the fact that there aren't any other housing options if you are under 18 years old, while a few people said they would be dead or at risk of suicide without the service.

*Any other comments:* People disagreed with the proposal to cut the funding for this service and said that there is a need for it. They say people would be put at risk if the service isn't available and they won't have the support they need to change their life.

#### Young mums accommodation services

*Most helpful about the service:* There was a fairly even split in the options people chose, although the top ones were: feeling safe; day-to-day interactions with staff; involvement in social activities; and key work sessions.

*Support that has made the biggest difference to living independently:* Support to maximise their income; and support to better manage their mental health and emotional well being

*Where they would have gone for accommodation and support:* They don't know what they would have done if the service wasn't available, while others said they could, or would have been, homeless. Other key themes included being placed in, offered, or concerned about having to live in unsuitable and unsafe temporary accommodation.

*Any other comments:* People praised the service and said there is a need for it. People talked about the fact the that service had given them the chance to have a better life in the long term.

### Homeless and mental health and homeless survey

#### Single homeless

*Most helpful about the service:* The things people found most helpful were: key work sessions; feeling safe; and day-to-day interactions with staff.

*Support that has made the biggest difference to living independently:* Support to better manage their mental health and emotional wellbeing; and support to maximise their income.

*Where they would have gone for accommodation and support:* Over half of the people who answered the question said they could, or would have still been, homeless if this service wasn't available. People said they probably would have ended up in prison or wouldn't be alive if the service hadn't been available.

*Any other comments:* People said there is a need for this service and it is increasing. They disagreed with the proposals to cut funding for the service, saying it needs more funding not less. They praised it, saying it saves lives.

## **Mental health**

*Most helpful about the service:* The things people found most helpful were: feeling safe; key work sessions; and day-to-day interactions with staff.

*Support that has made the biggest difference to living independently:* Support to better manage their mental health and emotional wellbeing; support to maximise their income; and support to avoid harm from others.

*Where they would have gone for accommodation and support:* Nearly half of the people who answered the question said they could, or would have still been, homeless if this service wasn't available. People said they would have had to stay in hospital for longer or would have ended up back in hospital if the service hadn't been available.

*Any other comments:* People disagreed with the proposal to cut funding for this service, saying it needs more funding not less. They were concerned about how they and other people who need this service would be affected by any cuts.

## **Refuges survey**

*Most helpful about the service:* The things people found most helpful were: feeling safe; key work sessions; and day-to-day interactions with staff.

*Support that has made the biggest difference to living independently:* Support to avoid harm from others; and support to better manage their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

*Where they would have gone for accommodation and support:* They would have had to stay living with their abuser or would have had nowhere to go. This could have meant they ended up homeless or at risk of serious harm or risk of suicide if the service hadn't been available.

*Any other comments:* People said the service saves lives. People would be forced to stay living with their abuser and would struggle to get the help needed without specialist services like this.

## **General survey**

### Views on the proposal

- The people who use these services are some of the most vulnerable people in society.
- The proposals would affect people's ability to maintain or find appropriate accommodation.
- They would impact on young people.
- Cutting funding for these services would be more expensive in the long term, as people would end up using more expensive services or needing to access other statutory services more such as the NHS, Police and housing services.
- People are unhappy or angry about the proposal.

### The impact of the proposal

- People said there would be an impact on people's access to accommodation and it would increase homelessness.
- The proposals would put people at risk.
- This would impact on young people, due to the specialised services that are provided to them.

- These are vital services and cutting them would increase the pressure on statutory services.
- Services could become unviable, including one of the organisations which responded.

#### Suggestions

- Top themes for local spending focused on looking for more savings from other Council departments; and raising Council tax.

#### Other comments

- There is a need for this service and people are unhappy about the proposal to cut funding.

### Other feedback via letter, email etc

#### Organisation and group feedback

##### Views on the proposal

- Organisations recognise the difficult decisions that have to be made, but are concerned about the level of cuts for these services which support some of the most vulnerable.
- These accommodation based services are essential in helping people to develop tenancy readiness skills.
- Continued funding reductions make partnership working even more important.
- Districts and boroughs are concerned about how their area of the county would be affected based on the particular challenges they face.
- *Young mums:* People value the support to move on; and the only alternative accommodation would be unsuitable B&Bs.
- *Young people at risk:* The service helps people to become independent and choose their own future, supports people to develop skills and move on; and the only alternative would be unsuitable temporary B&B accommodation.
- *Mental health:* Spaces are already limited and this is an essential service. Residents have significant needs and there is a rising need for this service.
- *Single homelessness:* Spaces are already limited and this is an essential service. Many have drug and/or alcohol addictions, and many have multiple and complex needs.
- *Refuges:* Properly funded services are the lynchpin for this client group and the current level already falls short of what is needed. Any savings mustn't put provision at risk or make changes to staff levels that put lives at risk.

##### The impact of the proposal

- Vulnerable people would be put at increased risk of exploitation, harm, becoming homeless, and suicide.
- The proposed level of cuts is likely to make the existing services unsustainable.
- Reducing these services would make it harder and more expensive for statutory organisations across the board to meet their statutory duties.
- It would limit housing options and increase the revolving door for mental

- health and hospital services.
- There would be a risk that more children would be taken into care.
  - *Young mums*: Without the service people won't be able to fulfil their potential; it would increase the need for foster care placements.
  - *Young people at risk*: Reducing the services would increase sofa surfing, and the number of people sleeping rough, and could lead to preventable deaths. It would also impact on the accommodation available to care leavers.
  - *Young people at risk*: It would increase the demand on housing services and the Police; impact on the ability of projects to disrupt exploitation by organised crime groups; and the projects to improve accommodation for this group.
  - *Mental health*: Removing or reducing services that support this group of people is likely to exacerbate their issues, particularly when districts and boroughs have to place them in temporary accommodation which is not able to properly support them.
  - *Single homelessness*: People would end up in prison or dead if these services aren't available.
  - *Refuges*: Reductions in services would impact on Children's Services and the need for services.

### Suggestions

- Closer partnership working across statutory services to maximise efficiency in service provision.
- Devolve commissioning for these services to the local level so they can be better targeted.
- Look at fair access based on needs across the county and focus the remaining resources on the areas that make the most difference.

### Individual feedback

#### Views on the proposal

- People disagree with the proposals to cut funding for these services.
- Services are already stretched following cuts and need more funding, not less.
- The services make people feel safe and offer them a home.
- The services focus on helping people to learn life skills and move towards independence.
- The young people at risk services need to stay open, as young people need this help to improve their lives and have a future.
- Limits would be placed on people's ability to change their life through accessing education and finding a job or career.

#### The impact of the proposal

- Limits would place on people's ability to become independent and develop resilience.
- Studies show that cuts in supporting housing increase homelessness, offending, self-harm, substance misuse and antisocial behaviour, and are thus a false economy.
- Reductions in the mental health accommodation service would lead to more

- hospital admissions and homelessness for people.
- Without these sorts of services, already vulnerable and isolated young mothers would become more so.

## Sample quotes

These comments are a small selection of the comments we received during the consultation. They have been chosen as they either reflect the key themes or offer a specific suggestion.

### Organisation comments

“Whilst we appreciate the need to secure some savings, the proposed 40% reduction is likely to make the existing services unsustainable and reduces services provided to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. The proposed reductions are likely to have a significant impact on health services, housing, Children’s Services and Adult Social Care.”

“Not having access to enough provision in East Sussex would impact on other public sector services including the police, Children’s Services including the risk of children being taken into care which is both very expensive and not necessarily the best option for the children.”

“Our young people have submitted films in order that you can hear first-hand the importance the services make to ensure that they are no longer at risk and are safe. They explain how the services give them an opportunity to learn the skills needed to move to independence and how the only other option would be temporary accommodation via B&B. Many young people describe how if they are made homeless the only options may be prison or suicide.”

“The young people supported are those who are not able to stay in the family home and would be at significant risk without the support offered. Many will have experienced abuse or are moving from care and have developed a range of personal and health problems as a result of their experiences, and need support to settle and develop the skills they need to live independently.”

“Under the proposed budget reductions, it is highly likely that there would be a net increase in overall spend by the County Council as a whole in meeting its statutory obligations. The increased risks whilst waiting for fewer bed-spaces will also have to be managed by a number of ESCC social care teams. Given the regulatory and inspection framework for Children’s Services this is likely to bring increased reputational risk.”

“In recent years we have seen a steady rise in people with mental health issues which often includes substance and alcohol abuse problems as well. Removing or reducing those services that support this cohort in particular is likely to lead to an exacerbation of their issues, particularly where the D&Bs seek to place people in temporary accommodation which may not be capable of adequately managing them.”

“Refuges provide a safe space for women escaping violence and many have closed in recent years, exposing those who are no longer able to find a space to the many risks of abuse which arise from homelessness. The current level of provision already falls short of what is needed and of minimum European standards. Any savings which put our current level of provision at risk should be avoided at all costs.”

### Individual comments including clients, carers, staff and the public

“Would have been homeless and living on the streets, or back in hospital.” (Mental Health services)

“I think they need more funding not less so that staff can do more with people who live there. And there should be more staff so that they can look after them more.” (Single Homelessness services)

“I had already sought after support from housing and was placed in temporary accommodation for vulnerable people including drug users, alcoholics and people with mental health problems. I did not feel that myself or my baby were safe here and it was not appropriate as the kitchen was locked from 20:30 and I was unable to make up bottles for my new-born baby.” (Young Mums services)

“Night staff is essential for safety and security, and support we get is really important. I love all of the activities, and I feel like this is preparing me to live in my own flat with my 2 children.” (Young Mums services)

“I think they need more funding not less so that staff can do more with people who live there. And there should be more staff so that they can look after them more.” (Single Homelessness services)

“People normally give up on us but staff here don’t.” (Young People at Risk services)

“Moving on from here, I’m really excited to what the future holds, and I know I wouldn’t have been able to do any of it without this place, without the mother and baby unit so, I’m glad I had the opportunity, and this was available to me otherwise I don’t know where I’d be now.” (Young Mums services)

“Please don’t end this amazing building, our family, our lives. Help us grow into strong and independent adults...” (Young people at risk services)

“I would have had to remain living with my abuser. I had already tried to make a homeless application and had been told that I wasn’t eligible, so I was stuck.” (Refuges)

“I would have been homeless with my daughter and not known where to turn for help.” (Refuges)

“If there had not been a refuge when I was experiencing domestic violence, I would have had no choice but to stay with my abusive partner. There would have been a possibility that my mental health would have suffered and therefore my ability to care for and keep safe my daughter.” (Refuges)

“Without this service available, a lot of vulnerable women from controlling relationships would either have to remain and suffer and potentially as a result these days lose their children as a result of not being able to safeguard from the perpetrator or have to rely on help from friends and family which is not always possible or offered.” (Refuges)

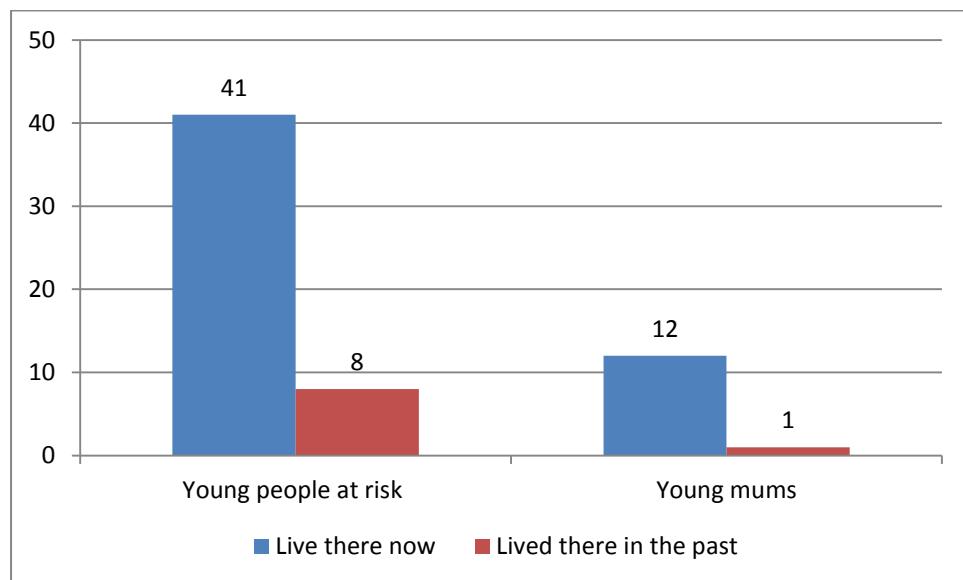
“When you are experiencing domestic violence you do not have the option when you flee to go to family or friends because you do not want to put them at risk or sometimes the woman has become estranged from her family due to the abuse.” (Refuges)

“ This could mean that women have no choice than to stay in a violent relationship and may potentially be murdered by the abuser.” (Refuges)

## **Appendix 1: Young people and young mums survey**

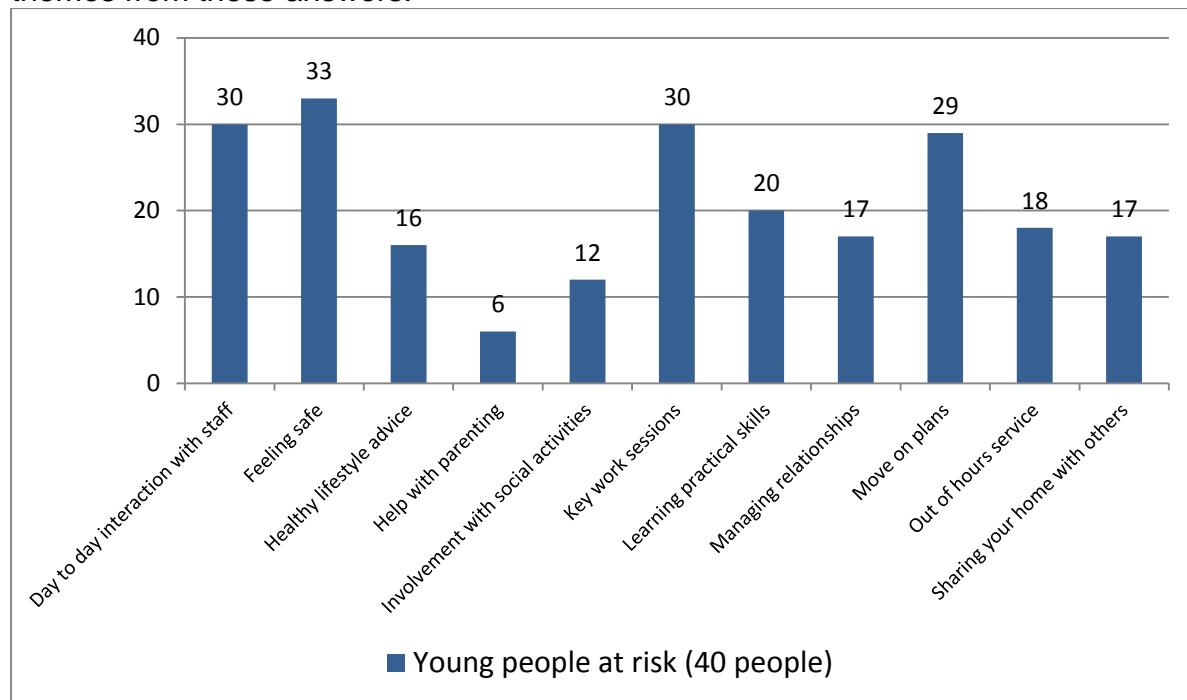
Note: 9 of the young people at risk respondents didn't fill in the official version of the survey, so aren't included in all of the questions.

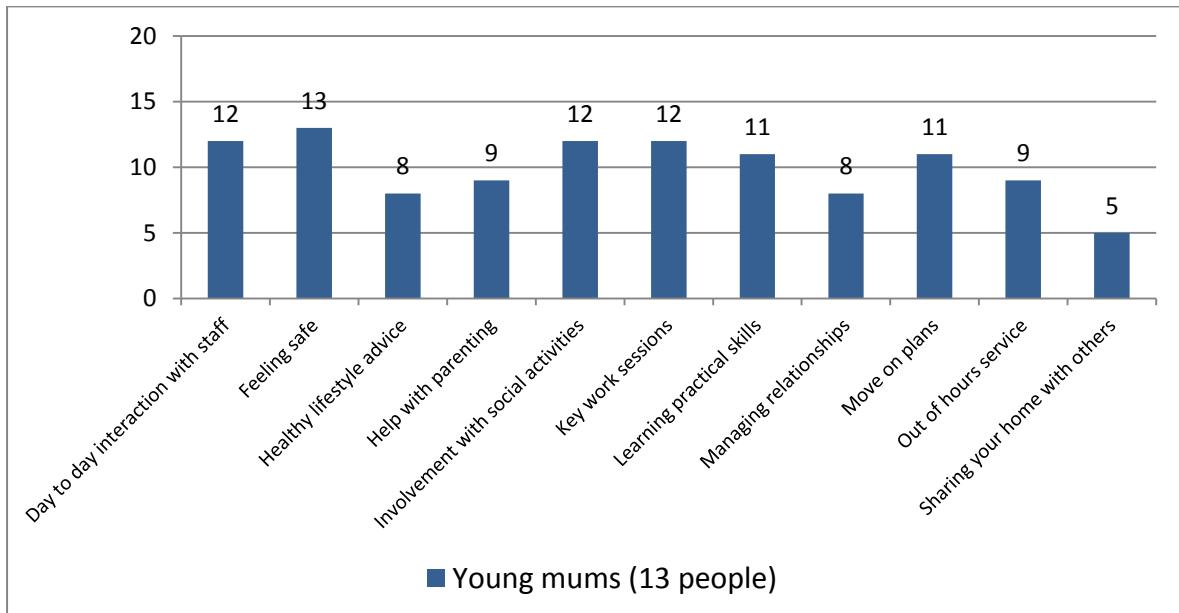
### **Please tell us which service you are a resident of or have been a resident of in the past: (62 answered)**



### **What have you found most helpful about the service?**

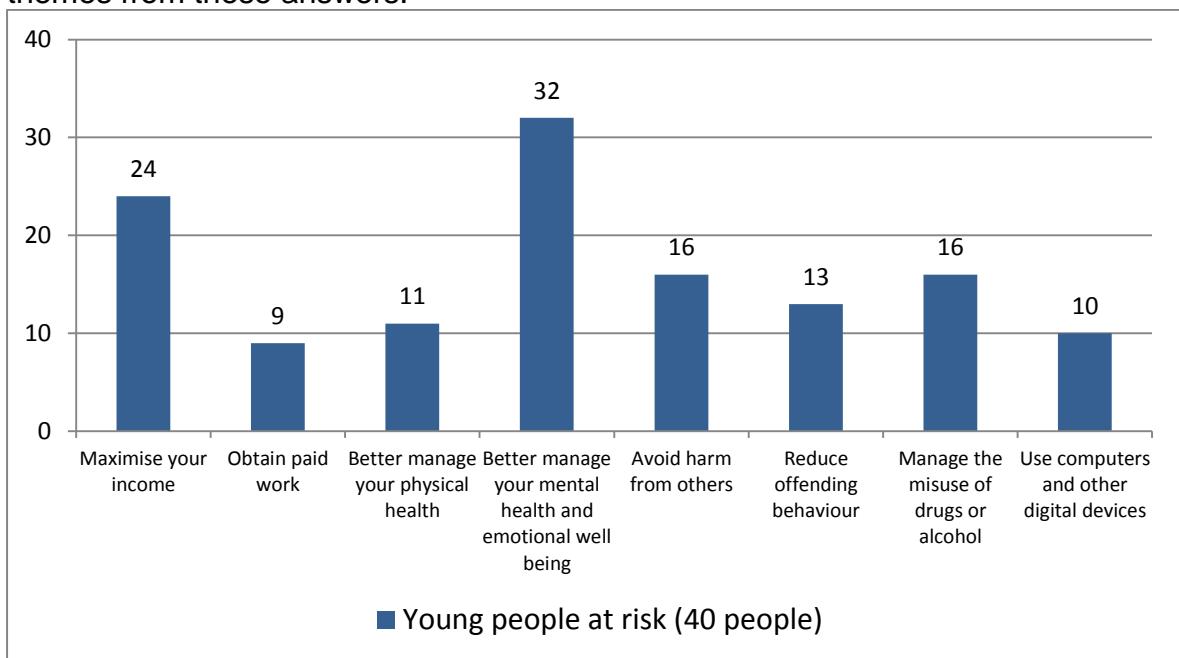
People had the option of telling us if we had missed anything. There weren't any key themes from these answers.

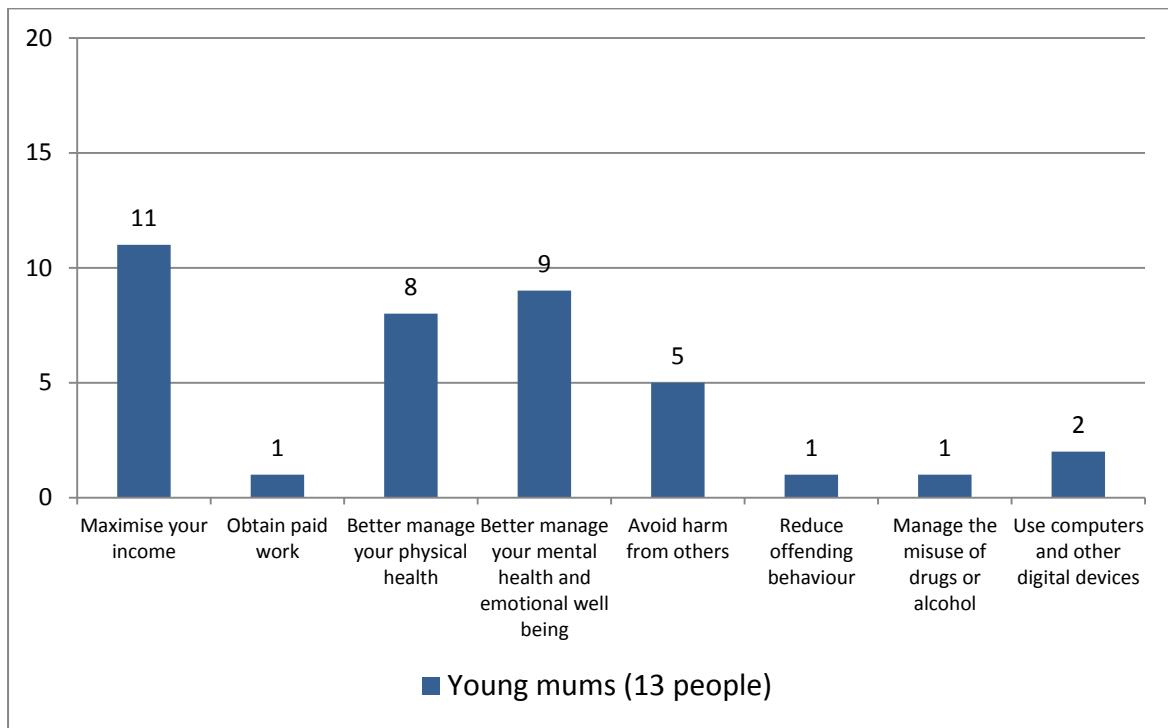




### Which types of support from the service have made the biggest difference to helping you to live independently?

People had the option of telling us if we had missed anything. There weren't any key themes from these answers.





**If this service, or a similar one, had not been available when you needed it where would you have gone for accommodation and support?**

**Top theme for young people:** Over half of the people who answered the question said they could, or would have been, homeless if this service wasn't available.

The other key themes were:

- Some people said they don't know what they would have done, while others said there aren't any other housing options if you are under 18 years old.
- Some said there isn't anything else like this service.
- A few people said they would be dead or at risk of suicide without the service.

**Top theme for young mums:** They don't know what they would have done if the service wasn't available, while others said they could, or would have been, homeless.

The other key themes were:

- Being placed in, offered, or concerned about having to live in unsuitable and unsafe temporary accommodation.
- It is difficult to get information about suitable housing.
- Not having access to this service would have affected their ability to care for their child.

**Do you have anything else you would like to say about the proposal to reduce funding for these services?**

16 people ticked 'No', while 23 people ticked 'Yes' for young people at risk.

**Top theme for young people at risk:** People disagreed with the proposal to cut the funding for this service and said that there is a need for it.

The other key themes were:

- People would be put at risk if the service isn't available and they won't have the support they need to change their life.

- Concerns that young people can't get housed due to their age, so what would happen to them if the service isn't available.

1 person ticked 'No', while 11 ticked 'Yes' for young mums.

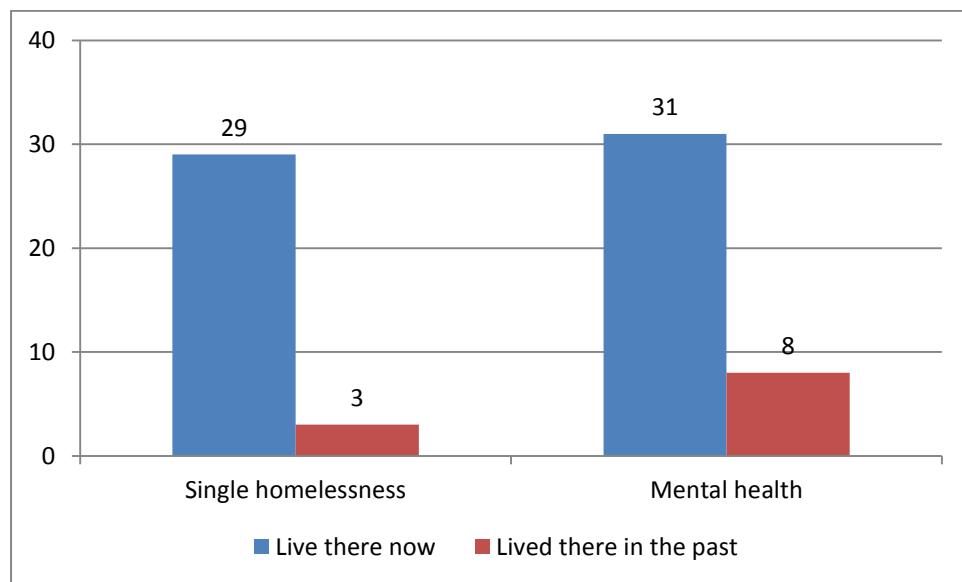
**Top theme for young mums:** People praised the service and said there is a need for it.

The other key themes were:

- People talked about the fact that the service had given them the chance to have a better life in the long term.

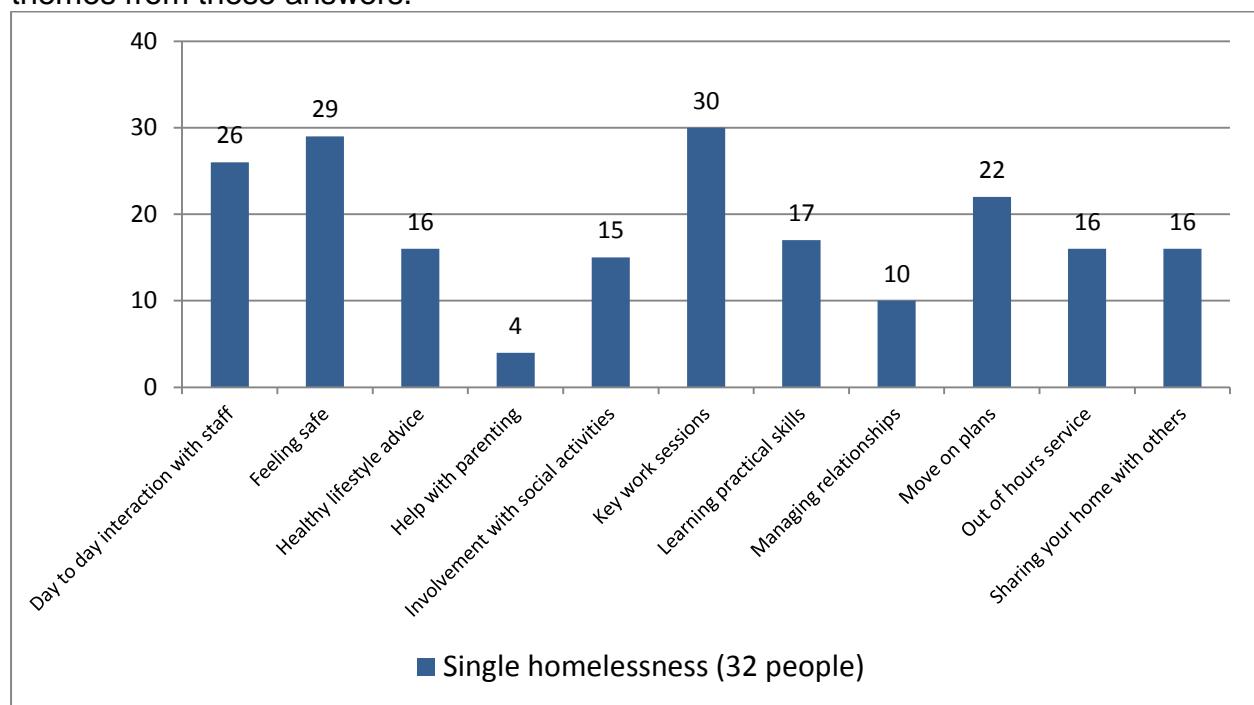
## Appendix 2: Homeless and mental health and homeless survey

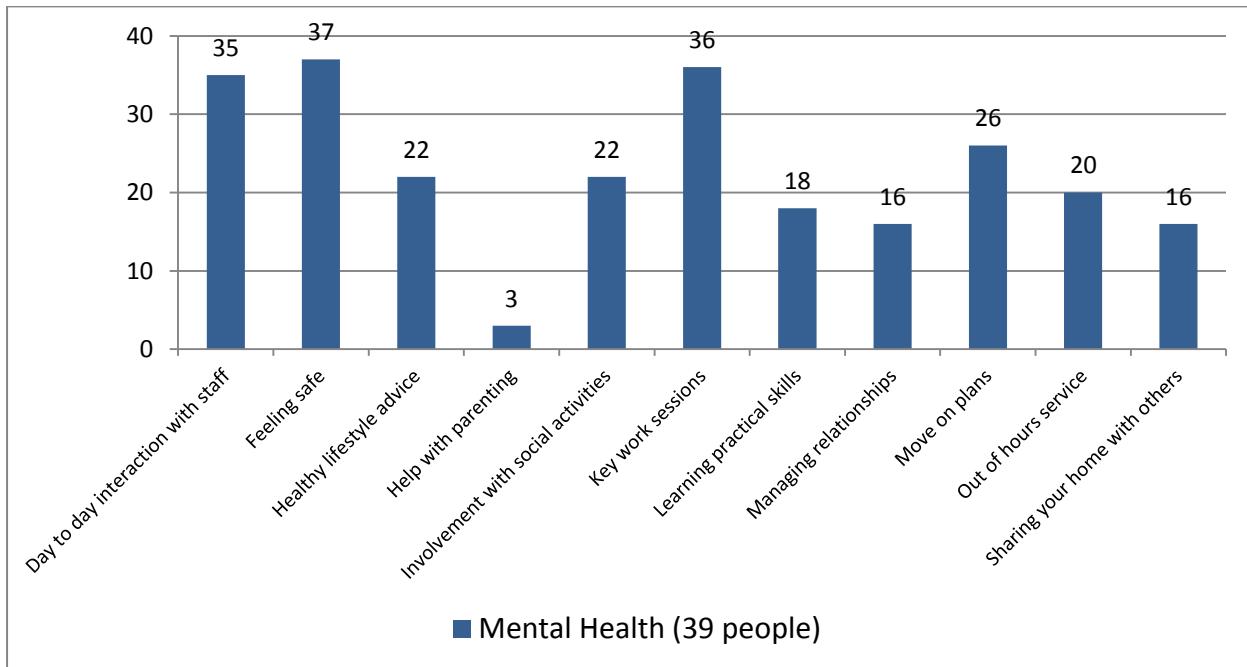
Please tell us which service you are a resident of or have been a resident of in the past:



### What have you found most helpful about the service?

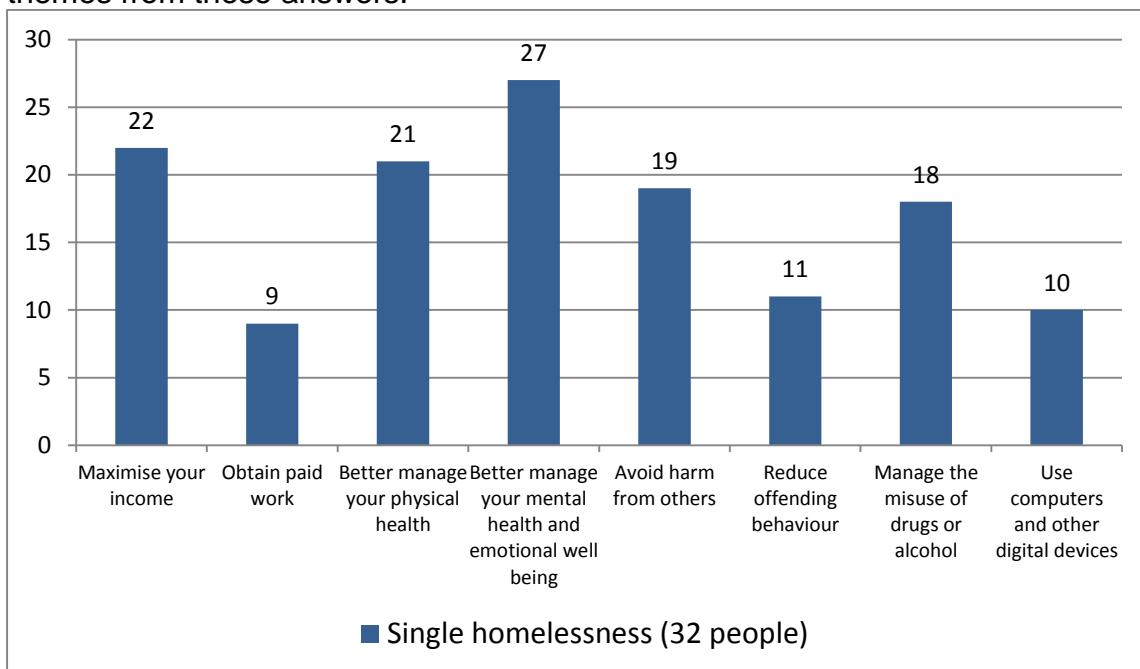
People had the option of telling us if we had missed anything. There weren't any key themes from these answers.

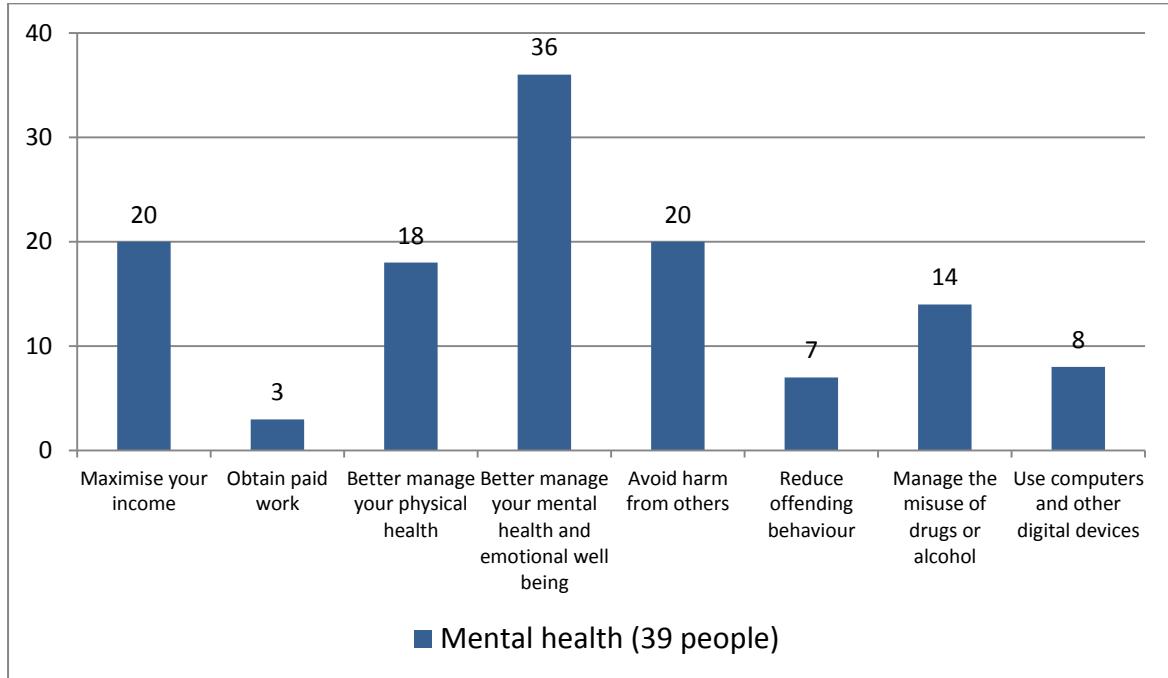




### Which types of support from the service have made the biggest difference to helping you to live independently?

People had the option of telling us if we had missed anything. There weren't any key themes from these answers.





**If this service, or a similar one, had not been available when you needed it where would you have gone for accommodation and support?**

**Top theme for single homelessness:** Over half of the people who answered the question said they could, or would have still been, homeless if this service wasn't available.

The other key themes were:

- They don't know what they would have done, and there aren't any other services like this.
- They probably would have ended up in prison or wouldn't be alive without the service.

**Top theme for mental health:** Nearly half of the people who answered the question said they could, or would have still been, homeless if this service wasn't available.

The other key themes were:

- They would have had to stay in hospital for longer or go back to hospital if the service hadn't been available.
- They don't know what they would have done if the service hadn't been available.

**Do you have anything else you would like to say about the proposal to reduce funding for these services?**

10 people ticked 'No', while 21 ticked 'Yes'.

**Top theme for single homelessness:** People said there is a need for this service and it is increasing.

The other key themes were:

- They disagreed with the proposal to cut its funding and it needs more money not less.
- The service helps people turn their lives around and people are concerned about how they would be affected if the service had to close.
- They praised the service and said it saves lives.

4 people ticked 'No', while 32 ticked 'Yes'.

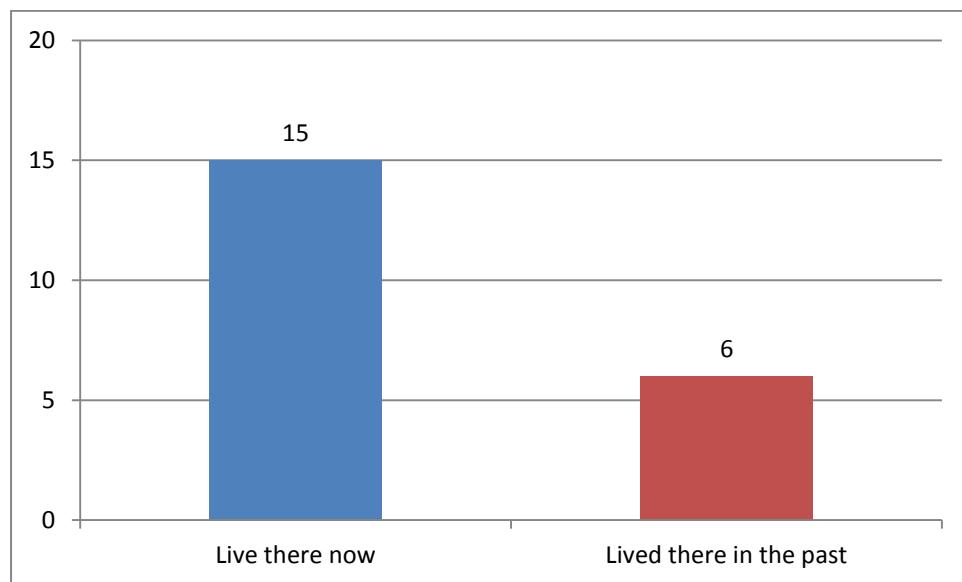
**Top theme for mental health services:** They disagreed with the proposal to cut funding for this service.

The other key themes were:

- There is a need for this service, so what would happen to people and where would they go if it didn't exist.
- The service needs more funding not less.
- People were concerned about how they would be affected by any cuts.
- They praised the service and said it is a vital one.

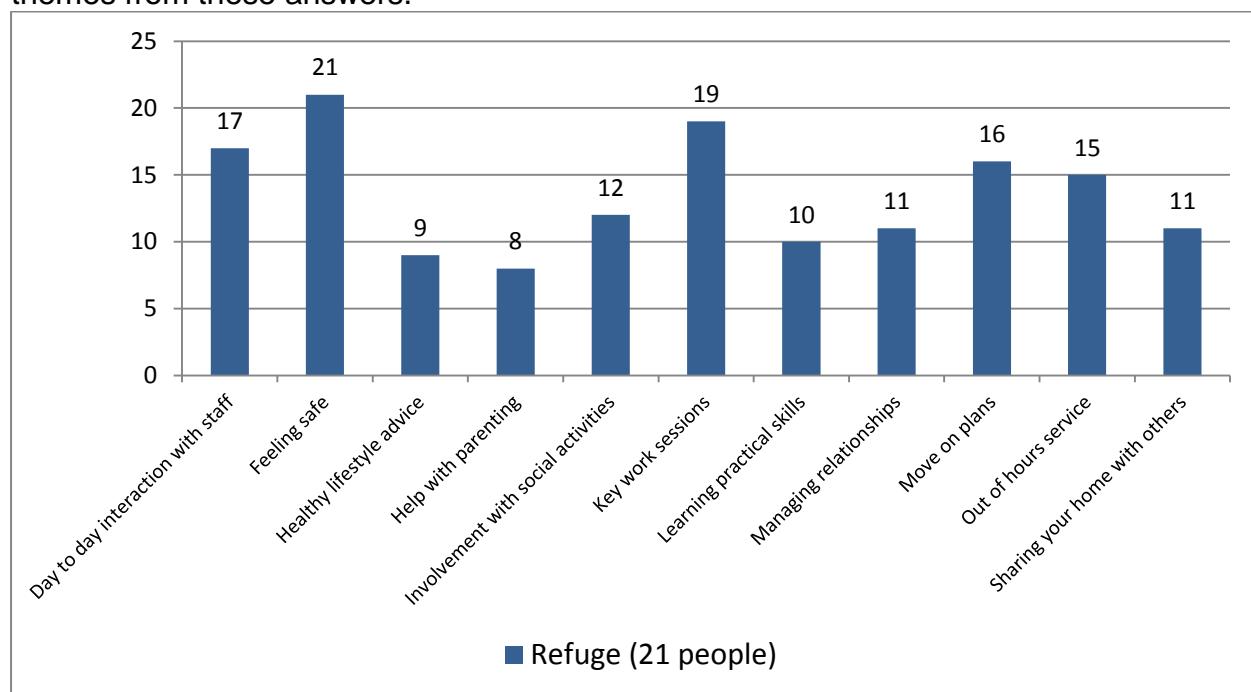
### Appendix 3: Refugees survey

**Please tell us which service you are a resident of or have been a resident of in the past:**



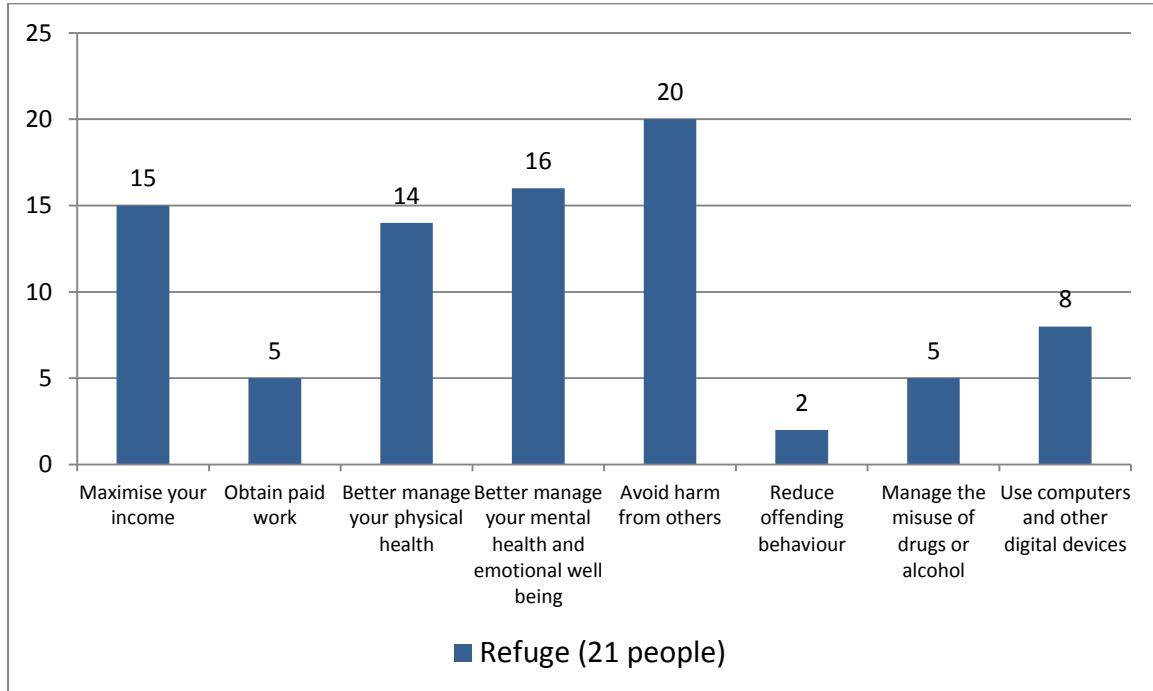
**What have you found most helpful about the service?**

People had the option of telling us if we had missed anything. There weren't any key themes from these answers.



**Which types of support from the service have made the biggest difference to helping you to live independently?**

People had the option of telling us if we had missed anything. There weren't any key themes from these answers.



**If this service, or a similar one, had not been available when you needed it where would you have gone for accommodation and support?**

**Top theme for refuges:** They would have had to stay living with their abuser or would have had nowhere to go.

The key themes for refuges were:

- They could, or would have been, homeless if this service hadn't been available.
- They would have been at risk of serious harm from their abuser or at risk of suicide if this service hadn't been available.

**Do you have anything else you would like to say about the proposal to reduce funding for these services?**

1 person ticked 'No', while 20 ticked 'Yes'.

**Top theme for refuges:** People said that these services save lives.

The other key themes were:

- The fact that they would be forced to stay living with their abuser if the service wasn't available.
- They would have struggled to get the help they need, or needed, without specialist services like this.
- People talked about the support the service has given them to turn their life around.
- They disagree with the proposed cuts and feel that this is a vital service.

#### **Appendix 4: About you questions client survey**

This section covers the answers for all client groups: young people at risk, young mums, refugees, single homeless, and mental health.

##### **Gender**

	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Census</b>
Male	53	37%
Female	71	50%
Prefer not to say	2	1%
Not answered	16	11%

##### **Transgender**

3 people identified as transgender, while 120 (85%) answered 'no' and 3 chose prefer not to say. The rest (16) did not answer the question.

##### **Age**

	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Census</b>
under 18	17	12%
18-24	48	34%
25-34	17	12%
35-44	19	13%
45-54	16	11%
55-59	4	3%
60-64	1	1%
65-74	0	0%
75+	0	0%
Not answered	20	14%

## Ethnicity

	<b>Respondents</b>		<b>Census</b>
White British	111	78%	
White Irish	2	1%	
White Gypsy/Roma	3	2%	98%
White Irish Traveller	0	0%	
White other	1	1%	
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	1	1%	
Mixed White and Black African	1	1%	0.5%
Mixed White and Asian	3	2%	
Mixed other	2	1%	
Asian or Asian British Indian	0	0%	
Asian or Asian British Pakistani	0	0%	
Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	0	0%	0.6%
Asian or Asian British other	0	0%	
Black or Black British Caribbean	1	1%	
Black or Black British African	1	1%	0.3%
Black or Black British other	0	0%	
Arab	0	0%	
Chinese	0	0%	0.3%
Other ethnic group	0	0%	
Prefer not to say	0	0%	N/A
Not Answered	16	11%	n/a

## **Disability**

68 (48%) respondents consider themselves to be disabled, while 52 (37%) don't and 5 chose prefer not to say. The rest (17) did not answer the question.

### **Impairment type**

Please note that this is a multiple choice question.

	<b>Respondents</b>	
Physical impairment	9	6%
Sensory impairment (hearing and sight)	4	3%
Long standing illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy	8	6%
Mental health condition	66	46%
Learning disability	19	13%
Other	1	1%
Prefer not to say	0	0%

## **Religion**

31 (22%) respondents consider themselves to have a religion or belief, while 90 (63%) do not, and 7 chose prefer not to say. The rest (14) did not answer the question.

### **Stated religion or belief**

	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Census</b>
Christian	26	18%
Buddhist	5	4%
Hindu	0	0%
Jewish	0	0%
Muslim	1	1%
Sikh	0	0%
Other	2	1%
Not answered	108	76%
		N/A

## **Sexuality**

	<b>Respondents</b>	
Bi/Bisexual	7	5%
Heterosexual/Straight	110	77%
Gay woman/Lesbian	2	1%
Gay Man	1	1%
Other	3	2%
Prefer not to say	6	4%
Not answered	13	9%

## **Marriage or civil partnership**

8 respondents are married or in a civil partnership, while 115 (81%) are not and 4 chose prefer not to say. The rest (15) did not answer the question.

## **Appendix 5: General survey**

All the data in this section shows responses for people who ticked to say that they were providing a comment about this savings area (101 people) and not everyone who filled in the general survey (over 700 people).

### **Are you completing the survey as: (101 answered)**

Please note that this was a multiple choice question.

<b>Answer option</b>	<b>Count</b>
A family member or friend of someone who uses social care services	16
An employee of a health or social care organisation	37
A member of the public	37
A group or forum (providing an official response)	0
An organisation (providing an official response)	3
Other (please explain below)	8
Not Answered	5

### **If you are providing an official organisation or group response, please tell us your:**

The following organisations and groups provided a response through the survey:

- East Sussex Families & Carers Team
- Sussex Community Development Association
- YMCA Downslink Group

### **What do you think about our savings proposals? (93 answered)**

**Top theme:** The people who use these services are some of the most vulnerable people in society.

The other key themes were:

- The proposals would affect people's ability to maintain or find appropriate accommodation.
- They would impact on young people.
- Cutting funding for these services would be more expensive in the long term, as people would end up using more expensive services or needing to access other statutory services more, such as the NHS, Police and housing services.
- People were unhappy or angry about the proposal.
- There would be an impact on the community if these services were cut or reduced and things like homelessness and anti-social behaviour increased.
- People said these are vital services.
- People talked about the benefits they have seen the services provide to the residents.

## **How would people and organisations be affected by the proposals? (93 answered)**

**Top theme:** People said there would be an impact on people's access to accommodation and it would increase homelessness.

The other key themes were:

- There would be general negative impacts.
- The proposals would put people at risk.
- This would impact on young people, due to the specialised services that are provided to them.
- These are vital services and cutting them would increase the pressure on statutory services.
- People talked about the benefits of the services.
- People noted the impact and pressure on staff if the services were cut.
- It would impact on the community through increases in homelessness and anti-social behaviour.
- It would impact on children of those who would otherwise use the services.
- Services could become unviable, including one of the organisations which responded.
- Services and charities are already stretched, meaning that any changes are likely to increase the pressure on, and need for, statutory services.

## **Do you have any suggestions for alternative ways of making the savings? (84 answered)**

**Top theme:** People suggested changes the national government could make to how money is spent or raised, or talked about national funding decisions and their local impact.

The other key themes were:

- Looking for more savings from other Council departments instead.
- Raising Council tax.
- Push the government for more money.

## **Do you have any other comments about the proposals?**

58 people ticked 'No', while 32 ticked 'Yes'.

**Top theme:** There is a need for this service and people are unhappy about the proposal to cut funding.

The other key themes were:

- There would be an increase in homelessness.
- It would impact on young people.

## **About you questions**

### **Gender**

	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Census</b>
Male	21	21%
Female	75	52%

Prefer not to say	2	2%	N/A
Not answered	3	3%	N/A

### Transgender

One person identified as transgender, while 92 (92%) answered 'no' and 4 chose prefer not to say. The rest (4) did not answer the question.

### Age

	Respondents	Census
under 18	1	1%
18-24	4	7.3%
25-34	17	9.6%
35-44	18	12.5%
45-54	28	14.2%
55-59	10	6.3%
60-64	8	7.5%
65-74	2	11.2%
75+	1	11.6%
Not answered	12	N/A

## Ethnicity

	<b>Respondents</b>		<b>Census</b>
White British	79	78%	
White Irish	3	3%	
White Gypsy/Roma	0	0%	98%
White Irish Traveller	0	0%	
White other	4	4%	
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	1	1%	
Mixed White and Black African	0	0%	0.5%
Mixed White and Asian	1	1%	
Mixed other	1	1%	
Asian or Asian British Indian	2	2%	
Asian or Asian British Pakistani	0	0%	
Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	0	0%	0.6%
Asian or Asian British other	0	0%	
Black or Black British Caribbean	0	0%	
Black or Black British African	1	1%	0.3%
Black or Black British other	0	0%	
Arab	0	0%	
Chinese	0	0%	0.3%
Other ethnic group	0	0%	
Prefer not to say	3	3%	N/A
Not Answered	6	6%	n/a

## **Disability**

12 (12%) respondents consider themselves to be disabled, while 80 (79%) don't and 5 chose prefer not to say. The rest (4) did not answer the question.

### **Impairment type**

Please note that this is a multiple choice question.

	<b>Respondents</b>	
Physical impairment	3	3%
Sensory impairment (hearing and sight)	2	2%
Long standing illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy	4	4%
Mental health condition	8	8%
Learning disability	2	2%
Other	0	0%
Prefer not to say	1	1%

## **Religion**

22 (22%) respondents consider themselves to have a religion or belief, while 63 (62%) do not, and 8 chose prefer not to say. The rest (8) did not answer the question.

### **Stated religion or belief**

	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Census</b>
Christian	18	18%
Buddhist	0	0%
Hindu	0	0%
Jewish	0	0%
Muslim	0	0.8%
Sikh	1	0%
Other	2	0.7%
Not answered	80	79%

## **Sexuality**

	<b>Respondents</b>	
Bi/Bisexual	2	2%
Heterosexual/Straight	73	72%
Gay woman/Lesbian	1	1%
Gay Man	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Prefer not to say	14	14%
Not answered	11	11%

## **Marriage or civil partnership**

41 (41%) respondents are married or in a civil partnership, while 39 (39%) are not and 11 chose prefer not to say. The rest (10) did not answer the question.

## Appendix 6: Location of respondents

The map shows the location of respondents who provided their post code on one of the surveys (client and general). Of the 207 people who shared their views about these proposals and provided their post code, a total of 184 were mappable.

**SP Accommodation**



30/05/2018

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Note: points may represent multiple addresses at the same postcode

## **Appendix 7: Other feedback**

### **Organisation and group feedback**

The following organisations provided feedback about the proposals:

- 1) Children's Services (ESCC)
- 2) Eastbourne Borough Council
- 3) Eastbourne Foyer Video
- 4) East Sussex Division, Sussex Police
- 5) Hastings & St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership
- 6) Lewes District Council
- 7) Newhaven Foyer Video
- 8) Rother District Council
- 9) Salvation Army Housing Association
- 10) Turner House Residents
- 11) Wealden District Council
- 12) Young Mums Video
- 13) Youth Homelessness Operational Groups

### **Key themes**

The overall themes were:

- Organisations recognise the need to make savings and the difficult decisions the Council has to make.
- The level of cuts is too high for services that support some of the most vulnerable people.
- They believe that the reduction in funding would undermine the Council's priority to keep vulnerable people safe and remove the safety net for vulnerable people.
- Accommodation based services are essential in helping people to develop tenancy readiness skills.
- The proposed level of reduction in funding is likely to make the existing services unsustainable.
- Reducing these services would make it harder and more expensive for Children's Services to meet its statutory duties and increase demand for assessment and services.
- Reducing funding for these services is not in keeping with national policy around homeless reduction and is likely to increase the need for services.
- Continued funding reductions make partnership working even more important.

The key concerns were:

- That this would put vulnerable people at increased risk from exploitation from organised crime groups.
- That the reductions would impact on urban areas with a high level of need for services.
- Hastings has already seen bigger increases in homelessness than the rest of the county over the past years as services have reduced.
- Wealden only has two services and no provision for young mums, single homeless and those with mental health needs.

The key impacts were:

- More people would become homeless and at risk of harm or suicide.

- It could limit key housing options for people who are unable to live independently and pose major risks to mental health and hospital services, increasing the revolving door.
- There would be a risk that more children would end up being taken into care.
- Reductions in these accommodation services would put people at risk of repeat homelessness, impact on the community, and put vulnerable young people at risk of 'cuckooing'.
- The proposed reductions are likely to have a significant impact on health services, housing, Children's Services and Adult Social Care and make it harder to meet statutory duties.

Suggestions:

- Closer partnership working across statutory services is needed to maximise efficiency in service provision. This should include sharing data and joint commissioning.
- There is an opportunity to devolve commissioning for these services to the local level so they can be better targeted.
- The Council should look at fair access to accommodation based housing support across the county based on demographics and needs data.
- Focus the remaining resources on the areas that make the most difference.

### **Young mums key themes**

- People value the fact that the service is a safe place for them and that it gives them the experience they need to move on and look to the future.
- Without services like this, a lot of people would be in bad situations and won't be able to fulfil their potential.
- Services offer a lifeline and a chance to change their lives and that of their children.
- Services represent a potent homelessness prevention measure and the number of foster care placements needed.
- Services face losing substantial amounts of funding and could face closure.
- The only alternative would be temporary accommodation in B&Bs, which would place them and their children at significant risk.
- It already takes 3-6 months to find suitable housing when people are ready to move on from the service.

### **Young people at risk key themes**

- For some residents it is the first stable and caring home they have had. The services help people to move on from bad things in their life, become independent and choose their own future.
- These services support people to develop the skills they need to move into mainstream education, training or employment.
- The only alternative would be temporary accommodation in B&Bs.
- A reduction in provision would lead to more young people sofa surfing, making it harder to support them.
- It would lead to an increase in demand for housing services and potentially increase the number of people sleeping rough.
- It would impact on the accommodation available to care leavers, for which there is already a long waiting list.

- These services help to prevent deaths by housing young people in suitable accommodation.
- Without effective service provision, then the level of demand on police and other agencies would rise significantly.
- Supported accommodation has been key in helping to disrupt exploitation of young people by organised crime groups.
- It would impact on the effectiveness of the Vulnerable Young Persons Accommodation Project.

### **Mental health key themes**

- Spaces are already limited and this is an essential service.
- The majority have significant mental health needs and need support to settle and prevent further hospital admissions.
- District and borough services have already seen a steady rise in people with mental health needs, often with substance and alcohol problems too.
- Removing or reducing services that support this group of people is likely to exacerbate their issues, particularly when districts and boroughs have to place them in temporary accommodation which is not able to properly support them.

### **Single homelessness key themes**

- Spaces are already limited and this is an essential service.
- Many have drug and/or alcohol addictions, and many have multiple and complex needs.
- People would end up in prison or dead if these services aren't available.

### **Refuges key themes**

- Properly funded and supported refuge accommodation is a lynchpin of services to people experiencing domestic abuse.
- The current level of provision already falls short of what is needed, so any savings which put this at risk should be avoided.
- Care needs to be taken in remodelling refuges as changes or reductions in staff could be life threatening for residents.
- Reductions in the service would impact on Children's Services if there are cuts due to the large number of children living in refuges.

## Responses

Please note that the summaries cover all topics that the organisations have provided feedback on and not just the ones directly relevant to this report.

Code: Org0002	Before consultation started	Email	East Sussex Division, Sussex Police
<input type="checkbox"/> HIV support service	<input type="checkbox"/> Carers support	<input type="checkbox"/> DESSS	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate care and day services (Milton and Firwood)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Overall	<input type="checkbox"/> Older people's day centres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting people (accommodation)	<input type="checkbox"/> LD dps & residential <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting People (Community) <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke Recovery Service

### Summary

- Raising their concerns around vulnerable young people being drawn into substance abuse and being exploited by organised crime groups (OCGs).
- Ongoing partnership support around drug and alcohol abuse (in respect of health treatment and education) is essential to limiting further harm.
- If the market for drugs locally was to grow that would increase the risk that these OCGs would target the county. This would make enforcement more difficult.
- Without effective service provision, the level of demand on policy and other agencies such as the Council is likely to rise significantly, meaning that the short-term saving in prevention would result in mid- to long-term increased costs.
- The response recognised the Council's requirement to make savings.

Code: Org0011	March	Email	Youth Homelessness Operational Groups
<input type="checkbox"/> HIV support service	<input type="checkbox"/> Carers support	<input type="checkbox"/> DESSS	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate care and day services (Milton and Firwood)
<input type="checkbox"/> Overall	<input type="checkbox"/> Older people's day centres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting people (accommodation)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LD dps & residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting People (Community) <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke Recovery Service

### Summary

- The proposed reductions in young people services and Home Works funding combine to directly undermine the Council's priority to keep vulnerable people safe.
- Children's Services has a statutory duty to prevent destitution, contained in the Children Act 1989. The removal of a large proportion of Young people services, Young mum services and Home Works would make meeting that duty more difficult and more expensive.
- A reduction in supported accommodation bed spaces would increase the number of young people sofa surfing or living in environments where safeguarding issues are prevalent. Such young people are much more difficult to support than those in settled accommodation, leading to increasingly chaotic lifestyles, more risk taking and more case complexity.
- Reductions in beds in supported accommodation would compromise the

effectiveness of the Vulnerable Young Persons Accommodation Project, which has reduced the previous reliance on B&B accommodation (which was unlawful), partly by providing three Crash Pads.

- The reduced budget for Home Works and supported accommodation would adversely affect care leavers support and accommodation opportunities, who are now offered support up to 25 years old.
- As well as providing a homelessness prevention measure, supported accommodation also reduces child in need cases within Children's Services.
- Young mums services represent a potent homelessness prevention measure and the number of foster care placements needed.
- Referrals to Home Works of both care leavers and homeless young people 18-25 remain stubbornly high, those for care leavers alone having increased by 10% since last year. The service plays a vital role in helping move on and sustain tenancies for this very vulnerable age group.
- The recently published "State of Child Health in East Sussex" report highlights the link between deprivation and poor outcomes. It identifies self-harm as the biggest single indicator of suicide risk. A significant proportion of young people placed in supported accommodation exhibit such behaviours at the time of placement.
- The MACE (Missing and Child Exploitation) meeting is formed of statutory and non-statutory partners, which include Children's Services and Police, to intervene and disrupt exploitation of young people by organised crime/County Lines. A number of Operations have been successful, supported accommodation providers being key to providing information and keeping young people safe. A reduction in the number of schemes would adversely affect the co-operation between partners and the frequency of useful intelligence gathering.
- Housing Authority representatives were concerned at the impact on homeless young people aged 18-25 in need of support from a reduction in beds, and subsequent increase in footfall for Housing Authorities which may manifest in rough sleeping and have further implications for NHS services.

Code: Org0013	March	Email	Eastbourne Borough Council
HIV support service	<input type="checkbox"/> Carers support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DESSS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intermediate care and day services (Milton and Firwood)
Overall	<input type="checkbox"/> Older people's day centres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting people (accommodation)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LD dps & residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting People (Community) <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke Recovery Service

### Summary

- They recognise the extreme financial pressures and the limited options for making savings, although they have concerns about the impact of the proposals in the medium and longer term.

### Accommodation-based housing services

- The proposed level of reduction for accommodation-based services is likely to make the existing services unsustainable.
- This would reduce the services available to the most vulnerable and have a significant impact on other services (health, housing, children's and adult

services).

- The young people are referred by the County Council and EBC. They are those who are not able to stay in the family home and would be at significant risk without the support offered.
- These services contribute to key government and local aims, ensuring all young people are supported to develop the skills they need to move into mainstream education, training or employment.
- Very concerned by the proposal to reduce funding to refuges. Properly funded and supported refuge accommodation is a lynchpin of services to people experiencing domestic abuse.
- The current level of provision already falls short of what is needed and of minimum European standards. Any savings which put our current level of provision at risk should be avoided at all costs.
- They also oppose the proposed reductions in funding to supported housing supporting single homeless people and those with mental health needs.
- Spaces are already extremely limited and the support provided is essential to those accommodated, who are amongst the most vulnerable in our society. The majority have significant mental health needs and need support to settle and prevent further hospital admissions. Many have drug and/or alcohol addictions, and many have multiple and complex needs.
- Putting essential support to these people at risk by making 40% cuts in funding would again have wider impacts on health, social care, and community safety.

### **Community-based housing support services**

- The proposed level of reduction for community housing support services is likely to make the existing services unsustainable. The organisation strongly opposes this level of saving.
- A significant proportion of the people who use these services are at crisis point when referred.
- Both services, STEPS and Home Works, are designed to meet the needs of people who depend on urgent support to live independently and reduce the risk of admission to hospital and/or care services.
- They provide essential support, helping people to cope with major changes in their lives which threaten their independence, building their resilience and capacity to deal with illness, homelessness and other crises.
- Without this support many would turn to higher-cost services in the health and social care sectors, including both adult social care and children's services.

### **Older people's day services**

- Whilst we appreciate the need to secure some savings, and ensure best use is made of the resources available, we are concerned that savings are proposed to day services designed to meet the needs of older people with dementia and increasing frailty.
- There is an increasing need for services of this kind with the increasing age of people in the county and the numbers of people living with dementia.
- They are particularly keen that any options considered by the Council make best use of Warwick House, given the huge investment of resources in its development.

**DESSS**

- They are extremely concerned at the proposed level of savings to DESSS and the impact it would have on the amount given to district and borough councils for rent in advance.
- The amount given has steadily reduced, whilst the need for this funding has increased. They urge the Council to continue contributing at the current level.
- The main cause of homelessness is the termination of private tenancies with most people becoming homeless through no fault of their own.
- A large number of those who become homeless do not have the savings required to meet the demands for rent in advance and deposits and are completely reliant on the loan schemes supported by the DESSS.
- At a time when more people across the county are being affected by the roll-out of Universal Credit full service, the proposed 70% saving is a major cause for concern and makes a nonsense of the efforts of the county council-led Financial Inclusion Group which focuses on the need to support people facing extreme financial difficulties.

<b>Code: Org0016</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>Letter</b>	<b>Hastings &amp; St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> HIV support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carers support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DESSS	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate care and day services (Milton and Firwood)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Overall	<input type="checkbox"/> Older people's day centres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting people (accommodation)	<input type="checkbox"/> LD dps & residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting People (Community) <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke Recovery Service

### **Summary**

- Continued funding reductions make partnership working even more important.
- They are therefore concerned about the proposed savings and the disproportionate effect they would have on urban areas with the highest levels of deprivation.
- Focusing the savings on preventative services is short sighted and would undoubtedly lead to increased demand for acute services.
- To fully understand the impact, more detailed analysis needs to be undertaken and the information provided should also reflect the ongoing cuts to services.
- Hastings has a higher proportion of people living with long-term conditions.
- The proposed reduction in funding for carers support is likely to increase their support needs and may mean they can't continue to work.
- Reductions in funding for accommodation, housing support, and DESSS would affect services which are all vital in tackling homelessness.
- Hastings has seen bigger increases in homelessness than the rest of the county over the past years as services have reduced.
- Reducing homelessness is a national priority, so reducing funding for these preventative services is not in keeping with that policy direction or the likely increases in need for these services.
- Both community housing support services have extensive experience of working with vulnerable people who would struggle to engage with statutory services.
- Accommodation based services are essential in helping people to develop

- tenancy readiness skills.
- Reductions in these accommodation services would put people at risk of repeat homelessness, impact on the community, and put vulnerable young people at risk of 'cuckooing'.
  - Closer partnership working across statutory services is needed to maximise efficiency in service provision. This should include sharing data and joint commissioning.
  - The areas with the highest demand should be prioritised when funding decisions are made.
  - There is an opportunity to devolve commissioning for these services to the local level so they can be better targeted.
  - The voluntary sector needs to be fully involved in the process given the big contribution they make to community resilience.

Code: Org0017	April	Email	Wealden District Council
<input type="checkbox"/> HIV support service	<input type="checkbox"/> Carers support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DESSS	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate care and day services (Milton and Firwood)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Overall	<input type="checkbox"/> Older people's day centres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting people (accommodation)	<input type="checkbox"/> LD dps & residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting People (Community) <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke Recovery Service

### Summary

- Recognise the fact that the Council is facing budget cuts and has difficult decisions to make.
- They are concerned that the proposed cuts would impact on some of the most vulnerable people.
- They represent a false economy as they simply pass on increased costs to other statutory organisations and would impact on an increasingly pressured voluntary sector.
- The cuts would have an impact on the health and wellbeing of their residents, particularly their mental health. Reducing preventative services is short-sighted and means the intervention ends up being more expensive.
- Decisions about reducing services should be made based on outcomes and the financial impact on other services.

### Community-based housing support

- The proposed level of cuts is too high.
- They agree that those with the highest need should be prioritised, but if there is less early intervention then the needs of individuals are likely to escalate.
- This would increase the costs for primary care services and possibly increase the need for Children's Services interventions.
- Households could be at risk of losing their home without this early intervention service, meaning that the districts and boroughs would see an increase in their workload.
- Service provision is already limited and there are no alternative services if these ones are reduced or cut.
- The Council should work with districts and boroughs to redesign these services.
- For example, a generic service rather than two services could save money.

- The aim of redesigned services need to focus on those with the most urgent housing situations and those to whom local authorities have statutory homelessness duties.
- It is essential that any revised services deliver life skills so people can manage their tenancy following intervention and prevent the need for repeat support.

## **DESSS**

- They sometimes refer people to the scheme.
- They understand why cuts are being explored given it is not a statutory service and there are other services that can provide some of the services free or at a lower cost, such as food banks and low cost furniture.
- However, there are no alternative services that can provide assistance with utilities bills and rent in advance.
- They suggest requiring households to pay back any assistance at an affordable level, although note that the problem with this would be the costs of doing so and the time it would take.
- They are concerned that the proposal to reduce the amount of money given to district and boroughs for rent in advance would affect non-priority and intentionally homeless households which are not owed a duty by the districts and boroughs.
- The direct result of this would be an increase in rough sleeping which locally is already on the increase and they would not like to see further increase for many reasons including the impact on the individual/household as well as on other public services including the police.

## **Accommodation-based housing support**

- The proposed level of cut is too high, particularly since they are providing services to some of those most in need.
- They are concerned about the impact on Wealden, as the area only has two services and no provision for young mums, single homeless and those with mental health needs.
- Similar areas in Rother and Lewes already have greater provision.
- It is already difficult to house those with support and any reduction in provision would be unfair and disproportionate.
- Care needs to be taken in remodelling refuges as changes or reductions in staff could be life-threatening for residents.
- Not having enough provision for services would impact on other public sector services and risks more children being taken into care.
- The proposed cuts would impact on other Council services, such as Children's Services and leaving care services.
- Cuts are also being planned in community-based housing.
- They suggest that in making the cuts the Council should look at fair access to accommodation- based housing support across the county based on demographics and needs data.
- The viability of units would be at risk if the cuts went ahead.
- Many of the services will be owned by Housing Associations which will have outstanding debts on the building.
- The shortage of accommodation means the county cannot afford to lose any social properties.

Code: Org0032	April	Letter	Salvation Army Housing Association
<input type="checkbox"/> HIV support service	<input type="checkbox"/> Carers support	<input type="checkbox"/> DESSS	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate care and day services (Milton and Firwood)
<input type="checkbox"/> Overall	<input type="checkbox"/> Older people's day centres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting people (accommodation)	<input type="checkbox"/> LD dps & residential <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting People (Community) <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke Recovery Service

## Summary

- The level of saving has the potential to cause catastrophic harm to those who we seek to support as a provider.
- Their residents have taken part in the consultation and used it to explain how the services give them the opportunity to learn the life skills needed to be independent.
- They also say that the only alternative to this service is temporary B&B accommodation. Many of them say if they were made homeless the only options may be prison or suicide.
- Adult Social Care says that alternative housing and support would be provided if the cuts went ahead.
- The reality is that this doesn't exist, as it already takes three to six months for housing to become available when the young mothers using this service are ready to move on.
- Placing young mothers in B&B accommodation would place them and their children at significant risk.
- While efficiencies need to be made, the level of reduction in funding for young people at risk, and young mothers accommodation would place young lives at significant risk and they believe this group would be at highest risk from the proposed cuts across these services.
- The proposed cuts undermine the Council's commitment to keeping vulnerable people safe and reduce the safety net for these vulnerable people.
- The removal of a large proportion of younger people's services would make it harder for Children's Services to meet its statutory duties in the Children Act.
- It is also likely that Children's Services would see an increase in cases with a higher need and an increasing need for foster care or placements.
- A reduction in services would increase the number of young people sofa surfing or living in unsafe environments, making it harder to support them.
- Many statutory services would see an increase in footfall and poorer outcomes.
- A reduction in supported accommodation would also impact on the success of the transformation project to support care leavers and homeless young people and limit their ability to move on.
- The reduced budget for supported accommodation would adversely affect care leavers support and accommodation opportunities.
- These services help to prevent deaths by housing young people in suitable accommodation.
- Reducing the service would limit the role it can play in addressing issues of self-harm and suicide and risks impacting on health services.
- Young residents often have significant mental health issues which the service helps to address. This is a huge saving for the public purse in the long term.

- Supported accommodation providers are also key in providing information to MACE (Missing and Child Exploitation) meetings and disrupting exploitation of young people by organised crime and County Lines, and help to keep people safe.
- The significant reduction the proposals represent would likely increase the footfall for housing authorities which are already struggling to implement the Homelessness Reduction Act. This may manifest in rough sleeping and have further implications for NHS services.
- If reductions make the services unviable, then there is the possibility that infrastructure which the public purse has invested in would be lost for good.

Code: Org0018	April	Email	Lewes District Council
<input type="checkbox"/> HIV support service	<input type="checkbox"/> Carers support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DESSS	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate care and day services (Milton and Firwood)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Overall	<input type="checkbox"/> Older people's day centres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting people (accommodation)	<input type="checkbox"/> LD dps & residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting People (Community) <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke Recovery Service

## Summary

- They recognise the financial pressures and limited choices facing the Council, particularly with the need to meet statutory duty.
- That said, they are concerned about the impact in the medium and long term on individuals and the demand for services if preventative spending is reduced.

## Accommodation-based housing support

- The level of saving proposed is likely to make the existing services unsustainable and reduces services provided to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- The proposed reductions are likely to have a significant impact on health services, housing, Children's Services and Adult Social Care.
- Young people are referred because of their level of vulnerability and because they are not able to stay in the family home and would be at significant risk without these services.
- Due to the challenges they have faced they need support to settle and develop the skills they need to live independently.
- These services also contribute to key government aims to ensure people are supported to move into mainstream education, training or employment.
- They are very concerned by the proposal to reduce funding for refuges, as these services are a lynchpin for people experiencing domestic abuse.
- The Council works hard with partners to promote awareness of domestic abuse and increase reporting, so it would seem perverse to limit services for those who make the decision to escape.
- Refuges provide a safe space for women escaping violence and many have closed in recent years, exposing those who are no longer able to find a space to the many risks of abuse which arise from homelessness.
- The current level of provision already falls short of what is needed and of minimum European standards. Any savings which put our current level of provision at risk should be avoided at all costs.

- They oppose the proposed reduction in single homeless and mental health services.
- Spaces are already limited and these essential services support some of the most vulnerable in society.
- These clients often have significant mental health needs, drug or alcohol addictions and complex needs.
- Putting this support at risk would impact on health and social care services and community safety.
- The proposed savings conflict with the Council's responsibilities for safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our communities and the effort and energy put in by other teams within the council itself.
- From their point of view as a housing authority, the proposals could also limit key housing options for people who are unable to live independently and pose major risks to mental health and hospital services, increasing the revolving door.

## **DESSS**

- They are concerned at the level of savings proposed.
- It is not clear from the consultation how much funding there would be for each element of the current service if they went ahead.
- The amount given to district and borough councils for rent in advance has been reducing steadily over a number of years, whilst the need for this funding has increased and housing options have shrunk.
- The level of rent in advance and deposits demanded by private landlords and their agents put housing beyond the reach of most people.
- The main cause of homelessness is the termination of private tenancies and people not having the savings to meet the demands for rent in advance and deposits.
- People are therefore completely reliant on the loan schemes supported by DESSS.
- At a time when the roll-out of Universal Credit is affecting people, the proposed cuts make a nonsense of the Council-led Financial Inclusion Group.
- They urge the Council to restrict any savings to those which reflect under-use and to maintain the current funding level for rent in advance schemes.

## **Community-based housing support**

- These provide essential services, helping them to cope with major life changes which threaten their independence.
- They build resilience and reduce the risk that people would become dependent on more costly hospital and care services.
- They are strongly opposed to the level of savings proposed, which is likely to make the existing services unsustainable and ignores the fact that many people are at crisis point when the referrals are made.

## **Home Works**

- They are concerned about the reduction for this service and the likely rise in demand it would cause for care services.
- The majority of people who use the service are referred directly by statutory organisations and most are already in crisis.
- This is a vital service for people with a variety of needs and plays a key role in delivering the Council's duties under the Care Act.

- Nationally there is increasing recognition of the gap in provision for people experiencing poor mental health.
- Community-based services play a key role working with some of the most vulnerable people, many of whom have multiple and complex needs.

## STEPS

- The service plays a key role in reducing demand for care services and allowing people to continue to live independently despite significant health problems.
- The proposed savings would translate into a significant reduction in the number of clients who could be supported.
- This is likely to increase demand on health and care services, particularly as the majority of clients have at least one long-term health condition.
- There are significant financial benefits from people being able to continue living independently and the additional income the service helps to secure for clients.

Code: Org0000	April	Video	Eastbourne Foyer Video
HIV support service	<input type="checkbox"/> Carers support	<input type="checkbox"/> DESSS	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate care and day services (Milton and Firwood)
Overall	<input type="checkbox"/> Older people's day centres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting people (accommodation)	<input type="checkbox"/> LD dps & residential <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting People (Community) <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke Recovery Service

## Summary

- The video tells the story of some of the young people who have used the service.
- They share the circumstances that brought them to the service, from being homeless or sofa surfing; their health problems; issues with their parents; being in care; abusive relationships; and suicide attempts.
- The video explains the practical and emotional support that the service offers to residents 24/7, from access to education or employment, maximising their incomes, overcoming their past, breaking addictions, and helping them to see they have a future.
- For some of the residents it is the first stable and caring home they have had. They are given support to learn from their mistakes and the skills to move on.
- The residents talk about what has changed for them, from moving out on their own; getting a university offer; getting support with their mental health needs; controlling their anger; and sorting their life out.
- The services help them to move on from bad things in their life, become independent and choose their own future.
- The video ends by saying the funding cuts may cost them their home and their hope. It would also leave other young people with no chance of a better future.

Code: Org0026	April	Video	Young Mums Video
HIV support service	<input type="checkbox"/> Carers support	<input type="checkbox"/> DESSS	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate care and day services (Milton and Firwood)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall	Older people's day centres	Supporting people (accommodation)	Supporting People (Community)	Stroke Recovery Service

## Summary

- The video explains the service that is offered and tells the story of some of the residents.
- The residents talk about their situation before coming to live at the service: being homeless; living in unsuitable temporary accommodation and feeling unsafe; or being evicted.
- They talk about how they feel about the service and how it has helped them: they feel like it's their home and value the support they get from staff; how helped them get routines, go back to work, get used to living on their own with their child.
- They talk about the courses and workshops they've had access to and how they helped them deal with problems and learning to be mums.
- The service is helping them to plan for the future, whether that is training for a career or starting their own business.
- People value the fact it's a safe place for them and the service works with other services who are supporting them.
- They say that they are getting the experience they need to move on and look to the future.
- Without services like this, they say a lot of people would be in bad situations and won't be able to fulfil their potential.

Code: Org0028	April	Video	Newhaven Foyer Video
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HIV support service	Carers support	DESSS	Intermediate care and day services (Milton and Firwood)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall	Older people's day centres	Supporting people (accommodation)	Supporting People (Community)	Stroke Recovery Service

## Summary

- The video explains the support the service offers and tells the story of some of the residents.
- The residents talk about their situation before they came to live in the service: living on the streets; taking drugs and drinking; being involved with gangs and drug dealing; experiencing anxiety and depression; harming themselves; and overdosing and suicide.
- One said they would be dead if it wasn't for the service.
- One said they gave them another chance and saw the good in them.
- One said they showed them that life is worth living.
- They talk about how the service has helped them: helped them with their mental health; to deal with their past; to access education and training; re-homing them; pushing them towards their goals; to make friends; teaching them life skills.
- They talk about the plans for the future it has helped them to make: to get a place at college; pushing them towards their goals; moving on to other services; and becoming independent.

- They say if it wasn't for the service they would be homeless or would end up in prison.
- The video ends with a plea from one of the residents not to end this amazing service which is their family and their lives. They say it has helped them to grow into strong and independent adults.

Code: Org0029	April	Email	Children's Services (ESCC)
<input type="checkbox"/> HIV support service	<input type="checkbox"/> Carers support	<input type="checkbox"/> DESSS	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate care and day services (Milton and Firwood)
<input type="checkbox"/> Overall	<input type="checkbox"/> Older people's day centres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting people (accommodation)	<input type="checkbox"/> LD dps & residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting People (Community) <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke Recovery Service

## Summary

### Key themes

- Under the proposed reductions, it is highly likely that there would be a net increase in overall spend by the Council in meeting its statutory obligations.
- The increased risks whilst waiting for fewer bed-spaces would also have to be managed by a number of Council social care teams. Given the regulatory and inspection framework for Children's Services this is likely to bring increased reputational risk.
- The Housing Authorities would be impacted on by the reduced funding for Home Works, which would see more tenancy breakdown and more homelessness presentations. They would be similarly affected by the reduced number of supported accommodation bed spaces.
- One of the proposed solutions would be to undertake joint commissioning of supported accommodation for young people utilising existing Supporting People funds, the existing Youth Homelessness budget, that for Care Leavers and Flexible Support Grant from the District and Borough Housing Authorities.

### Other themes

- The requirement to make substantial savings is recognised. Their response seeks to set out the impact on other Council budgets which would result from reductions in young people and young mothers' accommodation support services and Home Works community support.
- The division in budget reductions between the services seems disproportionately in favour of the preventative service and not those accommodation services which seek to address crisis at the statutory level.
- These reductions would likely lead to an increase in footfall and assessments for a range of Children's Services. Presentations of "intentionally" homeless families would also rise as a result of the Home Works budget reductions.
- The reduced budget for supported accommodation would adversely affect care leavers support and accommodation opportunities.
- Reducing the service would limit the role it can play in addressing issues of self-harm and suicide, and risks impacting on health services.
- The funding reduction would reduce capacity for services that are already operating waiting lists.
- This would mean there would be an increase in young people who need support who don't have services if they are reduced. Most of the group would

be people who ESCC has a statutory responsibility to support.

- This would mean that the Council would still face paying the costs of supported lodgings, private sector accommodation or foster care.
- There would be additional risks for homeless children and young people who cannot access appropriate accommodation, or face delays in doing so, such as being used as a drug mule, sexual exploitation, going missing, self-harm, youth offending, social isolation, teenage pregnancies, and mental health, emotional or behavioural difficulties.
- All these issues would cause an increase in costs to Children's Services and partner agencies.
- Young people who continue to sofa surf are more difficult to support and representations are a frequent feature. This leads to increased interventions and assessments, again at increased costs for Children's Services.
- Successful referral to the young mothers service allows the department to close cases. The loss of beds in this service would impact profoundly on the services it provides and the cost of them.
- They are also concerned about cuts to refuges, which support around 100 children at present and help to meet statutory obligations for the department.
- There is already a long wait for accommodation services for care leavers. Any reduction in services would impact on the availability of beds.
- Referrals to Home Works for care leavers and young homeless people remain stubbornly high. The service plays a vital role in helping them to move on and sustain tenancies.
- Withdrawing this support is likely to increase vulnerability and lead to more homeless presentations at a time when rough sleeping is increasing.
- This would mean that more Council Personal Advisors would be required to support more homeless care leavers.

Code: Org0033	April	Email	Rother District Council
<input type="checkbox"/> HIV support service	<input type="checkbox"/> Carers support	<input type="checkbox"/> DESSS	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate care and day services (Milton and Firwood) <input type="checkbox"/> LD dps & residential
<input type="checkbox"/> Overall	<input type="checkbox"/> Older people's day centres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting people (accommodation)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting People (Community) <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke Recovery Service

### Summary

- They recognise the financial challenge facing the Council.
- While they know that adult social care will recognise the potential impact on people living in the county if they go ahead, they do have real concerns about the added pressure it would put on district and borough services, particularly housing services.
- District and borough services have seen a steady rise in people with mental health needs, often with substance and alcohol problems too.
- Removing or reducing services that support this group of people is likely to exacerbate their issues, particularly when districts and boroughs have to place them in temporary accommodation which is not able to properly support them.
- It would also be harder to place people in social housing without some support, as the acceptance criteria are becoming increasingly risk adverse.
- They do not have access to suitable temporary accommodation for young

people, so reducing accommodation based services for them would mean the risk to their wellbeing is likely to increase.

- This group would also struggle to maintain long-term tenancies without support and this could lead to an increase in rough sleeping and additional costs for all statutory services.
- They believe that this is the time to focus the remaining resources on the areas that make the most difference.
- Focusing the prevention services on reducing the likelihood of further harm and risk to the individual and the community would be their priorities.
- Being imaginative with the remaining funds spent across the system would make a lot of sense in achieving better outcomes for people and they support the work going on to make this happen.

Code: Org0041	March	Email	Turner House Residents
HIV support service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall	Carers support	DESSS	Intermediate care and day services (Milton and Firwood)
			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Older people's day centres	Supporting people (accommodation)	LD dps & residential
			<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stroke Recovery Service
			<input type="checkbox"/>

### Summary

- The service faces losing a substantial amount of its funding.
- This would have a significant impact upon the service, with an option being closure.
- It is the only service in the area, offering a lifeline to young people and the chance to change their lives and that of their children.
- The service is consistently full and has a long waiting list.
- The residents want the Council to know how valuable the home is to them.

## Individual feedback

About the feedback	
<b>Number of respondents:</b>	44
<b>When it was received:</b>	February: 2 March: 2 April: 40
<b>How it was received:</b>	Email: 4 Feedback form: 31 Letter: 9
<b>Who it was from:</b>	Councillor/MP: 2 Client: 38 Employee: 2 Family/friend: 1 Other: 1

### Key themes

The overall themes were:

- People disagree with the proposals to cut funding for these services.
- Services are already stretched following cuts and need more funding, not less.
- Many praise the service they have used and the staff who work there. They talk about the benefits they have experienced when using the service.
- People often say they were in a really bad place or at risk of harm before they accessed the services.
- The service became their home at a time when they didn't have that. They helped people to feel safe and make their lives better.
- The services focus on helping people to learn life skills and move towards independence. People also value the peer support aspect.
- *Young people at risk:* The service needs to stay open, as young people need its help to improve their lives and have a future.
- *Young people at risk:* It gets you to open up about your mental health and address painful emotions.

The key concerns were:

- The limits that would be placed on people's ability to change their life through accessing education and finding a job or career.
- That social care would still have to pick up the pieces eventually.

The key impacts were:

- The limits it would place on people's ability to become independent and develop resilience.
- Studies show that cuts in supporting housing increase homelessness, offending, self-harm, substance misuse and antisocial behaviour and are thus a false economy.

- Without these services people would be sofa surfing, homeless or could end up in prison.
- People with drug and alcohol issues wouldn't have support to stop their abusive habits.
- Crime rates would soar if people were forced onto the streets.
- *Mental health*: Reductions in service would lead to more hospital admissions and homelessness.
- *Young mothers*: Without these sort of services, already vulnerable and isolated individuals would become more so.

**Equality impact assessment – summary report for proposals to Supporting People  
(Young mums and young people)**

The results of equality impact assessments must be published. Please complete this summary, which will be used to publish the results of your impact assessment on the County Council's website.

**Date of assessment update:** May 2018

**Manager(s) name:** Jude Davies **Role:** Strategic Commissioner

**Impact assessment:**

The proposal is to reduce funding to Supporting People funded accommodation based services to achieve savings of 40%. This includes accommodation-based schemes that support young people and young mothers aged 16- 25 who are pregnant or have a dependent child. The schemes are:

- Turner House (Young Mums) (11 beds)
- Eastbourne and Lewes Young Mothers (Young Mum) (5 beds each)
- Hastings Pathway
- Hailsham YMCA Stepping Stones
- YMCA Eastbourne
- London Road
- Newhaven Foyer
- Eastbourne Foyer

Clients of the young mothers scheme are unable to parent their child without accommodation-based support, and require specialist accommodation to minimise the risk to themselves or others or have complex and /or challenging needs and cannot live with their family but do not have the skills to live independently.

**Summary of findings:**

**Data suggests that the proposals will have the highest negative impact on age (young people) and pregnancy/maternity (young mothers) as well as disability (people facing multiple and complex needs) and vulnerability as a result.**

**Note: There is a multiple impact here with proposed reduction to DESSS, and other Supporting People services including Home Works, STEPS and accommodation-based services for people with mental health issues and homelessness. There may also be additional impact arising from any savings proposals made in Children's Services.**

- Increased risk of homelessness, poverty and debt, safeguarding and health needs for young people at risk, Looked After Children (LAC) and young mothers and their children.
- Increased vulnerability in turn increases the likelihood of sexual and physical violence and trafficking. In addition to this, proposals are likely to result in more young people and young mothers (and their children) living in unsafe conditions.
- Homeless young people, especially those who are 16 and 17, are particularly vulnerable. They are likely face additional barriers to securing accommodation from a range of factors including a lack of familial support and changes to the welfare benefits system, which affect both them and their families

- Increased pressure on acute and primary healthcare services, other statutory services (district and borough councils) and voluntary and third sector services including foodbanks
- Increased risk of financial pressure on other departments within ESCC particularly Children's Services.

**Summary of recommendations and key points of action plan:**

- Once final savings are confirmed the Supporting People Strategic Commissioner will work with the Provider to develop an implementation plan/decommissioning plan for achieving the savings.

**Groups that this project or service will impact upon**

Please mark the appropriate boxes with an 'x'

	Positive	Negative	Neutral
<b>Age</b>		X	
<b>Disability</b>		X	
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
<b>Gender/Transgender</b>			
<b>Marriage or Civil partnership</b>			
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>		X	
<b>Religion/Belief</b>			
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			
<b>Other (including carers/rurality etc) Homelessness/Low income</b>		X	
<b>All</b>			

## **Equality impact assessment – summary report for proposals to Supporting People (accommodation-based services for mental health and Homelessness)**

The results of equality impact assessments must be published. Please complete this summary, which will be used to publish the results of your impact assessment on the County Council's website.

**Date of assessment update:** May 2018

**Manager(s) name:** Jude Davies **Role:** Strategic Commissioner

### **Impact assessment:**

There is a proposal to reduce funding to Supporting People-funded accommodation-based services by 40%. Services affected include:

*Accommodation-based services for people with mental health issues:*

- Bal Edmund Hastings
- Hyde Garden Eastbourne
- Pathways Rother

These services provide specialist on- site housing support and accommodation to meet the complex and multiple needs of adults who are homeless and who have a mental health issue. In 2016/17, 72 people used the services. A total of 43 people can receive a service at any one time.

*Accommodation-based services for homeless people:*

- Merrick House Hastings
- Priory Avenue Hastings
- St Aubyn's Eastbourne

These services provide specialist on-site housing support and accommodation for homeless people with complex needs including mental health, learning disabilities, physical and sensory impairments and drug and alcohol issues. Two of the services are for single homeless people, and one service can also support homeless families. 40 people can receive a service at any one time.

### **Summary of findings:**

**Data suggests that the proposals will have the highest negative impact on disability (mental health, and many clients have at least one long term condition) and people who are on a low income or homeless. There is an additional impact on age (predominantly working age) and gender (men).**

**Note: There is a multiple impact here with proposed reduction to DESSS, and other Supporting People services including STEPS and Home Works.**

- A reduction in service would result in increased risk of homelessness and street homelessness for this cohort.
- Increased risk of high rates of acute health care use due to lack of early intervention, including emergency visits and inpatient admissions to hospital for people with complex needs and the physical and mental health symptoms. This is especially prevalent for people who are homeless, especially street-homeless.
- Increased burden on local voluntary and community services including food banks as well as District and Borough council services

- Increased risk of suicide and death on the street, substance misuse, health risks including HIV, hepatitis C and tuberculosis, and crime including assault
- An increase in exploitation of vulnerable people at risk, and living in unsafe conditions

**Summary of recommendations and key points of action plan:**

- Once final savings are confirmed the Supporting People Strategic Commissioner will work with the Provider to develop an implementation plan/decommissioning plan for achieving the savings.

**Groups that this project or service will impact upon**

Please mark the appropriate boxes with an 'x'

	Positive	Negative	Neutral
<b>Age</b>		X	
<b>Disability</b>		X	
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
<b>Gender/Transgender</b>		X	
<b>Marriage or Civil partnership</b>			
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>			
<b>Religion/Belief</b>			
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			
<b>Other (including carers/rurality etc) Homelessness/Low income</b>		X	
<b>All</b>			

## **Equality impact assessment – summary report for RPPR proposals to SP women's refuges**

The results of equality impact assessments must be published. Please complete this summary, which will be used to publish the results of your impact assessment on the County Council's website.

**Date of assessment update:** 9 May 2018

**Manager(s) name:** Jude Davies

**Role:** Strategic Commissioning Manager

### **Impact assessment:**

The proposal is to reduce funding for Supporting People accommodation based services by 40%, as part of ASC's RPPR process. The services affected by this proposal include the five refuges in East Sussex delivered through Refuge. In total, these provide 47 units of accommodation across:

- Eastbourne Refuge – 9 units
- Hastings Refuge – 10 units
- Lewes Refuge – 6 units
- Rother Refuge – 12 units
- Wealden Refuge – 10 units

39 % of women in the refuges in 2016/16 were local to East Sussex

### **Summary of findings:**

**The biggest impact is to the protected characteristic of gender, as the proposals will have a negative impact on women and their dependent children.**

**Ninety nine percent of women who access refuge support are of working age and over 70% had dependent children (2016/17).**

**Note: there is a possible additional impact associated with the proposal around the Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme (DESSS).**

Additional impacts may include:

- Increased physical and/or psychological risk for women (and their children) remaining in abusive relationships due to reduced options for safe accommodation with 24 hour admittance.
- An increase in women and children who are fleeing domestic abuse being placed in temporary accommodation including bed and breakfast accommodation and possibly being placed out of county without focused support.
- Multiple impacts for women with complex needs (e.g substance misuse, learning disabilities, poor mental health) as refuges are able to provide holistic and specialist support.
- An increased risk for pregnant women, as abuse often escalates with pregnancy.
- An increase in women becoming homeless, impacting local resources (District/ Borough councils).
- An increased demand on emergency services, particularly the police and A & E.

- An increased demand for counselling and mental health services, placing additional strain on GP's, HSCC and local services.
- An increase in safeguarding alerts for children, with potentially more being removed from the home, meaning further trauma to mother and child and resource implications for Children's Services.
- A rise in treatment for injury, hospitalisation and resultant healthcare costs.
- An increase in demand for the IDVA service.
- An escalation in safety issues and demand for policing.
- An increased risk of homicides.

**Summary of recommendations and key points of action plan:**

- If the proposals go ahead, Adult Social Care will work closely with providers to obtain a reduced service for women and children fleeing domestic abuse.
- Ensure processes are in place to best coordinate refuge availability.
- Ensure information provisions (HSCC, ESCC website, community safety services) are clear and current.
- Ensure women with language and communication needs are able to access information in the format they require.
- Consider how women can access the Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme to ensure financial support for timely and successful move ons from the refuge.

**Groups that this project or service will impact upon**

Please mark the appropriate boxes with an 'x'

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Age</b>		X
<b>Disability</b>		X
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
<b>Gender/Transgender</b>		X
<b>Marriage or Civil partnership</b>		
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>		X
<b>Religion/Belief</b>		
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>		
<b>Other (including carers/rurality etc)</b>		
<b>All</b>		