

Appendix 1: Consultation results report

Linden Court and Beeching Park day services

About this consultation

This consultation is about the proposal to close the day service at Linden Court and find people places in alternative services. 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 printable versions of the standard and easy read surveys too. 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. Consultation meetings with those who use the service and their families and carers also took place.

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 373 responses to this consultation. The table below shows the different ways in which people took part. We also had 1 late email response received after the consultation closed.

Respondent method	Total
Survey	203
Email and letters	16
Consultation meetings (attendees)	154

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 for adult social care in the Lewes district was submitted by Lewes Liberal Democrats. It was signed by 100 people. This means it does not meet the threshold of 5000 signatures which is required for the petition to be considered by Full Council. We are also aware of a specific petition about this proposal, although it hasn't been

submitted to us. This had over 1,300 signatures when this report was finalised in January 2025.

People were given the option of answering ‘about you’ equality questions in the survey, with 57% of respondents choosing to do so.

- We had the most survey responses from people who attend Linden Court and their families and carers (38%). Residents of East Sussex was the next biggest respondent group (25%), while Beeching Park attendees and their families and carers accounted for 4%.
- The age range of 45 to 54 years old was the top respondent group (12%), followed by age 65+ (9%), although we had responses from most age groups.
- More women than men took part in the survey - 41% compared to 12%, although 43% didn’t answer the question.
- 18% of respondents have a physical or mental health condition or long-term illness.
- The proportion of carers taking part (26%) reflected the fact that the family and carers of people using the services was the top respondent group.
- It is notable that 14% of respondents provide 50 or more hours of care per week and 5% provide 9 or fewer hours.

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 people strongly disagree with the proposal to close Linden Court and find people places in alternative services, with only 6% agreeing.
- People are angry, upset and worried about the proposal, which they said targets vulnerable people.
- People say it is a vital service and people say they will fight to save it.
- People are full of praise for the service and the staff, which they say provides a safe environment and the opportunity to socialise.
- Linden Court is seen as being a nicer building than Beeching Park and the service as being better able to support those who need a quieter service. Crucially, it is also local to where people live.
- Those who attend the service love seeing their friends and taking part in activities. Families and carers say it is a lifeline, that allows them to continue in their caring role, and to maintain their employment if they have a job.
- There was a strong feeling that closing the service wouldn’t lead to savings, partly because of the cost of travelling to Beeching Park and because it is likely that some would end up in residential care if their local

day service closed. This would be much more expensive than keeping Linden Court open.

- People said more detailed financial information should be provided about how the proposal was arrived at. They asked why Beeching Park wasn't being proposed for closure as there are alternative services in that area.
- It would be devastating if the service closed and people feel that Beeching Park isn't a realistic alternative for them.
- The biggest concern with Beeching Park is the journey. People say that it would be a much longer and more complicated commute, with many saying that it just wouldn't work for their family. Some had already tried it out to confirm this.
- Change is hard for people who use the service, and if the proposal went ahead the alteration to routine would be very disruptive for them. It would also increase the burden on families and carers, some of whom said they wouldn't be able to cope if Linden Court closed.
- People who attend the service say that they would have to attend on the same days and times at another service as they have other commitments they can't move. They are also keen to continue taking part in the activities they like and are worried they wouldn't see their friends at a new service.
- Closing the service would lead to poorer mental health for those affected and could lead to more challenging behaviour. Even without the travel issues, Beeching Park will be a busy service and won't be suitable for everyone.
- People's needs wouldn't be met and their links with their local community would be lost. Future school/college leavers in the area wouldn't have a local service they could transition to.
- The main suggestion was not to go ahead with closing the service and instead enhance it and do a better job of promoting it.
- People said the money to save the service should be found by selling unused buildings and cutting the number of service managers. They also suggested using volunteers to deliver the service.

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:** "There is some inconsistency between the proposals seeking to reduce the cost of home-to-school transport, whilst simultaneously transporting adults with learning disabilities from...Linden Court to alternative day services. Whilst it is important for people to have

choices about their care and support, this should ideally be provided in the communities where they live.”

- **NHS Sussex:** “Consideration should be given to what services there would be for people who need a quieter environment due to other diagnoses and sensory sensitivities...Issues which may result in a service user requiring a quieter service, such as sensory sensitivities, can overwhelm and lead to difficulties with social communication and/or interaction, requiring appropriate support and provision. If these needs are not met, it could lead to increasing instances of behaviours that challenge services, and require more resource-intensive, higher-cost, multi-agency input in the medium and longer term.”
- **Wealden Citizens Advice:** “Change is unsettling for clients. Linden Court users have been used to having a quieter environment which will then become busier. They may not cope and a drop in attendance may be seen.”

Individual comments:

- “It is taking us away from our friends, a building we know and staff who know us. That makes me sad. It works here. I have been coming here for ten years.”
- “The individuals who access Linden Court are vulnerable adults who rely on the service to not only keep them safe but support them with social interactions and meaningful activities. Without the service there would be more carer breakdowns, resulting in more people being placed in residential care (costing the council more money in the long term), an increase in social isolation and reduced independence.”
- “It’s taking away services for vulnerable people who are less likely [to be] able to advocate for themselves. This should be the last resort, not the first.”
- “People get settled in one place and feel safe. They get used to being helped and looked after regularly by the same person. They make friends with others using the same facilities.”
- “People need continuity of care. Uprooting people with disabilities causes them distress. Overloading another service with users means that individual needs may not be met if staff have too many users to look after.”
- “These options are not safe. The prolonged journey to Beeching Park would exacerbate behaviours and could also lead to medical emergencies that could put clients and staff at risk.”
- “I was really concerned to see that the underuse of Linden Court was being used as a reason to close it - I’m not aware of it being offered to the people I work with, many of whom would probably gain a lot from it, if it was offered...Fill the empty spaces by offering it to people and you will cut the money you spend on unstructured personal assistant support etc.”
- “Placing more people at Beeching Park will likely lead to the social exclusion of clients who struggle with noise or crowding, clients...who rely upon structure and routine the most, so would suffer most from losing a regular service.”

- "Linden Court has better resources and capacity than either of the alternatives. The road and rail connections to either Lewes or Bexhill are poor and neither are close to the stations. Clients will end up needing private personal care as they won't be able to get to the alternatives, and the council will have to pay for this, so real savings will be below what is expected anyway. You will also lose highly experienced and motivated staff, who will be difficult to replace, leading to staff shortages."
- "This service gives me respite and gives [named person] independence. We cannot afford £25 each way taxis to Bexhill twice a week. [Named person] will have to stop coming as my health affects my driving a lot."
- "The added pressure and expense on travelling to Bexhill, and possibly losing friendships which my son has had since he started school...will [have] a very detrimental effect on his anxiety and mental health. The times on offer at Inspire are less than already received and it is in a church, which possibly is echoey, which my son cannot cope with."
- "It will make me very sad. I do not want to lose my friends and I feel safe with the staff. I like doing lots of things."
- "I rely on the service to look after my daughter whilst I am at work. There is no way I would have the time to take her to Bexhill in the morning and then get back to work in Eastbourne by 9am. The same applies at the end of the day. I feel that my daughter would become socially isolated, withdrawn and depressed if I had to have her at home permanently. This would also mean that I would have to give up work which would have a negative impact on my family generally. My daughter is very happy at Linden Court and for everything to change in her world would exacerbate her already challenging behaviour and negatively affect the whole family."
- "It would be a nightmare, upset to all routine, a stagnation of learning/education. Going on the minibus, which is much loved, would be non-existent. The sensory room for moments of calm would not be available. Making sense of the world around us, the change of the seasons & things that would not have any meaning."
- "I would be prepared for the client contributions to be increased if it means Linden Court could be kept open, if we all did this (increased a little for all service users, according to individual circumstances)."
- "Where would all the vulnerable people go? Are there enough placements for them to move onto? What would they cost? Would they be appropriate placements of the individuals? Will they be local? Private venues will be more costly, providing less hours and days of care. This will lead to even more family breakdowns, leading to these vulnerable people needing full-time care in residential settings, costing ESCC a hell of a lot more, over time, than the gap which has already been created."
- "We disagree [with] the proposed closing of Linden Court as it will affect the lives of the vulnerable adults we have in Eastbourne. Linden Court is needed for those adults with additional needs and in the future for those coming of age with additional needs. Please can the council continue to support our

vulnerable adults in Eastbourne. The council is in charge of our services and monies - please do not let us down."

Results summary across all methods

Views on the proposal

Survey: 85% of respondents disagree with the proposal, with the majority choosing strongly disagree (81%). Only 6% said they agree or strongly agree.

The top comment themes for why people agree or disagree were:

- Views: Commute to services would be more complex (44 comments)
- Service: Service is vital (42)
- Impact: Routine change disruptive for people who access support (35)
- Impact: Socialisations (26)
- Impact: Increased burden on family/carer (22)
- Views: Cuts target the most vulnerable (22)
- Impact: Poorer mental health (18)
- Views: Disagree with proposal (18)
- Service: Lifeline to people (17)
- Impact: People's needs won't be met (14)

Emails etc: Again, people disagreed with the proposal (3) and said the service shouldn't be closed (3), although the same number did recognise the need to make savings (3).

People said the services provide an opportunity to socialise (5) and are a lifeline to people (4). They also praised the staff (3) and the person-centred support they provide (3).

The commute to the service was the main issue, with people pointing out it would be more complex (7) and that the cost of travel makes the cut harder to justify (4). People feel the cuts target the most vulnerable (3).

Meetings: There is strong opposition to the proposal and people are disgusted it has even been proposed, as it targets vulnerable people. People are worried, upset and angry and some said they will fight it.

People said it isn't clear how the proposal was arrived at, and believed more detail is needed about the finances and how the savings were calculated. They felt the closure wouldn't save money in the long run, as support needs would still need to be paid for, and there would be extra costs from transporting people further. In addition, the cost impact could be massive if more people can't live at home any more due to the service closing.

People love Linden Court and the staff. They are happily settled there and have made lots of friends. Linden Court is seen as being a better building, and the quieter nature of the service suits people.

Those who attend Linden Court don't want it to close and they are worried they won't see their friends if it does. Some said they would move to Beeching Park, but a lot of people said it wouldn't work for them because of the travel.

People who use both services are concerned about their sessions. They want to be able to go on the same day/times as they do now due to other commitments. People are also keen to know if they would still be able to do their favourite activities and take part in community sessions.

Change is hard for this group of people and there is already a lot of anxiety about the proposal, although a few people did say they were looking forward to making new friends if the services merged.

Potential impacts of the proposal

Survey: The top comment themes for how people would be affected are:

- Views: Commute to services would be more complex (40 comments)
- Impact: Routine change disruptive for people who access support (36)
- Impact: Increased burden on family/carer (32)
- Impact: Socialisations (25)
- Comment about personal circumstances (20)
- Impact: Poorer mental health (20)
- Views: Commuting cost to services harder to justify (18)
- Impact: Ability to maintain work and carer responsibilities (16)
- Impact: Cause upset to people who access support (16)
- Impact: More challenging behaviour from people who access support (12)
- Impact: People's needs won't be met (12)

Emails etc: People said closing the service would increase the burden on families and carers (6) and lead to poorer physical and mental health for everyone affected (4 each).

The routine change would be disruptive for people (4) and destroy their stability and support structure (3). This could lead to more challenging behaviour (3).

They also said it would add more costs in the long run (3).

Meetings: Beeching Park would not provide the local service that people need and value. The journey there would take a lot longer and lots of people said the journey wouldn't work for their family.

Beeching Park is a busier service and that won't suit everyone. The change would be difficult for people and could affect everyone's mental/physical health and the behaviour of people who attend the service.

The service allows people to stay living at home, so closing it could push people into residential care, which would be a lot more expensive. The longer journey and shorter sessions would also affect some people's ability to maintain their employment, and future school/college leavers locally wouldn't have a nearby service they could transition to.

Suggestions

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

The top theme was that the service shouldn't be cut (29). The other themes were:

- Suggestion: Enhance the service rather than reduce it (6)
- Suggestion: Review number of service managers (6)
- Suggestion: Use volunteers (6)
- Suggestion: Charge for some usage (5)
- Suggestion: Cut operational costs (5)
- Suggestion: Liaise with community sector about service provision (5)
- Suggestion: Careful planning/assessments needed before happens (4)
- Suggestion: Make access to services means tested (4)
- Suggestion: Merge or reorganise services (4)
- Suggestion: Cut non-essential parts of the service (3)
- Suggestion: Keep disruption to a minimum (3)
- Suggestion: More joint working (3)
- Suggestion: Charge people more to use services (2)
- Suggestion: Reduce on-site support hours (2)
- Suggestion: Reduce public transport costs (2)
- Suggestion: Streamline current roles (2)
- Suggestion: Utilise staff skills better (2)
- Suggestion: Be mindful of the impact (1)
- Suggestion: Calculate the cost for other services that this proposal will cause (1)
- Suggestion: Close other buildings instead (1)
- Suggestion: Consider wider impact of decisions (1)
- Suggestion: Increase service rather than cut it (1)

- Suggestion: Offer smaller blocks of respite (1)
- Suggestion: Reduce use of external private services (1)
- Suggestion: Use empty buildings for the service (1)
- Suggestion: Use funding generated from other sales or sources (1)
- Suggestion: Use learning from current service to develop new model (1)

Emails etc: The top suggestions were to look for private investors/business to run the service (3) and to do more joint working (3).

The other suggestions were:

- Suggestion: Keep parts of the service running (2)
- Suggestion: Provide transport to services (2)
- Suggestion: Cut operational costs (1)
- Suggestion: Explore alternative solutions with partners/other providers (1)
- Suggestion: Joint transport between services (1)
- Suggestion: Listen to the consultation feedback (1)
- Suggestion: Locate any replacement in the same area (1)
- Suggestion: Make income by selling spaces to other local authorities (1)
- Suggestion: Partnerships with transport providers to help with cost (1)
- Suggestion: Use church buildings to limit costs of day services (1)

Meetings: Suggestions included closing Beeching Park instead, selling unused council property to use the money to save Linden Court, and cutting management roles to save money.

Other topics

Survey: The top comment themes are that the cuts target the most vulnerable (12), and that the proposal would increase the burden on family/carers (11).

Other common themes included:

- Service: Service is vital (8)
- Other: Criticism of council (6)
- Views: Detrimental to disabled people in particular (6)
- Impact: Loss to the community (5)
- Views: Commute to services more complex (5)

Emails etc: People criticised the Council and the consultation process/information (2 each). They said the Council must provide detailed financial information on the savings (2) and more information about the alternative services and what capacity they have (2).

Many of those affected don't have a voice or can't communicate (2). There also needs to be clarity about how parents of adults with Special Educational Needs will be consulted with (2).

Meetings: The Council wastes a large amount of money. People need to be kept updated about the proposals, and to know that the decision is transparent and fair.

Charts and tables

Survey responses including about you information

1) Are you completing the survey as:

There were 197 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Someone who uses/has used the Linden Court day service	21	10.34%
The family or carer of someone who uses/has used the Linden Court day service	56	27.59%
Someone who uses/has used the Beeching Park day service	1	0.49%
The family or carer of someone who uses/has used the Beeching Park day service	7	3.45%
Someone who works for the Linden Court or Beeching Park day services	20	9.85%
Someone who lives in East Sussex	51	25.12%
Someone who works in health or social care in East Sussex	26	12.81%
Someone who works in housing in East Sussex	0	0.00%
Someone who works in the voluntary or community sector	2	0.99%
Other (please provide details below)	13	6.40%
Not Answered	6	2.96%

Responses to "Other"

There were 18 responses to this part of the question. Some responses fitted into more than one of the following groups:

- User or potential user of service or their family (9 responses)

- Comment on professional role/former role (7)
- Expressed a view about the service/proposal (3)
- Described where they lived (2)

2) How much do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close the Linden Court day service and move people to either Beeching Park day service or an alternative service?

There were 201 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	8	3.94%
Agree	5	2.46%
Neither agree nor disagree	8	3.94%
Disagree	9	4.43%
Strongly disagree	164	80.79%
Not sure	7	3.45%
Not Answered	2	0.99%

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

There were 175 responses to this part of the question.

Comment theme	Total
Views: Commute to services more complex	44
Service: Service is vital	42
Impact: Routine change disruptive for people who access support	35
Impact: Socialisations	26
Impact: Increased burden on family/carer	22
Views: Cuts target the most vulnerable	22
Impact: Poorer mental health	18
Views: Disagree with proposal	18
Service: Lifeline to people	17
Impact: People's needs won't be met	14
Service: Safe environment	13
Impact: Ability to maintain work and carer responsibilities	12
Impact: Cause upset to people who access support	11
Service: Service is beneficial	11

Views: Don't close service	11
Views: Commuting cost to services harder to justify	11
Comment about personal circumstances	10
Impact: Poorer physical health	9
Impact: Increased pressure on other services	9
Impact: Cause distress for people who access support	8
Service: Only service of its sort	8
Service: Immensely valued	8
Impact: Carers will have less of a break	7
Impact: Isolation	7
Service: Praise of staff	7
Service: Provides respite for family/carers	7
Views: Costs will increase not go down	7
Views: Service has already suffered from cuts	7
Impact: Less independence	6
Impact: Lower quality of life	6
Impact: People would have to go into care	6
Impact: Relationships built between staff and people who access support may end	6
Impact: Add more costs in the long term	6
Impact: More people in crisis	6
Impact: Strain on remaining staff	6
Service is a community benefit	5
Impact: Loss to the community	5
Impact: Staff	5
Impact: Reduce wellbeing of people who access support	5
Other: Criticism of council	5
Service: Current service location is good	5
Service: Praise of service	5
Suggestion: Increase service rather than cut it	5
Views: Alternative services not adequate	5
Views: Detrimental to disabled people in particular	5
Impact: Negative on carers	4
Impact: Without this support people will need higher-cost services	4

Impact: More challenging behaviour from people who access support	4
Views: Concerned where people would go instead	4
Views: Recognise need to make savings	4
Views: Services already limited	4
Views: East Sussex County Council are responsible for looking after vulnerable people	4
Views: Morally wrong	4
Impact: Destroy stability/support structure of people who access support	3
Impact: Negative impact (unspecified)	3
Impact: Poorer access to support	3
Views: There is no other support like this	3
Service: High quality	3
Service: Service well run	3
Views: Unhappy with proposal	3
Views: Agree with proposal	3
Views: Loss of jobs	3
Views: Need for this service is increasing	3
Views: Service vital for young people and their prosperity	3
Views: Shameful proposal	3
Service offers help with life skills	2
Impact: People who access support would be at increased risk	2
Impact: Confidence will be lost	2
Impact: Expensive home care packages	2
Impact: Boredom	2
Impact: Savings so small they won't justify impact on people who access support	2
Other: Unsure why East Sussex County Council cannot afford budget gap	2
Service helps with people skills	2
Service offers practical skills like cooking	2
Service: Very accessible	2
Suggestion: Enhance the service rather than reduce it	2
Suggestion: Keep disruption to a minimum	2
Views: Already fought for service before	2
Views: Short sighted	2

Views: People who access support may lack advocacy and representation	2
Views: Proposals could/do break discrimination laws	2
Views: Service already under pressure with capacity	2
Views: Services already limited	2
Service helps with mental health	1
Impact: Ability to care for child	1
Impact: Carers' ability to have longer breaks	1
Impact: Family member would need more support from them	1
Impact: Feeling less safe	1
Impact: Lower quality of service	1
Impact: People who access support would be at increased risk	1
Impact: Cuts would reduce costs	1
Impact: Effect on environment and climate	1
Impact: Even more limited services	1
Impact: Financial hardship	1
Impact: People discouraged from seeking help	1
Impact: People will die	1
Impact: Risk of East Sussex County Council not meeting statutory duties	1
Impact: Undo what staff have worked hard to build	1
Other: Allow redundancy requests	1
Other: Comment on consultation process or information	1
Other: Comment on other council spending	1
Other: Difficult for people who access support to understand	1
Other: East Sussex County Council needs to explain why saving proposals were made	1
Other: East Sussex County Council needs to provide detailed financial info on savings	1
Other: Many don't have a voice/can't communicate	1
Other: Money recently spent on the building	1
Service provides peace of mind	1
Service: Service offers respite	1
Service: Efficient	1
Service: Criticism of service efficiency	1
Service: Current service works well	1

Service: Service built trust with people who access it	1
Service: Service key to wellbeing	1
Service stopped people who accessed it going into residential care	1
Suggestion: Cut general carers services as these are not useful	1
Suggestion: Better monitoring of service performance	1
Suggestion: Cut management salaries	1
Suggestion: Encourage more people to use service	1
Suggestion: East Sussex County Council should manage resources better	1
Suggestion: Improve quality of care	1
Suggestion: Invest in upskilling staff	1
Suggestion: Review number of service managers	1
Service: Tailored support	1
Unspecific/unclear comment	1
Views: Agree with proposal	1
Views: Cuts unfair/unequal	1
Views: Already fought for service before	1
Views: An alternative exists	1
Views: Angry with proposal	1
Views: Detrimental to the elderly in particular	1
Views: East Sussex County Council wastes money	1
Views: Hopefully capacity exists at other service	1
Views: Must prioritise the most vulnerable	1
Views: New times or hours are concerning	1
Views: Poor management treatment of both staff and people who access support	1
Views: Service is cost effective	1

3) How would the proposal to close Linden Court affect you or someone you care for?

There were 167 responses to this part of the question.

Comment theme	Total
Views: Commute to services would be more complex	40
Impact: Routine change disruptive for people who access support	36
Impact: Increased burden on family/carers	32
Impact: Socialisations	25

Comment about personal circumstances	20
Impact: Poorer mental health	20
Views: Commuting cost to services harder to justify	18
Impact: Ability to maintain work and carer responsibilities	16
Impact: Cause upset to people who access support	16
Impact: More challenging behaviour from people who access support	12
Impact: People's needs won't be met	12
Impact: Destroy stability/support structure of people who access support	10
Impact: Poorer physical health	9
Views: Cuts target the most vulnerable	9
Impact: Cause distress for people who access support	8
Impact: Increased pressure on other services	8
Service: Service is vital	8
Impact: Isolation	7
Impact: Add more costs in the long term	7
Impact: Lower quality of life	6
Impact: People would have to go into care	6
Service: Current service location is good	6
Service: Lifeline to people	6
Service: Provides respite for family/carers	6
Impact: Carers will have less of a break	5
Impact: Financial hardship	5
Impact: More inconvenient for people who access support	5
Impact: Relationships built between staff and people who access support may end	5
Impact: Poorer access to support	5
Impact: Reduce wellbeing of people who access support	5
Service: Praise of staff	5
Views: Service vital for young people and their prosperity	5
It does not affect me	4
Service: Service is beneficial	4
Views: Don't close service	4
Views: New times or hours are concerning	4
Impact: Couldn't cope without service	4

Service offers help with life skills	3
Impact: Less independence	3
Impact: Loss to the community	3
Impact: Staff	3
Impact: Boredom	3
Impact: Lose my job	3
Impact: More pressure on the police	3
Impact: NHS	3
Impact: Would no longer be able to attend	3
Service: Praise of service	3
Views: Alternative services not adequate	3
Views: Detrimental to disabled people in particular	3
Views: Person accessing the support wouldn't want to go into residential care	3
Impact: Ability to care for child	2
Impact: Expensive home care packages	2
Impact: Loss to the community	2
Impact: Lower quality of life	2
Impact: Undo what staff have worked hard to build	2
Impact: Without this support people will need higher-cost services	2
Other: Criticism of council	2
Service: Services offers practical skills like cooking	2
Service: Service provides a safe environment	2
Service: Immensely valued	2
Service: Service is vital	2
Service: Well used	2
Suggestion: Enhance the service rather than reduce it	2
Views: Care at home is not a substitute	2
Views: East Sussex County Council is responsible for looking after vulnerable people	2
Views: Proposal is morally wrong	2
Views: Need for this service is increasing	2
Views: Services already limited	2
Views: Shameful proposal	2
Impact: Confidence will be lost	1

Impact: Will take a long time for people who access support to adjust to changes	1
Impact: Ability to find work	1
Impact: People who access support would be at increased risk	1
Impact: Effect on environment and climate	1
Impact: Financial hardship	1
Impact: Lack of hope for those needing support	1
Impact: Negative impact (unspecified)	1
Impact: Poorer access to other services as a knock-on effect	1
Impact: Savings so small they won't justify impact on people who access support	1
Impact: Service won't be replaced if cut	1
Views: No other support like this	1
Other: Comment on consultation process or information	1
Other: Difficult for people who access support to understand	1
Other: Many don't have a voice/can't communicate	1
Service: Service helps with people skills	1
Service: Service helps with practical living skills	1
Service: High quality	1
Service: Service built trust with people who access it	1
Suggestion: Be mindful of the impact	1
Suggestion: Enhance the service rather than reduce it	1
Suggestion: Restructure hours	1
Suggestion: Consider wider impact of decisions	1
Suggestion: Cut elsewhere	1
Suggestion: Encourage more people to use service	1
Suggestion: Keep disruption to a minimum	1
Unspecific/unclear comment	1
Views: Cuts unfair/unequal	1
Views: Unhappy with proposal	1
Views: Costs will increase not go down	1
Views: Proposals could/do break discrimination laws	1
Views: Shocked/saddened by proposal	1
Views: Short sighted	1

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

There were 177 responses to this part of the question.

Comment theme	Total
Suggestion: Don't cut service	29
Suggestion: Cut elsewhere	12
Views: Cuts target the most vulnerable	12
Impact: Increased burden on family/carer	11
Service: Service is vital	8
Suggestion: Continue to support the most vulnerable	7
Other: Criticism of council	6
Suggestion: Enhance the service rather than reduce it	6
Suggestion: Review number of service managers	6
Suggestion: Sell buildings to make money	6
Suggestion: Use volunteers	6
Views: Detrimental to disabled people in particular	6
Impact: Loss to the community	5
Suggestion: Cut non-emergency services (other Council spend)	5
Suggestion: Charge for some usage	5
Suggestion: Cut operational costs	5
Suggestion: Liaise with community sector about service provision	5
Views: Commute to services more complex	5
Views: Service has already suffered from cuts	5
Views: Shameful proposal	5
Comment about personal circumstances	4
Impact: People would have to go into care	4
Impact: Add more costs in the long term	4
Impact: Savings so small they won't justify impact on people who access support	4
Other: Comment on consultation process or information	4
Other: Unsure why East Sussex County Council cannot afford budget gap	4
Service: Praise of staff	4
Service attendance has a social aspect	4
Suggestion: Careful planning/assessments needed before any change happens	4

Suggestion: East Sussex County Council should manage resources better	4
Suggestion: Fundraise locally	4
Suggestion: Merge or reorganise services	4
Suggestion: Make access to services means tested	4
Views: Find an alternative way to save money	4
Views: Proposal adds more cost in the long term	4
Views: Service is not cost effective	4
Views: Services already limited	4
Impact: Destroy stability/support structure of people who access support	3
Impact: People would have to go into care	3
Service: Immensely valued	3
Service: Lifeline to people	3
Service: Service is vital	3
Suggestion: Cut management salaries	3
Suggestion: Keep disruption to a minimum	3
Suggestion: Cut non-essential parts of the service	3
Suggestion: More joint working	3
Suggestion: Remove and condense office buildings	3
Views: Recognise need to make savings	3
Views: Commuting cost to services harder to justify	3
Views: Proposal is morally wrong	3
Views: Shocked/saddened by proposal	3
Impact: Even more limited services	2
Impact: Relationships built between staff and people who access support may end	2
Impact: Without this support people will need higher-cost services	2
Impact: Couldn't cope without service	2
Impact: People's needs won't be met	2
Impact: Routine change disruptive for people who access support	2
Views: No similar services exist	2
Other: Criticism of councillor	2
Other: Comment on other council spending	2
Other: Criticism of council	2

Other: Many don't have a voice/can't communicate	2
Service: Provides respite for family/carers	2
Suggestion: Bring in income from unused properties	2
Suggestion: Charge people more to use services	2
Suggestion: East Sussex County Council should lobby government	2
Suggestion: Careful planning/assessments needed before happens	2
Suggestion: Consider system budget issues	2
Suggestion: Cut management salaries	2
Suggestion: Merge or reorganise services	2
Suggestion: Reduce on-site support hours	2
Suggestion: Reduce public transport costs	2
Suggestion: Streamline current roles	2
Suggestion: Utilise staff skills better	2
Views: Must prioritise the most vulnerable	2
Views: Unclear what savings will result	2
Impact: Already have to battle for services	1
Impact: Carers' ability to have longer breaks	1
Impact: People who access support would be at increased risk	1
Impact: Increase homelessness if cut	1
Impact: Increased support needs	1
Impact: Less independence	1
Impact: Negative on carers	1
Impact: Ability to care for child	1
Impact: Cause distress for people who access support	1
Impact: Effect on environment and climate	1
Impact: Increased pressure on other services	1
Impact: More people in crisis	1
Impact: People will die	1
Impact: Poorer access to other services as a knock-on effect	1
Impact: Poorer mental health	1
Impact: Poorer physical health	1
Impact: Private support more expensive	1
Impact: Service won't be replaced if cut	1
Other: Comment on consultation process or information	1
Other: Comment re government spending	1

Other: Criticism of government	1
Other: Difficult for people who access support to understand	1
Other: East Sussex County Council needs to explain why saving proposals were made	1
Other: East Sussex County Council needs to provide detailed financial info on savings	1
Other: How are parents of special education needs adults consulted with?	1
Other: Reduce councillors' pay	1
Service: Current service works well	1
Service: Safe environment	1
Service: Very accessible	1
Service: Service stopped the person going into residential care	1
Suggestion: Be mindful of the impact	1
Suggestion: Better use of funding	1
Suggestion: Consider system budget issues	1
Suggestion: Fundraise nationally	1
Suggestion: Increase council tax	1
Suggestion: Offer smaller blocks of respite	1
Suggestion: Calculate the cost for other services that this proposal would cause	1
Suggestion: Close other buildings instead	1
Suggestion: Consider wider impact of decisions	1
Suggestion: Cut East Sussex County Council staff pay	1
Suggestion: Increase service rather than cut it	1
Suggestion: Reduce use of external private services	1
Suggestion: Review remote working	1
Suggestion: Use empty buildings for the service	1
Suggestion: Use funding generated from other sales or sources	1
Suggestion: Use learning from current service to develop new model	1
Unspecific/unclear comment	1
Views: Cuts unfair/unequal	1
Views: Disagree with proposal	1
Views: Poor decision	1
Views: Costs will increase not go down	1
Views: East Sussex County Council wastes money	1

Views: Need for this service is increasing	1
Views: New times or hours are concerning	1
Views: Priorities are wrong	1
Views: Service is cost effective	1
Views: Service vital for young people and their prosperity	1
Views: Short sighted	1

About You equality questions

People were given the option of answering these questions, with 115 choosing to take part and 88 choosing not to answer these questions.

What age are you?

Age	Total	Percentage of all 203 respondents
Under 18	0	0%
18-24	5	2%
25-34	10	5%
35-44	11	5%
45-54	25	12%
55-59	10	5%
60-64	11	5%
65+	19	9%

What is your gender?

There were 116 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Female	83	40.89%
Male	24	11.82%
Non-binary	3	1.48%
Prefer to self-describe (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	6	2.96%
Not Answered	87	42.86%

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 116 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	111	54.68%
No (please write in your gender identity below)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	5	2.46%
Not Answered	87	42.86%

Gender identity:

There were 0 responses to this part of the question.

What is your ethnic group?

There were 116 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
White English/Welsh/Scottish /Northern Irish/British	104	51.23%
White Irish	2	0.99%
White Gypsy/Irish Traveller	0	0.00%
White Roma	0	0.00%
Any other White background (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	0	0.00%
Mixed White and Black African	0	0.00%
Mixed White and Asian	1	0.49%
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	0	0.00%
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)	1	0.49%
Arab	0	0.00%
Any other ethnic group (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	8	3.94%
Not Answered	87	42.86%

Other:

There were 0 responses to this part of the question.

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

There were 114 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
'Straight' / Heterosexual	99	48.77%
Gay or Lesbian	2	0.99%
Bisexual	1	0.49%
Prefer to self-describe (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	12	5.91%
Not Answered	89	43.84%

Self-described sexual orientation:

There was 1 response to this part of the question.

What is your religion or belief?

There were 114 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
No religion	43	21.18%
Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	62	30.54%

Buddhist	2	0.99%
Hindu	0	0.00%
Jewish	0	0.00%
Muslim	0	0.00%
Sikh	0	0.00%
Any other religion (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Philosophical belief (please write in below)	1	0.49%
Prefer not to say	6	2.96%
Not Answered	89	43.84%

Other religion:

There were 3 responses to this part of the question covering spiritualism, paganism, and Christianity.

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

There were 115 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes (please answer part B below)	37	18.23%
No (go to the next question)	64	31.53%
Prefer not to say (go to the next question)	14	6.90%
Not Answered	88	43.35%

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

There were 81 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes, a lot (please answer part C below)	19	9.36%
Yes, a little (please answer part C below)	13	6.40%
Not at all (go to the next question)	34	16.75%
Prefer not to say (go to the next question)	15	7.39%

Not Answered	122	60.10%
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Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

There were 46 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Physical Impairment	14	6.90%
Sensory Impairment	6	2.96%
Learning Disability/Difficulty	20	9.85%
Long-standing illness	10	4.93%
Mental Health condition	7	3.45%
Neurodivergent condition	9	4.43%
Other Developmental Condition	0	0.00%
Other (please write in below)	1	0.49%
Prefer not to say	8	3.94%
Not Answered	157	77.34%

Other:

There were 6 responses to this part of the question covering mental health issues, Diabetes, ability to speak, and learning disabilities.

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

There were 100 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	1	0.49%
No	95	46.80%
Prefer not to say	4	1.97%
Not Answered	103	50.74%

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 113 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	52	25.62%
No (go to next question)	52	25.62%
Prefer not to say	9	4.43%
Not Answered	90	44.33%

Hours of care given a week

There were 58 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
9 hours a week or less	11	5.42%
10 to 19 hours a week	3	1.48%
20 to 34 hours a week	4	1.97%
35 to 49 hours a week	4	1.97%
50 hours or more a week	29	14.29%
Prefer not to say	7	3.45%
Not Answered	145	71.43%

Who you care for

There were 57 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Parent	15	7.39%
Partner/spouse	6	2.96%
Child with special needs	20	9.85%
Other family member	14	6.90%
Friend	1	0.49%
Other (please give details)	8	3.94%
Prefer not to say	4	1.97%
Not Answered	146	71.92%

If you answered 'other', please explain here:

There were 11 responses to this part of the question. Two cared for more than one person. Seven clarified the nature of their relationship to the cared for (for example, as a partner or a parent). One mentioned the needs of the cared-for, and two described a job role, while one noted that they did not look after anyone.

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 109 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	5	2.46%
No	103	50.74%
Prefer not to say	1	0.49%
Not Answered	94	46.31%

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

There were 107 responses to this part of the question.

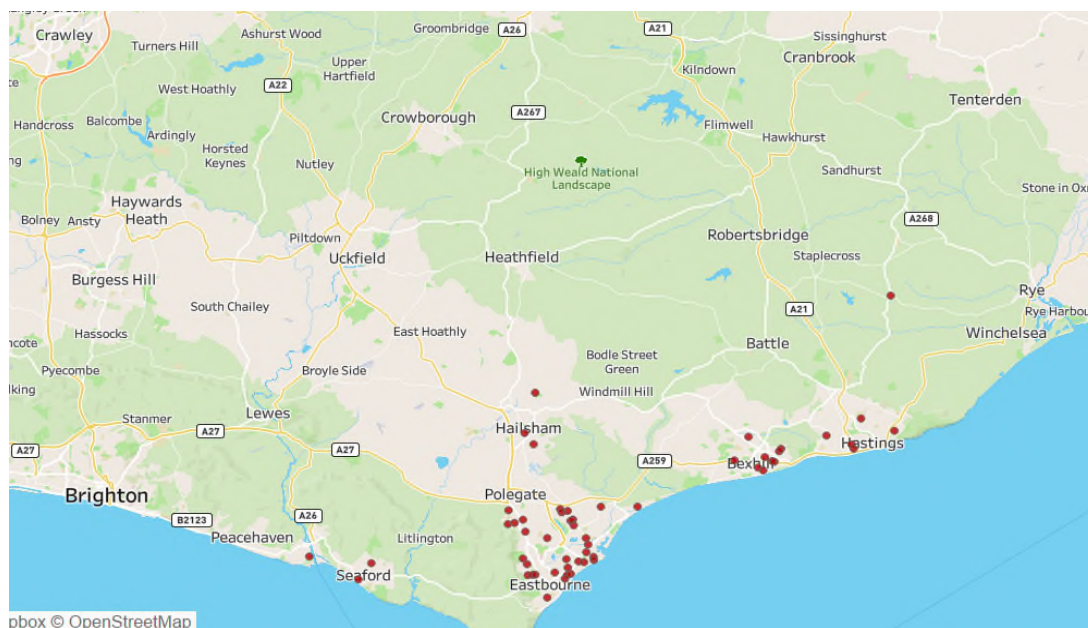
Option	Total	Percent
Yes	13	6.40%
No	93	45.81%
Prefer not to say	1	0.49%
Not Answered	96	47.29%

Please tell us your postcode:

There were 69 responses to this part of the question and 44 chose prefer not to say.

Postcode area	Total	Percentage of all 203 respondents
Eastbourne	36	18%
Wealden	12	6%
Lewes	1	Less than 1%
Rother	11	5%
Hastings	8	4%

1 postcodes (under 1%) provided outside of East Sussex.



Other feedback by email etc

Linden Court and Beeching Park consultation responses

There were 16 responses to the Linden Court and Beeching Park consultation by other feedback methods. The majority were submitted by email (14 responses) and the rest by letter (2).

The top respondent groups were family and carers (5 people) and organisations (5 responses). There were also responses from residents of East Sussex (3), a former worker and a member of parliament. One respondent did not say in which context they were responding as.

The organisations who submitted a response are:

- Healthwatch East Sussex
- Heartwood Project
- Ideal Complex Care
- NHS Sussex
- Wealden Citizens Advice

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

Views

Comment theme	Total
Views: Commute to services would be more complex	7
Views: Commuting cost to services would be harder to justify	4
Views: Cuts target the most vulnerable	3
Views: Disagree	3

Views: Don't close service	3
Views: Recognise need to make savings	3
Views: Alternative services are too far away	2
Views: Alternative services not suitable	2
Views: Care at home is not a substitute	2
Views: Concerned where people would go instead	2
Views: Must prioritise the most vulnerable	2
Views: Shameful proposal	2
Service: Service is vital	1
Views: Agree in theory but travel issues make it unworkable	1
Views: Angry with proposal	1
Views: Concerned where else people who access support would get it	1
Views: Concerned where families will get support instead	1
Views: Detrimental to disabled people in particular	1
Views: Disagree with using private organisations	1
Views: Don't cut and replace with substandard service	1
Views: Money won't be saved	1
Views: Proposal is morally wrong	1
Views: Need for this service is increasing	1
Views: Priorities are wrong	1
Views: Private support too expensive	1
Views: Proposal might work if there is support with transport and travel	1
Views: Shocked/saddened by proposal	1
Views: Short sighted	1

Service

Comment theme	Total
Service: Opportunity to socialise	5
Service: Lifeline to people	4
Service: Praise of staff	3
Service: Provides support centred on people who access it	3
Service: Safe environment	3
Service: High quality	2

Service: Only service of its sort	2
Service: Provides respite for family/carers	2
Service: Service key to wellbeing	2
Service offers help with life skills	1
Service: Achieved good outcomes	1
Service: Consistency of staffing is a positive	1
Service: Day services offers safeguarding opportunities	1
Service: Facilitates improved outcomes for people who access support, via family engagement	1
Service: Helps people to regain independence	1
Service: Immensely valued	1
Service: Praise of service	1
Service: Service built trust with people who access support	1
Service: Service is vital	1
Service: Supports family/friends of people who access support	1
Service: Value of day services generally	1
Service: Well integrated into local communities	1

Impact

Comment theme	Total
Impact: Increased burden on family/carer	6
Impact: Poorer mental health	4
Impact: Poorer physical health	4
Impact: Routine change disruptive for people who access support	4
Impact: Add more costs in the long term	3
Impact: Destroy stability/support structure for people who access support	3
Impact: More challenging behaviour from people who access support	3
Impact: Ability to maintain work and carer responsibilities	2
Impact: Even more limited services	2
Impact: Increased pressure on other services	2
Impact: Isolation	2

Impact: Loss of jobs	2
Impact: NHS	2
Impact: People's needs won't be met	2
Impact: Poorer access to support	2
Impact: Reduce wellbeing of people who access support	2
Impact: Travel and parking would be worse	2
Views: Cause distress for people who access support	2
Impact: Carers will have less of a break	1
Impact: Couldn't cope without service	1
Impact: Cuts create inequality	1
Impact: Demoralise frontline staff affected by cut	1
Impact: Disruption to people's support	1
Impact: Financial hardship	1
Impact: Increase in crime	1
Impact: Less tailored or bespoke support	1
Impact: Lose connections built with people who access support and with colleagues	1
Impact: Lower quality of life	1
Impact: More people in crisis	1
Impact: More pressure on the police	1
Impact: People will die	1
Impact: People would have to go into care	1
Impact: Reduce carers' wellbeing	1
Impact: Risk of East Sussex County Council not meeting statutory duties	1
Impact: Savings so small they won't justify impact on people who access support	1
Views: Service already under pressure with capacity	1

Suggestions

Comment theme	Total
Suggestion: Look for private investors/business to run it	3

Suggestions: More joint working	3
Suggestion: Keep parts of the service running	2
Suggestion: Provide transport to services	2
Suggestion: Cut operational costs	1
Suggestion: Do things differently and innovate	1
Suggestion: Encourage alternative support - e.g., religious groups or wellbeing services	1
Suggestion: East Sussex County Council should lobby government	1
Suggestion: Explore alternative solutions with partners/other providers	1
Suggestion: Focus on prevention	1
Suggestion: Joint transport between services	1
Suggestion: Listen to the consultation feedback	1
Suggestion: Locate any replacement in the same area	1
Suggestion: Make income by selling spaces to other local authorities	1
Suggestion: Partnerships with transport providers to help with cost	1
Suggestion: Use church buildings to limit costs of day services	1

Other comments

Comment theme	Total
Comment about personal circumstances	2
Other: Comment on consultation process or information	2
Other: Criticism of council	2
Other: Criticism of government	2
Other: East Sussex County Council must provide more information about alternatives and capacity	2
Other: East Sussex County Council needs to provide detailed financial info on savings	2
Other: How are parents of special education needs adults consulted with?	2
Other: Many don't have a voice/can't communicate	2
Other: Question about staffing under the proposals	2

East Sussex County Council must be accountable for any consequential suicides or harm to people who access support	1
Other: ASC is poorly run	1
Other: Comment on other council spending	1
Other: Comment re consultation financial figures	1
Other: Comment re government funding	1
Other: Question about attendance numbers under the proposals	1
Other: VCSE need services to signpost to	1
Other: Want to see the Equality Impact Assessment and proposed mitigations	1
Other: What assessments are required when changing special education needs services?	1
Other: What routes of appeal are there for challenging the decision?	1
Suggestion: Keep disruption to a minimum	1

Overall consultation responses

Responses addressing all 11 consultations combined

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

The organisations who submitted a response are:

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

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/carer	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

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 co-production	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 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 Equality Impact Assessments 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

Consultation meetings

Consultation meetings were held at the day services for people who attend them and their parents and carers. Where needed a virtual meeting was also held. Lots of questions were asked at the meetings and [answers to these can be found in the frequently asked questions section](#) of the consultation webpage.

Date	Service	Meeting type	Number of attendees
14 October	Linden Court	In-person for people who attend the service	34
		In-person for parents and carers	51
17 October	Beeching Park	In-person for people who attend the service	45
		In-person for parents and carers	21
31 October	Beeching Park	Online for people who attend the service and parents/carers	3

Linden Court themes from adults who access the service

- **Views:** People are worried, upset and sad about the proposal and some said they don't like change. They love it at Linden Court and are settled there. They don't want the service to close and they are afraid they won't see their friends if it does.

People said it is unfair that the service could close because there isn't enough money. They are sad that the service could be taken away and they are worried about what it would mean for them.

Some said they would move to Beeching Park, but a few people said they would stay at home if Linden Court closed.

- **Service:** People said they like going to Linden Court and have made lots of friends. They wanted to know what the proposal would mean for the days/sessions they attend and if they would still be able to take part in the same activities.
- **Impact:** People talked about travel and how it would be harder to get to Beeching Park, as well as making their day much longer. Those living in supported living said the timing wouldn't work with staff shifts.

They were also worried about what the change would mean for their days/sessions and their other outside commitments. Some people said they would need to stick to their current days/sessions.

Some people are worried that a busier service won't suit them and others are worried about not knowing anyone. There are also concerns about how the change could affect people's health, and college leavers in the future.

- **Other comments:** A few people wanted more information about Beeching Park and the activities that would be on offer, including community sessions.

Linden Court themes from parent/carers

- **Views:** Everyone who spoke stated their strong opposition to the proposal. People said it is disgusting that closure of the service is even being considered, and added that they would be heartbroken if it closed.

People said they would fight the closure of the service, and that more money is needed from the government to fund essential services like this. Eastbourne has already lost services and they were determined that it should not lose another.

Many people said that Beeching Park wouldn't work for them or their family member. Bexhill is too far away and it is not practical to send people by bus or taxi. Travel times would be much longer and the journey is impossible for them and their family.

People said they hadn't seen a sound financial basis for closing the building. They felt the closure wouldn't save any money, as support still has to be paid for and transport and escort costs would be higher. There would also be a greater risk that people might not be able to remain at home if they couldn't attend a day service.

When other day services have closed the buildings have just been left to sit empty, and the same will happen if Linden Court closes.

- **Service:** People praised the service and the staff who work there. The people who attend the service are like family to each other.

Linden Court has a lovely big kitchen and garden, as well as offering a quieter service for those who wouldn't cope with a busier one.

People talked about how the service provides a lifeline to them. For some it has allowed the family to stay together.

Some people said the revised session times wouldn't work for them, as they need to be at work before then. One person challenged the rationale for changing the sessions being based on staff feedback.

- **Impact:** Simply hearing about the proposals has created a lot of worry. Change is difficult for people who use this service, and more of it would affect their life and wellbeing.

Meeting new people is hard and the stress of the change could affect people's behaviour. Parents and carers need the quality of life the service provides to allow them to keep looking after their family member.

If the proposal went ahead, people who attend the service would be negatively affected. It would also mean huge changes for parents and carers, as well as affecting their mental health. Many people have been coming to Linden Court for several years and some wouldn't understand the need to move.

People felt that Beeching Park wouldn't be suitable for them, because travelling there would be hard, or impossible, for their family member. Even if they could do the journey, it would take a lot longer.

For this reason, if Linden Court closed they would have limited options. This is because the service helps them to keep their family member at home. Meeting attendees said that it would push people into moving into supported living and residential care much sooner than needed. These services are more expensive so it would cost the Council more in the long term.

For some people the proposal would affect their ability to maintain their employment. Older parents and carers were also worried for the future and what it would mean for their family member.

- **Suggestions:** There is an alternative service in Bexhill, so why not close Beeching Park instead. Promote Linden Court and get more people using it so it is viable to keep it open.

Find the savings elsewhere and don't cut services for the vulnerable. Sell underused buildings and use that money to save Linden Court.

- **Other comments:** The Council wastes so much money and everyone knows that. People need to know that the decision is transparent and fair. The Council admits that there is more demand for services, but is still proposing to close Linden Court.

A few people said they hadn't had an assessment for years, so they didn't see how everyone could be assessed in time before the proposed closure of the service.

Beeching Park themes from adults who access the service

- **Sessions:** The top comment theme was about the sessions and the changes that would happen if the proposal went ahead. People said they enjoy their sessions and don't want them to change. They were also keen to know whether particular activities that they enjoy would still be offered.
- **Views:** Lots of people shared their views on the proposed change. Some thought it was a good idea and were looking forward to making new friends, but others were worried about it, particularly the fact that the service would be busier.
- **Impact:** Most of the comments about impact focused on what the change would mean for the days they attend the service, with most people keen to stick with their current days. Some also asked if it would affect the money they pay for the service. A couple of people wanted to know what the change would mean for their bus journey.
- **Other comments:** People asked questions about Linden Court and how many people/staff would move to Beeching Park, as well as asking about what the change would mean for them and their days/sessions/activities.

Beeching Park themes from parent/carers

- **Views:** Attendees were concerned about the implications of the proposal for people who attend the service and their families, particularly in relation to the disruption to the service and the impact on timetabling.

People felt it wasn't clear how the proposal had been arrived at, and that more information was needed on that. They also felt the proposal seems to target vulnerable people and said that councillors should spend a day in their shoes.

People said that the priority should be to maintain people's existing provision for those already attending Beeching Park. They also said the cost of transport would reduce the amount of savings that can be made.

- **Service:** One attendee said that the person they care for loves the service and doesn't talk about anything else.
- **Impact:** The reduction in session hours would affect everyone at both services. Attendees had concerns about changes to session times and the disruption that would cause, particularly if the person had other existing commitments.
- **Suggestions:** Suggestions included cutting management roles to save money and focusing on individual need, as not everyone will understand the reason for making the change.
- **Other comments:** It will be important to keep people updated about what is being proposed and when changes would happen.