

Appendix 1: Consultation results report

Mental health community outreach

About this consultation

This consultation is about the proposal to stop providing the Mental Health Community Outreach Service and instead use existing community and bed-based services to offer support. It started on 3 October and closed on 28 November 2024.

Taking part in the consultation

The consultation survey was available to complete online and people could download a printable version. Emails, letters and feedback in phone calls were also accepted.

All of the consultations were promoted in our newsletters for residents, providers and staff. We also shared news stories with partners in the statutory and voluntary sectors to include in their newsletters for residents, organisations and staff.

General posters were shared with library teams and each affected service had a dedicated poster to put up in their service or building.

The consultations were widely promoted in the local media and consultation leads talked about the proposals at relevant stakeholder meetings.

Who took part in the consultation

We received 48 responses to this consultation. The table below shows the different ways in which people took part.

Respondent method	Total
Survey	44
Email and letters	4

There were also 10 responses submitted by email or letter that addressed all of the consultations more generally. A general petition opposing the funding gap proposals was submitted by Lewes Liberal Democrats. It was signed by 100 people.

People were given the option of answering 'about you' equality questions in the survey, with 59% choosing to do so.

- We had responses from people living in all parts of the county, with the top areas being Eastbourne, Hastings and Rother (all 11%).
- Respondents were most likely to be people who live in East Sussex (34%), followed by workers in health and social care, or the VCSE sector (25% and 16% respectively).
- Of those respondents who told us their age, the majority was 60+ (25%) and between 35-54 (22%).

Key messages

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

- Most respondents disagree with the proposal to close the service, seeing it as a vital lifeline. No one agreed with the proposal.
- Respondents say it is short sighted to cut a preventative service that helps people avoid reaching crisis point, especially at a time when the country is experiencing high levels of poor mental health.
- The service is praised for its accessibility and responsiveness, with people particularly valuing the fact that it offers home visits. They said it prevents people's support needs increasing or becoming more complex.
- People say there aren't alternative services that could offer similar support if it closed. The universal services that people would use instead tend to have much longer waiting times for appointments.
- People say the proposal would be particularly detrimental to the elderly or those with dementia. Without the service, people and their family and carers would become more isolated, not knowing where else to turn for support.
- Health professionals felt that without the service people would become less independent and at increased risk of harm, which will increase demand on other services.
- Closing the service would increase pressure and costs elsewhere in the system, both for the Council and for other organisations who support this group of people, such as hospital dementia services.
- There is concern regarding what other sources of mental health support people will access, especially with high waiting times for other mental health services and proposed closure of the Council's day services for older people.

Sample quotes

These comments are a small selection of the responses we received in the consultation. They reflect the key themes or offer a specific suggestion.

Organisation comments:

- **Healthwatch East Sussex:** "The proposed changes may restrict people's access to essential prevention and support services, which in turn may negatively impact their mental and physical wellbeing, place pressure on other services and potentially have cost implications in the longer term."
- **NHS Sussex:** "There could...be wider indirect system impact as this service is valued by the hospital dementia services. Reductions to, or cessation of this service could compound patient flow and delayed discharges."
- **Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust:** "We welcome East Sussex County Council's support of our strategic objectives to meet the needs of older people with mental health problems and / or dementia, which we believe will support mitigating the impact of the ESCC proposals [to stop this service]."
- **Wealden Citizens Advice:** "The ability to conduct home visits is essential to these clients. The current waiting times for clients to been seen under this existing service are really good. If this ceases, then there will be added demand and longer waiting

times from other services. Those with Mental Health issues have crisis periods and need to be seen in a timely fashion and not have long waits for the help that they need.”

Individual comments:

- “The country as a whole is going through a mental health crisis currently. There is already very limited help available for those who need it.”
- “We're heading for a mental health crisis, and this is just going to add fuel to the fire.”
- “Over the years these services have gotten smaller and smaller and less accessible and closing this service is just another closure of vital support for those already vulnerable individuals. This could lead to more reliance with their GP. But these services are limited in what they can provide if no medical need is present. It will increase the isolation of many individuals with mental health.”
- “The advice given [by the service] was invaluable and because it was outreach, it was something which was easily accessed for very difficult-to-acquire advice.”
- “I fear these individuals will be without an appropriate level of support that meets their needs at a time prior to crisis. I worry that there will not be the services out there for these unique individuals. This could and will result in more reliance on more costly services out there longer term.”
- “Further reducing mental health services will have a negative impact on those that need it even for [the] short term. Prevention is important.”
- “By providing this level of support, we can often reduce or avoid the need for 1-1 care and prevent transitions to more costly placements. The closure of this service could, therefore, lead to an increased reliance on less cost-effective alternatives, such as bedded inpatient units, placing additional pressure on the already bursting healthcare system.”
- “Elderly people are isolated enough and this has a huge impact on their mental health. Scrapping this service would mean a deterioration of the most vulnerable.”
- “At a time when poor mental health is common across ages and backgrounds, cutting vital services like this one will only increase anxiety and isolation for those who need and rely on the service. Again, the most vulnerable in society are paying the price of local and national financial difficulties.”
- “Many people are just not capable of accessing services because they cannot leave their homes for various reasons. Statutory services are already stretched when it comes to providing Mental Health services.”
- “People with dementia often lose autonomy or are thought to not be able to make their own decisions. This service provides valuable assessment and support for people to make their own decisions and to remain living in the community with the appropriate support. This is a preventative service which must overall save money.”

Results summary across all methods

Views on the proposal

Survey: 98% of respondents disagree with the proposal to stop funding the mental health community outreach service, of which 91% chose strongly disagree over disagree. No respondents agreed with the proposal.

The top 10 themes for why people agree or disagree with the proposal are:

- 1) Service: Service is vital/needed (17 comments)
- 2) Impact: Poorer mental health (9)
- 3) Views: Adds more cost in the long term for other services and/or East Sussex County Council (8)
- 4) Impact: Increased pressure on other services (7)
- 5) Service: Praise of service and its benefit (7)
- 6) Views: Worry about where people will get support instead (7)
- 7) Views: Cuts target vulnerable people (7)
- 8) Views: Equivalent services not available (7)
- 9) Impact: People would have to go into care (6)
- 10) Views: Services already limited (6)

Emails etc: The majority of views related to the proposal being particularly detrimental to the elderly (4) and those with a mental illness (2), while the proposal overall targets the most vulnerable (2).

Other similar themes included:

- Views: Detrimental to disabled people in particular (1)
- Views: Detrimental to homeless people in particular (1)
- Views: Detrimental to those with a drug and/or alcohol dependency (1)

Potential impacts of the proposal

Survey: 30 people responded to this question. The top themes are:

- 1) Impact: Poorer mental health (7 comments)
- 2) Views: Equivalent services not available (7)
- 3) Impact: Increased pressure on other services (6)
- 4) Views: Worry about where people will get support instead (6)
- 5) Impact: Isolation (5)
- 6) Impact: People won't get the support they need (5)
- 7) Impact: People at increased risk without service (4)
- 8) Views: Services already limited (4)
- 9) Comment about personal circumstances (3)
- 10) Service: Lifeline to people (3)
- 11) Service: Services rely on people who access support to refer to them for that support (3)

Emails etc: The top impacts identified are:

- Impact: Increased burden on family/carer (2)

- Impact: Increased pressure on other services (2)
- Impact: NHS (2)
- Impact: Poorer access to support (2)
- Impact: Poorer mental health (2)

Suggestions

General suggestions are covered in the background report on the funding gap consultations, while service-specific ones are included here.

Survey: The top suggestions were to focus on prevention (3 comments) and to not cut the service (2 comments).

Others included:

- Suggestion: Advise people who access support on managing finances (1)
- Suggestion: Enhance the service rather than reduce it (1)
- Suggestion: Keep disruption to a minimum (1)
- Suggestion: Merge or reorganise services (1)
- Suggestion: More joint working (1)
- Suggestion: Carry out a phased trial (1)
- Suggestion: Carry out risk assessment for people access support who would be impacted by the proposal (1)
- Suggestion: Consider long-term repercussions of closing service (1)
- Suggestion: Don't cut as much as proposed (1)
- Suggestion: Lobby government for more funding (1)
- Suggestion: Make decisions after May elections (1)
- Suggestions: Utilise staff skills better (1)

Emails etc: The top suggestion was for more joint working (2 comments). Other suggestions included:

- Suggestion: Continue to support the most vulnerable (1)
- Suggestion: Create an intensive dementia support team (1)
- Suggestion: Cut operational costs (1)
- Suggestion: Do things differently and innovate (1)
- Suggestion: Don't cut as much as proposed (1)
- Suggestion: Explore alternative solutions with partners/other providers (1)
- Suggestion: Focus on prevention (1)

Other topics

Survey: The survey included a question that gave people the chance to make any additional comments or suggestions. The top themes for the comments were:

- Views: Adds more cost in the long-term for other services and/or East Sussex County Council (5)
- Suggestion: Focus on prevention (3)
- Views: Short sighted (3)
- Service: Service is vital/needed (2)
- Suggestion: Don't cut service (2)
- Views: Equivalent services not available (2)

Emails etc: The top theme was that East Sussex County Council must provide more information about alternatives and capacity (2 comments).

Charts and tables

Survey responses including about you information

1) Are you completing the survey as:

There were 44 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Someone who uses/has used the mental health outreach service	5	11.36%
The family or carer of someone who uses/has used the service	4	9.09%
Someone who works for the service	1	2.27%
Someone who lives in East Sussex	15	34.09%
Someone who works in health or social care in East Sussex	11	25.00%
Someone who works in housing in East Sussex	0	0.00%
Someone who works in the voluntary or community sector	7	15.91%
Other (please provide details below)	1	2.27%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If you ticked 'other' please provide details here:

There was 1 response to this part of the question:

- Councillor

2) How much do you agree or disagree with the proposal to stop providing the Mental Health Community Outreach Service?

There were 44 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	0	0.00%
Agree	0	0.00%
Neither agree nor disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	3	6.82%
Strongly disagree	40	90.91%
Not sure	1	2.27%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Please use the box below to tell us why you agree or disagree:

There were 36 responses to this part of the question.

Comment theme	Total
Service: Service is vital/needed	17
Impact: Poorer mental health	9
Views: Adds more cost in the long term for other services and/or East Sussex County Council	8
Impact: Increased pressure on other services	7
Service: Praise of service and its benefit	7
Views: Worry about where people will get support instead	7
Views: Cuts target vulnerable people	7
Views: Equivalent services not available	7
Impact: People would have to go into care	6
Views: Services already limited	6
Impact: Isolation	5
Impact: Lower quality of life	4
Service: Very accessible	4
Impact: Increased support needs	3
Service: Services rely on people who access support being referred to them for that support	3
Suggestion: Focus on prevention	3
Views: Need for this service is increasing	3
Views: Detrimental to the elderly in particular	3
Comment about personal circumstances	2
Impact: Detrimental to the family and/or carer of the people affected	2
Impact: Loss to the community/society	2

Impact: Poorer physical health	2
Impact: Less independence	2
Impact: More people in crisis	2
Impact: Negative impact (unspecified)	2
Impact: People could/will die	2
Service: Efficient	2
Service: Flexible support	2
Service: Provides support centred on the people accessing it	2
Service: Immensely valued	2
Views: Alternative services not adequate	2
Views: Short sighted	2
Impact: At risk of suicide	1
Impact: Confidence will be lost	1
Impact: Financial hardship	1
Impact: People at increased risk without service	1
Impact: Increased burden on frontline workers supporting people who access support	1
Impact: More hospital admissions	1
Impact: People won't get the support they need	1
Impact: Poor/no access to support	1
Impact: Untreated mental health leads to substance misuse	1
Service: Improves outcomes for people who access support using multiple services	1
Service: Service built trust with people who access support	1
Service: Vital for preventing risk and poor outcomes for people who access support	1
Service: Would not be alive without service	1
Views: Don't close service	1
Views: Morally wrong	1
Views: Already a mental health crisis in the country	1
Views: People who access this support struggle to access/engage with other services	1
Views: Long wait time for other services	1
Views: Social Care services don't have capacity to provide the support of this service	1

3) How would the proposal to stop providing the Mental Health Community Outreach Service affect you or someone you care for?

There were 30 responses to this part of the question.

Comment theme	Total
Impact: Poorer mental health	7
Views: Equivalent services not available	7
Impact: Increased pressure on other services	6
Views: Worry about where people will get support instead	6
Impact: Isolation	5
Impact: People won't get the support they need	5
Impact: People at increased risk without service	4
Views: Services already limited	4
Comment about personal circumstances	3
Service: Lifeline to people	3
Service: Services rely on people who access this support being referred to them for support	3
Impact: At risk of suicide	2
Impact: Detrimental to the family and/or carer of the people affected	2
Impact: Increased support needs	2
Impact: Increased burden on frontline workers supporting people who access support	2
Impact: People would have to go into care	2
It does not affect me	3
Service: Immensely valued	2
Views: Cuts target vulnerable people	2
Views: Adds more cost in the long term for other services and/or East Sussex County Council	2
Impact: Couldn't cope without service	1
Impact: Less independence	1
Impact: People would need to be in crisis to get help	1
Impact: Poorer physical health	1
Impact: Feeling less safe	1
Service: Provides support centred on people who access it	1
Service: Service is vital/needed	1
Service: Services rely on people who access this support being referred on to them for support	1
Service: Would not be alive without service	1
Suggestion: Continue to support the most vulnerable	1
Suggestion: More joint working	1
Views: Already a mental health crisis in the country	1

Views: Alternative organisations not appropriate	1
Views: Detrimental to people with dementia in particular	1
Views: Detrimental to women in particular	1
Views: It is already difficult to get help	1
Views: Need for this service is increasing	1
Views: Unhappy/disagree with proposal	1

4) Do you have any other suggestions or comments you would like to make?

There were 13 responses to this part of the question.

Comment theme	Total
Views: Adds more cost in the long term for other services and/or East Sussex County Council	5
Suggestion: Focus on prevention	3
Views: Short sighted	3
Service: Service is vital/needed	2
Suggestion: Don't cut service	2
Views: Equivalent services not available	2
Impact: Financial hardship	1
Impact: Increase in crime	1
Impact: Increased pressure on other services	1
Impact: People at increased risk without service	1
Impact: Poor/no access to support	1
Other: Comment re national finances	1
Other: Comment re national government	1
Other: Criticism of government	1
Other: Comment re impact of government actions	1
Service: Face-to-face support is important	1
Service: Very accessible	1
Suggestion: Advise people who access support on managing finances	1
Suggestion: Enhance the service rather than reduce it	1
Suggestion: Keep disruption to a minimum	1
Suggestion: Merge or reorganise services	1
Suggestion: More joint working	1
Suggestion: Carry out a phased trial	1
Suggestion: Carry out risk assessment for people accessing support who would be impacted by the proposal	1
Suggestion: Consider long-term repercussions of closing service	1

Suggestion: Don't cut as much as proposed	1
Suggestion: Lobby government for more funding	1
Suggestion: Make decisions after May elections	1
Suggestions: Utilise staff skills better	1
Unspecific/unclear comment	1
Views: Cuts target vulnerable people	1
Views: Cuts unfair/unequal	1
Views: Worry about where people will get support instead	1
Views: Detrimental to people with dementia in particular	1
Views: Detrimental to people with mental illness in particular	1
Views: Detrimental to the elderly in particular	1
Views: Increasingly difficult for people to cope in society	1

About you equality questions

People were given the option of answering these questions, with 26 choosing to take part and 18 choosing not to answer.

What age are you?

There were 24 responses to this part of the question.

Age	Total	Percentage of respondents
Under 18	0	0%
18-24	1	2%
25-34	1	2%
35-44	5	11%
45-54	5	11%
55-59	1	2%
60-64	6	14%
65+	5	11%
Not answered	20	45%

What is your gender?

There were 26 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Female	15	34.09%
Male	11	25.00%

Non-binary	0	0.00%
Prefer to self-describe (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	18	40.91%

Self-described gender:

There were 0 responses to this part of the question.

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

There were 26 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	25	56.82%
No (please write in your gender identity below)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	1	2.27%
Not Answered	18	40.91%

Gender identity:

There was 1 response to this part of the question, about the relevance of asking it.

What is your ethnic group?

There were 26 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
White English/Welsh/Scottish /Northern Irish/British	22	50.00%
White Irish	0	0.00%
White Gypsy/Irish Traveller	0	0.00%
White Roma	0	0.00%
Any other White background (please write in below)	2	4.55%
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	0	0.00%
Mixed White and Black African	0	0.00%
Mixed White and Asian	0	0.00%
Any other Mixed or Multiple background (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British Indian	0	0.00%

Asian or Asian British Pakistani	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British Chinese	1	2.27%
Any other Asian background (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Black or Black British Caribbean	0	0.00%
Black or Black British African background (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Any other Black, Black British or Caribbean background (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Arab	0	0.00%
Any other ethnic group (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	1	2.27%
Not Answered	18	40.91%

Other:

There were 3 responses to this part of the question including Austrian, European, and comment re being a member of the human race.

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

There were 26 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
'Straight' / Heterosexual	23	52.27%
Gay or Lesbian	2	4.55%
Bisexual	1	2.27%
Prefer to self-describe (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	18	40.91%

Self-described sexual orientation:

There were 0 responses to this part of the question.

What is your religion or belief?

There were 26 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
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No religion	14	31.82%
Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	7	15.91%
Buddhist	2	4.55%
Hindu	0	0.00%
Jewish	1	2.27%
Muslim	0	0.00%
Sikh	0	0.00%
Any other religion (please write in below)	1	2.27%
Philosophical belief (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	1	2.27%
Not Answered	18	40.91%

Other religion:

There was 1 response to this part of the question:

- A belief in doing good

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

There were 26 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes (please answer part B below)	7	15.91%
No (go to the next question)	19	43.18%
Prefer not to say (go to the next question)	0	0.00%
Not Answered	18	40.91%

Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

There were 14 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes, a lot (please answer part C below)	2	4.55%
Yes, a little (please answer part C below)	3	6.82%
Not at all (go to the next question)	9	20.45%

Prefer not to say (go to the next question)	0	0.00%
Not Answered	30	68.18%

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

There were 5 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Physical Impairment	1	2.27%
Sensory Impairment	0	0.00%
Learning Disability/Difficulty	0	0.00%
Long-standing illness	2	4.55%
Mental Health condition	4	9.09%
Neurodivergent condition	1	2.27%
Other Developmental Condition	0	0.00%
Other (please write in below)	1	2.27%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	39	88.64%

Other:

There was 1 response to this part of the question regarding impact of their condition.

Are you currently pregnant or did you give birth in the last twelve months?

There were 25 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	0	0.00%
No	25	56.82%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	19	43.18%

Do you look after, or give any help or support to, anyone because they have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age?

There were 25 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
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Yes	10	22.73%
No (go to next question)	13	29.55%
Prefer not to say	2	4.55%
Not Answered	19	43.18%

Hours of care given a week

There were 10 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
9 hours a week or less	7	15.91%
10 to 19 hours a week	0	0.00%
20 to 34 hours a week	0	0.00%
35 to 49 hours a week	1	2.27%
50 hours or more a week	2	4.55%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	34	77.27%

Who you care for

There were 10 responses to this part of the question, with one person indicating that they care for two of those listed as options.

Option	Total	Percent
Parent	4	9.09%
Partner/spouse	5	11.36%
Child with special needs	0	0.00%
Other family member	1	2.27%
Friend	1	2.27%
Other (please give details)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	34	77.27%

If you answered 'other', please explain here:

There was 1 response to this part of the question:

- Grandparent

Armed Forces Service: Are you currently serving, or have you previously served in the UK Armed Forces (this includes Reservists or part-time service)?

There were 24 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	1	2.27%
No	23	52.27%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	20	45.45%

Are you in a household or family where someone is currently or was previously serving in the UK Armed Forces?

There were 24 responses to this part of the question.

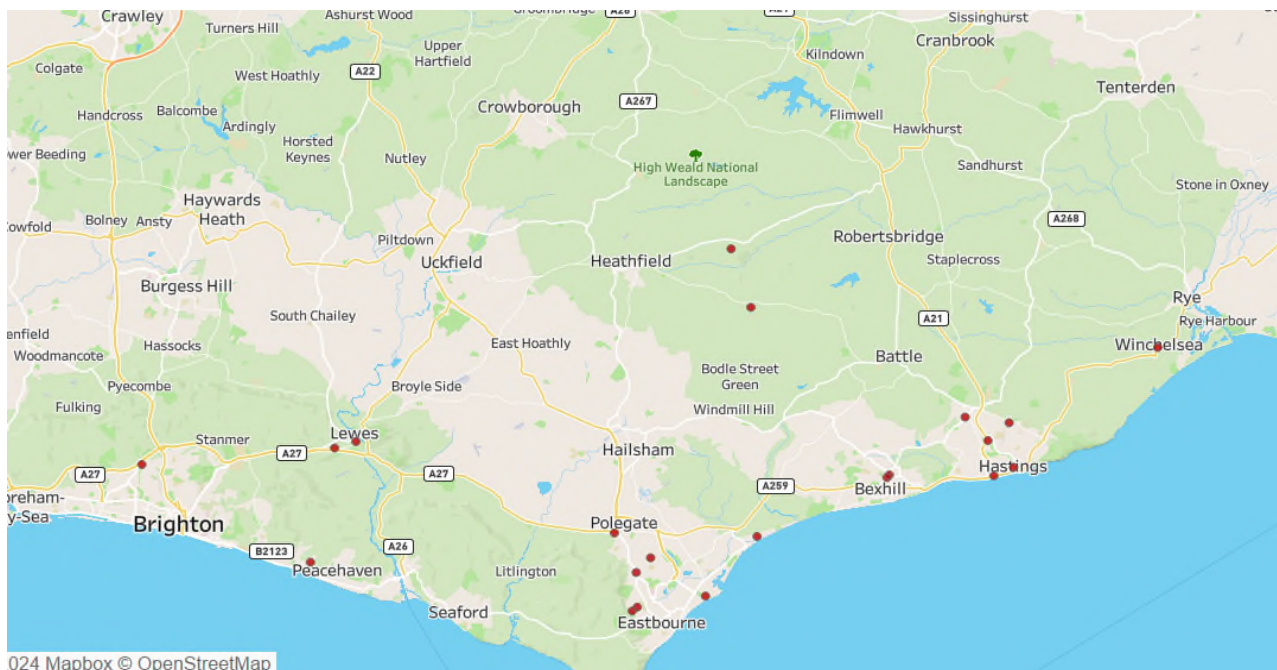
Option	Total	Percent
Yes	1	2.27%
No	23	52.27%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	20	45.45%

Please tell us your postcode:

There were 21 responses to this part of the question, and 4 people chose prefer not to say.

Postcode area	Total	Percentage of respondents
Lewes	2	5%
Eastbourne	5	11%
Wealden	2	5%
Rother	5	11%
Hastings	5	11%

2 postcodes (5%) provided outside of East Sussex.



Other feedback by email etc

Mental health community outreach consultation responses

There were 4 responses to the mental health community outreach consultation by other feedback methods. All of the responses were from organisations and they were all submitted by email.

The organisations who submitted a response are:

- Healthwatch East Sussex
- NHS Sussex
- Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Wealden Citizens Advice

The tables below cover the comment themes for all the respondents.

Views

Comment themes	Total
Views: Detrimental to the elderly in particular	4
Views: Cuts target the most vulnerable	2
Views: Detrimental to people with mental illness in particular	2
Views: Detrimental to disabled people in particular	1
Views: Detrimental to homeless people in particular	1
Views: Detrimental to those with a drug and/or alcohol dependency	1
Views: Disagree	1

Views: Long wait time for other services	1
Views: Need for this service is increasing	1
Views: Other services already struggling	1
Views: People may be affected by multiple proposed cuts	1
Views: Proposal adds more cost in the long term	1
Views: Recognise need to make savings	1
Views: Wellbeing relies on access to a broad range of services	1

Service

Comment themes	Total
Service: Immensely valued	1
Service: Importance of the home visits	1
Service: Praise of service	1
Service: Prevents knock-on effects of poor mental health	1
Service: Responsive	1
Service: Services rely on people who access this support being referred on to them for support	1
Service: Timeliness of the service is key	1
Service: Very accessible	1

Impact

Comment themes	Total
Impact: Increased burden on family/carer	2
Impact: Increased pressure on other services	2
Impact: NHS	2
Impact: Poorer access to support	2
Impact: Poorer mental health	2
Impact: People who access support would be at increased risk	1
Impact: Delayed discharge from hospital dementia services	1
Impact: Increased burden on frontline workers supporting people who access support	1
Impact: Increased cost for other organisations	1
Impact: Isolation	1
Impact: Less independence	1

Impact: Loss of skilled/specialist workforce	1
Impact: More people in crisis	1
Impact: Multiple disadvantages for some who use several services	1
Impact: Negative on carers	1
Impact: Poorer physical health	1
Impact: Reduce wellbeing of people who access service	1

Suggestions

Comment themes	Total
Suggestions: More joint working	2
Suggestion: Continue to support the most vulnerable	1
Suggestion: Create an intensive dementia support team	1
Suggestion: Cut operational costs	1
Suggestion: Do things differently and innovate	1
Suggestion: Don't cut as much as proposed	1
Suggestion: Explore alternative solutions with partners/other providers	1
Suggestion: Focus on prevention	1
Suggestion: Keep parts of the service running	1
Suggestion: Prioritise community models over inpatients' beds for dementia support	1
Suggestion: Re-model service by co-design	1
Suggestion: Utilise existing and effective volunteer/charity support services	1
Suggestion: Utilise Talking Therapies service as alternative for therapeutic interventions	1

Other comments

Comment themes	Total
Other: East Sussex County Council must provide more information about alternatives and capacity	2
Other: Comment on other council spending	1
Other: How are the proposals being communicated to other organisations?	1

Other: How will East Sussex County Council meet its duty to shape the local adult social care market?	1
Other: Unrealistic to expect other services to mitigate impacts sufficiently	1
Other: Welcome East Sussex County Council's support of Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust's strategic objectives for older people with mental health problems	1
Other: Work in East Sussex Hospitals Trust to pilot virtual wards for patience with dementia	1
Other: Work with NHS Sussex to understand and mitigate risks	1

Overall consultation responses

Responses addressing all 11 consultations combined

There were 10 responses by letter and email which addressed all 11 consultations at once. These were from organisations (5), residents (4) and a member of parliament (1).

The organisations who submitted a response are:

- Care for the Carers
- East Sussex Seniors Association
- East Sussex VCSE Alliance
- Lewes Liberal Democrats
- Rother District Council

Comment themes from letters and emails addressing all 11 consultations:

The tables below cover the comment themes for all the respondents.

Views

Comment themes	Total
Views: Cuts target the most vulnerable	6
Views: Recognise need to make savings	5
Views: Disagree	3
Views: Already housing crisis in East Sussex	2
Views: Concerned about impact of proposal	2
Views: Don't close service	2
Views: Limited capacity for VCSE sector to provide the support instead	2
Views: Morally wrong	2

Views: Proposal adds more cost in the long term	2
Views: Will shift cost onto districts and boroughs	2
Views: Angry with proposal	1
Views: Carers of people who access support care for multiple people already	1
Views: Carers vital for health and social care economy	1
Views: Concern about impact on level of support services can provide post-cuts	1
Views: Concern re timeframe for cuts	1
Views: Concerned where people would go instead	1
Views: Cuts unfair/unequal	1
Views: Detrimental to the elderly in particular	1
Views: Disagree with using private organisations	1
Views: East Sussex County Council wastes money	1
Views: Homelessness prevention statutory under the Homeless Reduction Act	1
Views: Impacts will be immediate for people who access support and for statutory services	1
Views: Insufficient time for other organisations to respond/mitigate risks	1
Views: Knows disabled people who could work but don't	1
Views: Must prioritise the most vulnerable	1
Views: Other services already struggling	1
Views: Private support too expensive	1
Views: Service vital for safeguarding people who access support and/or people around them	1
Views: Shameful proposal	1

Service

Comment themes	Total
Service: Prevents homelessness	1

Impact

Comment themes	Total
Impact: Increased pressure on other services	3
Impact: Poorer mental health	3
Impact: Financial hardship	2
Impact: Increased cost for other organisations	2
Impact: Poorer physical health	2
Impact: Increased burden on family/carers	1

Impact: Ability to maintain work and carer responsibilities	1
Impact: Add more costs in the long term	1
Impact: At risk of suicide	1
Impact: Carers will have less of a break	1
Impact: People who access support would be at increased risk	1
Impact: Community at increased risk	1
Impact: Encourages negative attitude towards people who need support	1
Impact: Hardship and poverty	1
Impact: Homelessness	1
Impact: Isolation	1
Impact: Loss of staff results in loss of tax revenue	1
Impact: Loss to the community	1
Impact: Lower quality of life	1
Impact: More people who access support would be in out-of-area accommodation	1
Impact: More hospital admissions	1
Impact: More people in crisis	1
Impact: Negative impact (unspecified)	1
Impact: Negative on carers	1
Impact: NHS	1
Impact: Poorer access to support	1
Impact: Reduce carers' wellbeing	1
Impact: Reduce wellbeing of people who access support	1
Impact: Risk of abuse/domestic abuse	1
Impact: Significant increase in people living in temporary accommodation	1
Impact: Unsuitable housing detrimental to child development	1
Impact: Use of alcohol and/or drugs	1

Suggestions

Comment themes	Total
Suggestion: Focus on prevention	3
Suggestion: Utilise existing and effective volunteer/charity support services	3
Suggestions: More joint working	3
Suggestion: Continue to support the most vulnerable	2

Suggestion: Allow VCSE partners to reduce rental outgoings	1
Suggestion: Build accommodation under a Community Land Trust	1
Suggestion: Consider impact of loss of winter fuel allowance	1
Suggestion: Cut management salaries	1
Suggestion: Do things differently and innovate	1
Suggestion: Don't cut prevention services	1
Suggestion: Don't cut service	1
Suggestion: East Sussex County Council should manage resources better	1
Suggestion: Prioritise support for young people coming out of care	1
Suggestion: Run accommodation/care homes as a business to generate profit	1
Suggestion: Signpost charities to other sources of funding	1
Suggestion: Transfer assets to voluntary sector	1
Suggestion: Work with partners to develop new model	1

Other comments

Comment themes	Total
Other: Supporting and working with VCSE sector vital for improved outcomes	2
Other: Appreciation of East Sussex County Council's acknowledgement of impacts and commitment to coproduction	1
Other: Care for the Carers must represent carers in design of alternative support	1
Other: Comment on consultation process or information	1
Other: Comment on government policy and country-wide issues not specific to consultations	1
Other: Comment re government funding	1
Other: Cost of temporary accommodation is driving financial instability in local authorities	1
Other: Districts and boroughs are not in a financial position to cope with impacts of cuts	1
Other: East Sussex County Council must provide more information about alternatives and capacity	1
Other: Provide information on proposed alternatives/mitigations	1
Other: Question re raising awareness of consultations with public	1
Other: Want to see the EqIA and proposed mitigations	1

Other: Will this be all the cuts or is more needed?	1
Other: Would NHS & ASCH save by working together	1