

Appendix 3: Consultation results report

Supported accommodation (additional needs)

About this consultation

This consultation is about the proposal to stop funding the on-site support for these accommodation services for adults with additional support needs. 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. Consultation meetings were held with people who live in the accommodation and staff who work there.

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 78 responses to this consultation. The table below shows the different ways in which people took part. We also had one late web form response received after the consultation closed.

Respondent method	Total
Survey	52
Emails	13
Consultation meetings (attendees)	13

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 52% of respondents choosing to do so.

- People from all areas of the county responded, with the top areas being Hastings and Eastbourne (19% and 10% respectively).
- The majority of respondents were someone who lives in East Sussex (38%), followed by someone who uses/has used the service or their family/carer (28%).
- More women took part than men (35% and 17% respectively).
- Of those who told us their ethnic group, all were White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British or White Irish.
- We heard from all ages above 18, with the top age group being over 60 (22%).

Key messages

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

- Most people (77%) strongly disagree with the proposal to stop funding on-site support, although a small proportion (6%) did agree with it.
- People said the cuts target vulnerable people at a time when services are already under pressure. Residents were worried about where they would live instead and how they would get the support they need.
- The on-site support from staff is seen as a critical part of the service, with the support they provide being vital.
- People using the service consistently say they couldn't cope without the support and that other services aren't able to provide the equivalent level of support. This is echoed by the families and carers of people using the service, who worry where their loved one will find the help they need.
- People praised the staff for their specialist skills, knowledge, and the quality of support they provide, all of which would not be found in other services or replicated by other organisations.
- It's felt the service provides a safe environment and a sense of community. This allows residents to flourish and ensures they always have someone at hand to reach out to for help.
- The support helps residents with day-to-day tasks they would struggle to do on their own, such as cooking, personal hygiene, and taking medication, as well as accessing other services, filling in forms, or managing finances.
- The service is also seen as critical for people's personal development. It allows them to build their skills, independence and ability to function in the community, with the ultimate aim of helping them to sustain a tenancy on their own in the long term.
- Families and carers of residents would not be able to care for their relatives and loved ones themselves. Some explained that they are too old

or physically unable to do so, leaving their loved ones at the mercy of whatever alternative is available with little choice.

- It was felt that if the accommodation building had to close, the alternatives (most likely temporary accommodation) are not appropriate. People said these would cost more in the long term for the Council and/or other organisations, such as district and borough councils which are responsible for housing.
- If the proposal went ahead, respondents felt that residents would ultimately be at more risk, experience poorer mental and physical health, and be much more likely to become homeless.
- Stopping funding for on-site support would put massive strain on hospitals and the police, and create extra cost for them.
- The current housing crisis, and the Council's other proposal to cut funding for the East Sussex Floating Support Service, would make it even harder for people to find alternative support if the supported accommodation ended up closing.
- Some of the organisations who responded made suggestions for alternative options that could be considered. They also suggested that the proposed end of funding date is delayed, allowing more time to explore other options and to support people to transition to other services if needed.

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:

- **Wealden Citizens Advice:** “[We] are concerned that a cut to this funding will see more vulnerable clients homeless and at risk, and add additional pressure on other agencies and organisations and the NHS.”
- **East Sussex Childrens Services:** “A decision to stop funding the on-site support for accommodation services for adults with additional and mental health support needs would lead to a reduction in the number of supported accommodation options for care leavers, who are most likely to require support to develop their tenancy sustainment skills before moving on to live independently.”
- **Eastbourne Borough Council:** “The proposal to close the two Sanctuary schemes in Eastbourne...will leave vulnerable people, who currently receive successful interventions from specialist officers, requiring services that EBC would be unable to replicate.”
- **Healthwatch:** “The proposal to cease funding for the on-site support for adults with mental health and additional needs in supported accommodation could be exacerbated by the significant reduction in funding for the Floating Support Service. It is also important to acknowledge that the proposed

changes may also place significant additional pressures on family members, friends and carers.”

- **Heads of Housing in East Sussex authorities:** “High demand for temporary accommodation means there is a shortage of accommodation for people with additional needs in East Sussex, and placements are often required out of area.”
- **Lewes Town Council:** “Cutting accommodation support for people with additional needs and mental health difficulties could mean that people currently managing to live independently are less likely to get appropriate referrals when needed, making independent living more difficult; this is a regressive step that could easily lead to increased pressure on institutional living arrangements, and the increased costs associated with this.”
- **Millwood Assessment and Treatment Service:** “The removal of this crucial support could lead to homelessness or placement in inappropriate housing, resulting in potentially detrimental outcomes for individuals. Supported accommodation provides a vital safety net, offering stability and care while preventing unnecessary institutionalisation in care homes. [Removal of support] would represent a step backward in ensuring vulnerable adults receive the care and environment they need to thrive.”

Individual comments:

- “Staff will also support with independent living skills like supporting residents with cooking, looking after their room, budgeting, encouraging them to save, [and] attending appointments with [them].”
- “The wrap-around support provided enables tenants to take time to develop the living skills they need and manage, stabilise their health needs in preparation to move on to independent living. Without support many will fail and end up homeless again.”
- “It is not fair to expect families to continue to care for their loved one just because they have done previously. All adults regardless of their conditions should have the chance to be independent and be supported throughout their life.”
- “My Autistic son could not survive independently. Not only could he not cook, eat or shop but he could not keep himself clean or properly dressed. He could not access the community independently or function in any meaningful respect.”
- “I would feel alone, unwanted, rejected by society and [it] would [make] my mental health worse, and make me [feel] inadequate...I would not feel or be accepted by society because I will become a social outcast and non-support will in fact make me homeless. No doubt in that matter at all.”
- “We don’t know where [our daughter] will end up. We cannot look after her with us due to age and infirmity and it will take her away from her support structure and church which maintains her wellbeing.”

- “My stepson could not feed himself, maintain personal hygiene, go shopping for food or clothing, or function safely in a public environment. It would lead to isolation, deteriorated health and likely early demise.”
- “I have made really good friends, and we are all supportive of each other.”
- “I want to live on my own, but it is so hard to find somewhere to live. I need help and the staff here are always around to speak to.”
- “It’s like having a family living with you; someone to guide you and help you realise yourself.”
- “Without the staff it just wouldn’t be the same. There would be no support. People would fall apart. A lot of people rely on the staff for the everyday stuff like cooking and using the washing machine. If you’ve not had to do it before or you struggle doing it, what are you supposed to do? Some people don’t have parents around or can’t ask for help.”
- “There are very limited move-on options, and clients will most likely face homelessness and placements in temporary accommodation that they may struggle to sustain.”

Results summary across all methods

Views on the proposal

Survey: 90% of respondents disagreed with the proposal to stop the on-site support at the supported accommodation for those with additional needs. The majority of people chose strongly disagree (77%) over disagree (13%). A small percentage strongly agreed with the proposal (6%).

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

- 1) Impact: Couldn't cope without the on-site support (16)
- 2) Service: Service is vital/needed (11)
- 3) Views: Adds more cost in the long term for other services and/or East Sussex County Council (10)
- 4) Views: Cuts target vulnerable people (9)
- 5) Impact: Increased pressure on other services (7)
- 6) Impact: Homelessness (6)
- 7) Impact: Less independence (6)
- 8) Service: Supports coping with day-to-day living/developing life skills (6)
- 9) Impact: People at increased risk without service (5)
- 10) Views: Concerned where else people would get support (5)

Emails: The most common views were that the proposal targets the most vulnerable, and that it adds more cost in the long term (8 comments each).

Other common views included:

- Views: Recognise need to make savings (5 comments)
- Views: Will shift cost onto districts and boroughs (5)
- Views: Already housing crisis in East Sussex (4)
- Views: Catastrophic to cut so many services at the same time (4)
- Views: Concerned about impact of proposal (4)
- Views: Equivalent services not available (4)
- Views: Other services already struggling (4)
- Views: Alternative services not suitable (3)
- Views: Concerned where else people would get support (3)
- Views: Cuts unfair/unequal (3)

Group meetings: Everyone disagreed with the proposal to stop funding on-site support. People said it would be a false economy as people would still need support and that any alternatives would likely cost more.

People praised the service and the staff who work there. The dedicated support it offers is vital and isn't on offer from other mental health services. The service provides safety, stability and security and helps people to reinvent themselves.

There was concern about the housing crisis already being experienced in Hastings, with some residents already struggling to access housing to move on from the service.

Individual meetings: Current residents mainly felt unhappy/disagreed with the proposal (9 comments), and were concerned where residents would live instead (5 comments).

Other common views included:

- Views: Cuts target vulnerable people (3)
- Views: Proposal adds more cost in the long term (2)

Potential impacts of the proposal

Survey: 43 people answered this part of the question. The most common themes were about not being able to cope without the on-site support and concern for where people would get this support instead (10 comments each).

The other top comments were:

- Impact: Homelessness (8 comments)
- Impact: Poorer mental health (8)
- Impact: People would be at increased risk without service (7)
- Impact: Isolation (6)

- Impact: Poorer physical health (5)
- The proposal doesn't affect me (4)
- Impact: Cannot rely on care from family (3)
- Impact: Increased pressure on other services (3)
- Impact: Negative impact (unspecified) (3)
- Impact: Reduce the wellbeing of people accessing the services (3)
- Service: Supports coping with day-to-day living/developing life skills (3)
- Views: Adds more cost in the long term for other services and/or East Sussex County Council (3)

Emails: The most common impacts mentioned were the increased pressure on other services (12 comments) and increased cost for other organisations (8 comments).

Other common impacts include:

- Impact: Homelessness (7 comments)
- Impact: People's needs won't be met (5)
- Impact: Poorer access to support (5)
- Impact: Add more costs in the long term (4)
- Impact: Poorer mental health (4)
- Impact: Poorer physical health (4)
- Impact: Significant increase in people living in temporary accommodation (4)

Group meetings: People are worried about what would happen if the service closed. Many struggled to find accommodation before they found the service and they fear they would not be able to find anything suitable.

People also said the support is a vital part of the service and people don't know how they would cope without it, especially because mental health services don't have time to listen or support people in the way this service does.

Stopping funding for on-site support would put massive strain on hospitals and the police, and create lots of extra cost for them. Temporary accommodation is also likely to be more expensive.

Individual meetings: Current residents commonly felt the proposal would cause homelessness (13 comments) and that they couldn't cope without the service (9 comments).

Other common impacts included:

- Impact: Poorer mental health (6 comments)
- Impact: Ability to have a home/suitable home (4)
- Impact: Drug and/or alcohol use (4)

Suggestions

Survey: The most common service-specific suggestions were:

- Suggestion: Don't cut service (6 comments)
- Suggestion: Careful consideration of impacts (1)
- Suggestion: Charge people more to use services (1)
- Suggestion: Continue to support the most vulnerable (1)
- Suggestion: Focus on prevention (1)
- Suggestion: Improve turnover of people entering and moving on from the service (1)
- Suggestion: Increase rather than cut service funding (1)
- Suggestion: Provide accessible support and advice to those in need (1)
- Suggestion: Reduce on-site support hours (1)

Emails: Service-specific suggestions included:

- Suggestion: Reduce service in gradual stages (2)
- Suggestion: Cut operational costs (1)
- Suggestion: Districts and boroughs should fund the service (1)
- Suggestion: Extend transition period of the East Sussex Floating Support Service for partners to develop a joint approach to homeless prevention (1)
- Suggestion: Extend transition period of Supported Accommodation support cuts for partners to develop a joint approach to homeless prevention (1)
- Suggestion: Extended transition period for people currently accessing the service (1)
- Suggestion: Fundraise locally (1)
- Suggestion: Hybrid use of accommodation by social care and housing authorities (1)
- Suggestion: Involve users in solution building (1)
- Suggestion: Keep parts of the service running (1)
- Suggestion: Review eligibility criteria to tighten up (1)
- Suggestion: Utilise existing Supported Accommodation units via refuge contract commissioning (1)
- Suggestion: Utilise existing and effective volunteer/charity support services (1)
- Suggestion: Work with partners to develop a new model (1)

Meetings: One suggestion was given, which was to signpost to housing schemes.

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: Cuts target vulnerable people (8 comments)
- Service: Service is vital/needed (7)
- Suggestion: Don't cut service (6)
- Views: Adds more cost in the long term for other services and/or East Sussex County Council (5)
- Impact: Increased pressure on other services (4)
- Impact: Couldn't cope without the on-site support (3)
- Suggestion: Cut elsewhere (3)
- Suggestion: Lobby government for more funding (3)

Emails: The top themes included comments about the consultation process/information (2 comments), comments re government funding (2 comments) and the comment that East Sussex County Council must provide more information about alternatives and their capacity (2 comments).

Group meetings: The timeframe being so short is very stressful.

Service specific questions

We asked additional service-specific questions in this survey.

Have people used the Floating Support Service: A small number have also used this service in the last year (6 people). One said they weren't sure and 22 said they hadn't used this service.

What they would have done if the service hadn't been available: The top themes included:

- Impact: Couldn't cope without the on-site support (7)
- Impact: Homelessness (7)
- Views: I wouldn't know where else to go (3)

Charts and tables

Survey responses including about you information

1) Are you completing the survey as:

There were 52 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Someone who uses/has used the supported accommodation services (please tell us which service in the box below)	7	13.46%
The family or carer of someone who uses/has used the service	8	15.38%
Someone who works for the supported accommodation services (please tell us which service in the box below)	4	7.69%
Someone who lives in East Sussex	20	38.46%
Someone who works in health or social care in East Sussex	5	9.62%
Someone who works in housing in East Sussex	3	5.77%
Someone who works in the voluntary or community sector	1	1.92%
Other (please provide details below)	4	7.69%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If you ticked 'other' please provide details here:

There were 7 responses to this part of the question.

Supports living provider	2
Sanctuary housing worker	2
Comment on personal circumstances	1
Previously worked in health and social care	1
Unspecific/unclear	1

2) How much do you agree or disagree with the proposal to stop the on-site support for accommodation services for adults with additional support needs?

There were 52 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	3	5.77%
Agree	0	0.00%

Neither agree nor disagree	1	1.92%
Disagree	7	13.46%
Strongly disagree	40	76.92%
Not sure	0	0.00%
Not Answered	1	1.92%

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

There were 47 responses to this part of the question:

Comment theme	Total
Impact: Couldn't cope without the on-site support	16
Service: Service is vital/needed	11
Views: Adds more cost in the long term for other services and/or East Sussex County Council	10
Views: Cuts target vulnerable people	9
Impact: Increased pressure on other services	7
Impact: Homelessness	6
Impact: Less independence	6
Service: Supports coping with day-to-day living/developing life skills	6
Impact: People at increased risk without service	5
Views: Concerned where else people would get support	5
Impact: Detrimental to the family and/or carer of the people affected	4
Impact: Negative impact (unspecified)	4
Views: Short sighted	4
Impact: Cannot rely on care from family	3
Impact: Loss to the community/society	3
Impact: More people having to use temporary accommodation	3
Comment about personal circumstances	2
Impact: Isolation	2
Impact: Lower quality of life	2
Impact: Poorer mental health	2
Other: Comment re government spending	2
Service: Prevents homelessness	2

Service: Provides person-centred support	2
Suggestion: Cut elsewhere	2
Suggestion: Cut management salaries	2
Suggestion: Don't cut service	2
Views: Concerned where people would live instead	2
Views: Disagree with proposal based on anticipated impact given in consultation overview	2
Views: Equivalent services not available	2
Views: Proposal is morally wrong	2
Views: Services already limited	2
Views: Unhappy/disagree with proposal	2
Impact: Reduce the wellbeing of people current accessing the service	2
Impact: Destroy the stability/support structure for people currently accessing the service	1
Impact: Financial hardship	1
Impact: People could/will die	1
Impact: People won't get the support they need	1
Impact: Poorer physical health	1
The proposal doesn't affect me	1
Service: Gives access to other essential services	1
Service: Immensely valued	1
Service: Praise of service and its benefit	1
Service: Praise of staff	1
Service: Safe environment	1
Suggestion: Charge people more to use services	1
Suggestion: Decision makers' jobs should be considered for cuts too	1
Suggestion: East Sussex County Council should manage resources better	1
Suggestion: Lobby government for more funding	1
Views: Already housing crisis in East Sussex	1
Views: Catastrophic to cut so many services at the same time	1
Views: Cuts unfair/unequal	1
Views: Disagree with using private organisations	1

Views: East Sussex County Council is responsible for looking after vulnerable people	1
Views: Everyone deserves an opportunity to live independently	1
Views: Fear the accommodation building will close	1
Views: Loss of jobs	1
Views: Need for this service is increasing	1
Views: Other accommodation services are not appropriate for the needs of people currently accessing the service	1
Views: Other services are already struggling	1
Views: Recognise need to make savings	1
Views: Service is not a priority	1
Views: Service is vital for young people and their prosperity	1

3) How would the proposal to stop the on-site support for accommodation services for adults with additional support needs affect you or someone you care for?

There were 43 responses to this part of the question:

Comment theme	Total
Impact: Couldn't cope without the on-site support	10
Views: Concerned where else people would get support	10
Impact: Homelessness	8
Impact: Poorer mental health	8
Impact: People at increased risk without service	7
Impact: Isolation	6
Impact: Poorer physical health	5
The proposal doesn't affect me	4
Impact: Cannot rely on care from family	3
Impact: Increased pressure on other services	3
Impact: Negative impact (unspecified)	3
Impact: Reduce the wellbeing of people currently using the service	3
Service: Supports coping with day-to-day living/developing life skills	3
Views: Adds more cost in the long term for other services and/or East Sussex County Council	3

Impact: Loss to the community/society	2
Impact: People could/will die	2
Impact: People won't get the support they need	2
Impact: Poor/no access to support	2
Service: Service is vital/needed	2
Views: Cuts target vulnerable people	2
Views: Equivalent services not available	2
Views: Unsure where people would live instead	2
Impact: Ability to find work	1
Impact: Destroy stability/support structure for people currently accessing the service	1
Impact: Feel rejected/outcast by society	1
Impact: Feeling less safe	1
Impact: Financial hardship	1
Impact: Increase in crime	1
Impact: Less independence	1
Impact: Lose my job	1
Impact: Loss of signposting to further support	1
Impact: My children would become homeless too	1
Impact: Need to hire full-time carer	1
Impact: People won't get the support they need	1
Impact: Use of alcohol and/or drugs	1
Views: Everyone deserves an opportunity to live independently	1
Views: Fear for my child's wellbeing when I pass away	1
Views: Services already limited	1
Views: Shameful proposal	1

4) If this service had not been available when you needed help, where would you have gone instead for accommodation and support?

There were 20 responses to this part of the question:

Comment theme	Total
Impact: Couldn't cope without the on-site support	7
Impact: Homelessness	7
Views: I wouldn't know where else to go	3

Views: Concerned where else people would get support	2
Views: Other accommodation services are not appropriate for the needs of people who currently access the service	2
Views: Unsure where people would live instead	2
People who access the service are/would be placed in emergency/temporary accommodation	1
Comment about personal circumstances	1
Council unhelpful	1
Impact: Cannot rely on care from family	1
Impact: People would be at increased risk without service	1
Impact: Increased pressure on other services	1
Impact: More people having to use temporary accommodation	1
Impact: People could/will die	1
Impact: Poorer mental health	1
Impact: Unable to find housing	1
St. James	1
St. Peters	1
Views: Detrimental to disabled people in particular	1
Views: Equivalent services not available	1
Views: Other services already struggling	1
Views: Services already limited	1

5) Have you used BHT's East Sussex Housing-Related Floating Support Service in the last year?

There were 29 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	6	11.54%
No	22	42.31%
Not sure	1	1.92%
Not Answered	23	44.23%

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

There were 30 responses to this part of the question:

Comment theme	Total
Views: Cuts target vulnerable people	8
Service: Service is vital/needed	7
Suggestion: Don't cut service	6
Views: Adds more cost in the long term for other services and/or East Sussex County Council	5
Impact: Increased pressure on other services	4
Impact: Couldn't cope without the on-site support	3
Suggestion: Cut elsewhere	3
Suggestion: Lobby government for more funding	3
Impact: More people having to use temporary accommodation	2
Impact: People could/will die	2
Impact: Poorer mental health	2
Impact: Poorer physical health	2
Other: Comment re impact of government actions	2
Suggestion: East Sussex County Council should manage resources better	2
Suggestion: Make decisions after May elections	2
Views: Concerned where else people would get support	2
Views: Cuts create inequality	2
Impact: People at increased risk without service	1
Impact: Homelessness	1
Impact: Detrimental to the families and/or carers of the people affected	1
Impact: Isolation	1
Impact: More people in crisis	1
Impact: Negative impact (unspecified)	1
Other: Criticism of government	1
Other: Comment re government spending	1
Other: Would take legal action against East Sussex County Council	1

Service: Allows people to build independence	1
Service: Services rely on referring people to them for support	1
Suggestion: Careful consideration of impacts is needed	1
Suggestion: Charge people more to use services	1
Suggestion: Continue to support the most vulnerable	1
Suggestion: Focus on prevention	1
Suggestion: Improve turnover of people entering and moving on from service	1
Suggestion: Increase rather than cut service funding	1
Suggestion: Provide accessible support and advice to those in need	1
Suggestion: Reduce on-site support hours	1
Suggestion: Seek support from financial advisor	1
Views: Unhappy/disagree with proposal	1
Views: Catastrophic to cut so many services at the same time	1
Views: Concerned where people would live instead	1
Views: Cuts unfair/unequal	1
Views: Disagree with using private organisations	1
Views: Equivalent services not available	1
Views: East Sussex County Council is responsible for looking after vulnerable people	1
Views: I wouldn't know where else to go	1
Views: Proposal is morally wrong	1
Views: Need for this service is increasing	1
Views: Priorities are wrong	1
Views: Recognise need to make savings	1
Views: Services already limited	1
Views: Short sighted	1

About you equality questions

People were given the option of answering these questions, with 27 choosing to take part and 25 choosing not to answer those questions.

What age are you?

There were 26 responses to this part of the question:

Age	Total	Percentage of respondents
Under 18	0	0%
18-24	3	6%
25-34	1	2%
35-44	3	6%
45-54	7	13%
55-59	1	2%
60-64	5	10%
65+	6	12%
Not answered	26	50%

Prefer not to say

There was 1 response to this part of the question.

What is your gender?

There were 27 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Female	18	34.62%
Male	9	17.31%
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	25	48.08%

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

There were 27 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	26	50.00%
No (please write in your gender identity below)	1	1.92%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	25	48.08%

What is your ethnic group?

There were 27 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
White English/Welsh/Scottish /Northern Irish/British	26	50.00%
White Irish	1	1.92%
White Gypsy/Irish Traveler	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	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	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)	0	0.00%
Arab	0	0.00%
Any other ethnic group (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	25	48.08%

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

There were 27 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
'Straight' / Heterosexual	23	44.23%
Gay or Lesbian	0	0.00%
Bisexual	1	1.92%
Prefer to self-describe (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	3	5.77%
Not Answered	25	48.08%

What is your religion or belief?

There were 27 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
No religion	14	26.92%
Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	11	21.15%
Buddhist	0	0.00%
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)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	2	3.85%
Not Answered	25	48.08%

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

There were 27 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes (please answer part B below)	9	17.31%
No (go to the next question)	18	34.62%
Prefer not to say (go to the next question)	0	0.00%

Not Answered	25	48.08%
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Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes, a lot (please answer part C below)	4	7.69%
Yes, a little (please answer part C below)	4	7.69%
Not at all (go to the next question)	11	21.15%
Prefer not to say (go to the next question)	0	0.00%
Not Answered	33	63.46%

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

There were 9 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Physical Impairment	8	15.38%
Sensory Impairment	1	1.92%
Learning Disability/Difficulty	4	7.69%
Long-standing illness	3	5.77%
Mental Health condition	5	9.62%
Neurodivergent condition	2	3.85%
Other Developmental Condition	2	3.85%
Other (please write in below)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	43	82.69%

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

There were 27 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	0	0.00%

No	27	51.92%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	25	48.08%

Are there any children under the age of 18 living in your household?

There were 27 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	4	7.69%
No	22	42.31%
Prefer not to say	1	1.92%
Not Answered	25	48.08%

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 27 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	8	15.38%
No (go to next question)	19	36.54%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	25	48.08%

Hours of care given a week

There were 9 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
9 hours a week or less	4	7.69%
10 to 19 hours a week	3	5.77%
20 to 34 hours a week	0	0.00%
35 to 49 hours a week	0	0.00%
50 hours or more a week	2	3.85%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%

Not Answered	43	82.69%
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Who you care for?

There were 8 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Parent	3	5.77%
Partner/spouse	0	0.00%
Child with special needs	5	9.62%
Other family member	1	1.92%
Friend	2	3.85%
Other (please give details)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	44	84.62%

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 27 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	0	0.00%
No	27	51.92%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Not Answered	25	48.08%

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

There were 27 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	2	3.85%
No	25	48.08%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%

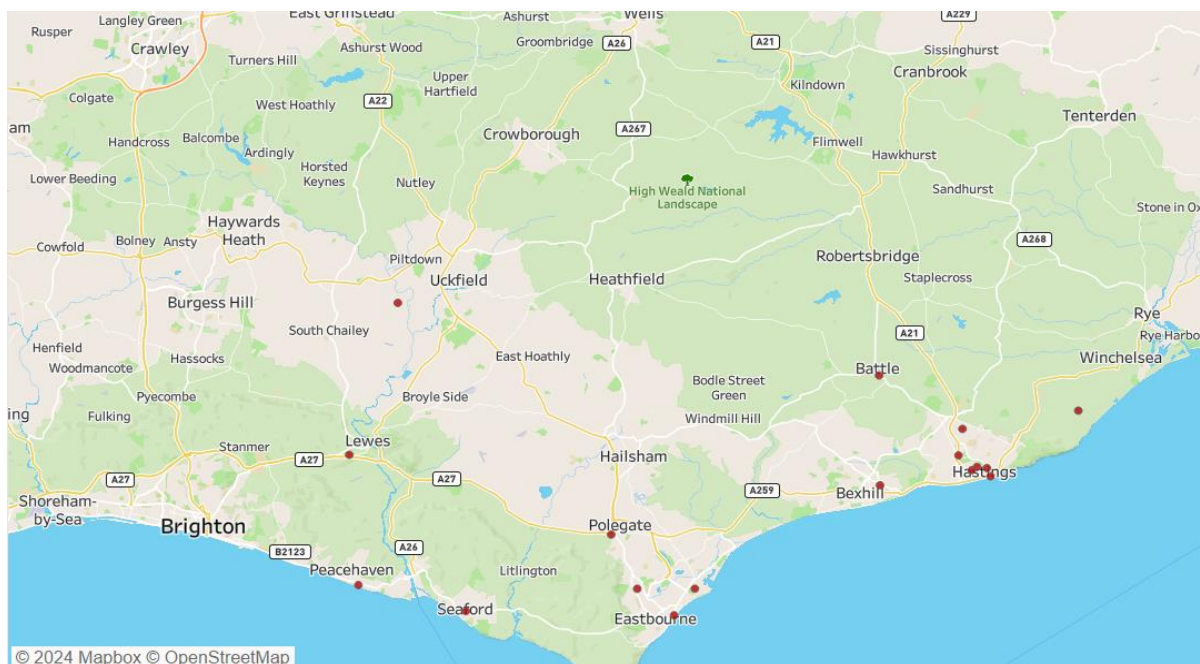
Not Answered	25	48.08%
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Please tell us your postcode:

There were 23 responses to this part of the question:

Area in East Sussex	Total	Percentage of respondents
Lewes	3	6%
Eastbourne	5	10%
Wealden	2	4%
Rother	3	6%
Hastings	10	19%

3 people (6%) answered “prefer not to say”.



Other feedback by email etc

Supported accommodation (additional needs) consultation responses

There were 13 responses to the supported accommodation (additional needs) consultation. All of them were submitted by email, 11 from organisations with one submitting two responses and 1 from a member of parliament.

The organisations who submitted a response are:

- Children's Services at East Sussex County Council
- Eastbourne Borough Council

- Hastings Borough Council
- Heads of Housing at Districts & Boroughs
- Healthwatch East Sussex
- Lewes Town Council
- Millwood High Weald, Lewes and Havens Assessment and Treatment Service
- NHS Sussex
- Rother District Council
- Sanctuary Supported Living
- Wealden Citizens Advice

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

Views

Comment themes	Total
Views: Cuts target the most vulnerable	8
Views: Proposal adds more cost in the long term	8
Views: Recognise need to make savings	5
Views: Will shift cost onto districts and boroughs	5
Views: Already housing crisis in East Sussex	4
Views: Catastrophic to cut so many services at the same time	4
Views: Concerned about impact of proposal	4
Views: Equivalent services not available	4
Views: Other services already struggling	4
Views: Alternative services not suitable	3
Views: Concerned where else people would get support	3
Views: Cuts unfair/unequal	3
Views: Detrimental to homeless people in particular	2
Views: Detrimental to people with mental illness in particular	2
Views: Detrimental to those with a drug and/or alcohol dependency	2
Views: Disagree	2
Views: Money won't be saved	2
Views: Need for this service is increasing	2
Views: People may be affected by multiple proposed cuts	2
Views: People upset by proposal	2

Views: Services already limited	2
Service: Service is vital	1
Views: Agree	1
Views: Concern re timeframe for cuts	1
Views: Concerned about impact on Hastings residents	1
Views: Concerned where people would live instead	1
Views: Concerned where families will get support instead	1
Views: Concerned where people would go instead	1
Views: Cutting service is a mistake	1
Views: Districts and boroughs should fund the service	1
Views: Detrimental to disabled people in particular	1
Views: Detrimental to the elderly in particular	1
Views: Homelessness prevention statutory under the Homelessness Reduction Act	1
Views: Insufficient time for other organisations to respond/mitigate risks	1
Views: Service is more cost effective than the alternative	1
Views: Service vital for safeguarding people accessing it and/or people around them	1
Views: Understand prioritising statutory duties	1

Service

Comment themes	Total
Service: Service is vital	5
Service: Cost effective	3
Service: Helps people to regain independence	3
Service: Prevents homelessness	2
Service: Specialist knowledge unique to service	2
Service: Supports engagement with other wellbeing initiatives	2
Service: Works well alongside other services	2
Service: Follow-up support vital for people leaving service	1
Service: Gives people someone to reach out to	1

Service: Helps people accessing the service to live and engage safely within society	1
Service: Helps to get/maintain employment	1
Service: High quality	1
Service: Immensely valued	1
Service: Lifeline to people	1
Service: Only service of its sort	1
Service: Praise of service	1
Service: Praise of staff	1
Service: Provides person-centred support	1
Service: Services rely on referring people to them for support	1
Service: Supports the most vulnerable	1
Service: Very accessible	1

Impact

Comment themes	Total
Impact: Increased pressure on other services	12
Impact: Increased cost for other organisations	8
Impact: Homelessness	7
Impact: People's needs won't be met	5
Impact: Poorer access to support	5
Impact: Add more costs in the long term	4
Impact: Poorer mental health	4
Impact: Poorer physical health	4
Impact: Significant increase in people living in temporary accommodation	4
Impact: Increased burden on family/carer	3
Impact: Ability to have a home/suitable home	3
Impact: Ability to sustain living independently and maintaining accommodation	3
Impact: People who access the service would be at increased risk	3
Impact: Financial hardship	3
Impact: Loss of jobs	3
Impact: Loss to the community	3
Impact: Negative impact (unspecified)	3

Impact: Accommodation buildings will close	2
Impact: More people in crisis	2
Impact: NHS	2
Impact: Poorer long-term outcomes	2
Views: Service already under pressure with capacity	2
Impact: Compromise other organisations' work	1
Impact: Couldn't cope without service	1
Impact: Destabilise wider system with rise in demand	1
Impact: Destroy the stability/support structure of people who current access the service	1
Impact: Economy will suffer	1
Impact: Education	1
Impact: Employment	1
Impact: Engagement with other services	1
Impact: Even more limited services	1
Impact: Expensive redundancy costs	1
Impact: Hardship and poverty	1
Impact: Increased homelessness if cut	1
Impact: Increase in families becoming homeless	1
Impact: Increased support needs	1
Impact: Increased burden on frontline workers supporting people	1
Impact: Loss of signposting/access to other services	1
Impact: Loss of skilled/specialist workforce	1
Impact: Loss of staff results in loss of tax revenue	1
Impact: Lower quality of life	1
Impact: More people would be in out-of-area accommodation	1
Impact: More hospital admissions	1
Impact: Multiple disadvantages for some who use several services	1
Impact: People could/will die	1
Impact: People would have to go into care	1
Impact: People would need to be in crisis to get help	1
Impact: Reduce the wellbeing of people who access the service	1

Impact: Undo what staff have worked hard to build	1
Impact: Use of alcohol and/or drugs	1

Suggestions

Comment themes	Total
Suggestions: More joint working	4
Suggestion: Focus on prevention	3
Suggestion: Continue to support the most vulnerable	2
Suggestion: Don't cut service	2
Suggestion: Explore alternative solutions with partners/other providers	2
Suggestion: Reduce service in gradual stages	2
Suggestion: Cut operational costs	1
Suggestion: Districts and boroughs should fund the service	1
Suggestion: Do things differently and innovate	1
Suggestion: Don't cut prevention services	1
Suggestion: Encourage alternative support - e.g., religious groups or wellbeing services	1
Suggestion: Explore joint commissioning of services with districts and boroughs	1
Suggestion: Extend transition period of the East Sussex Floating Support Service for partners to develop joint approach to homeless prevention	1
Suggestion: Extend transition period of Supported Accommodation support cuts for partners to develop joint approach to homeless prevention	1
Suggestion: Extended transition period for people currently accessing the service	1
Suggestion: Find other ways to save money	1
Suggestion: Focus on housing-first solutions	1
Suggestion: Fundraise locally	1
Suggestion: Hybrid use of accommodation by social care and housing authorities	1
Suggestion: Involve users in solution building	1
Suggestion: Keep parts of the service running	1
Suggestion: Lobby government in partnership with other services	1
Suggestion: Make decisions after May elections	1

Suggestion: Pilot alternative models	1
Suggestion: Reduce use of expensive residential care for adults	1
Suggestion: Review eligibility criteria to tighten up	1
Suggestion: Use technology	1
Suggestion: Use volunteers	1
Suggestion: Utilise existing and effective volunteer/charity support services	1
Suggestion: Utilise existing Supported Accommodation units via refuge contract commissioning	1
Suggestion: Work with partners to develop new model	1

Other comments

Comment themes	Total
Other: Comment on consultation process or information	2
Other: Comment re government funding	2
Other: East Sussex County Council must provide more information about alternatives and capacity	2
Other: Allow more time to work with districts and boroughs to find alternative solutions	1
Other: Comment on other council spending	1
Other: Cost of temporary accommodation is driving financial instability in local authorities	1
Other: Current Supported Accommodation (SA) provision should comply with upcoming government regulations re developing SA strategies	1
Other: East Sussex County Council should provide more information on the numbers of people impacted and their needs	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: Lack of consideration for wider impacts	1
Other: Near future changes in government funding possible	1

Other: Not everyone affected will qualify for housing services	1
Other: Proposal is in conflict with East Sussex County Council's housing strategy	1
Other: Supporting and working with the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector vital for improved outcomes	1
Other: Unrealistic to expect other services to mitigate impacts sufficiently	1
Other: Want to see the Equality Impact Assessment and proposed mitigations	1
Other: Work with districts and boroughs to retain Supported Accommodation assets in wider system	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 addressing all 11 consultations at once by letter and email. These were from 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 the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector to provide the support instead	2
Views: Proposal is 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 currently accessing the service care for multiple people already	1
Views: Carers vital for health and social care economy	1
Views: Concerned about impact on level of support services can provide post-cuts	1
Views: Concerned 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 Homelessness Reduction Act	1
Views: Impacts will be immediate for people accessing the service and 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 is vital for safeguarding people it supports 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 the service would be at increased risk	1
Impact: Community would be 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 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 the wellbeing of people currently accessing the service	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 Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector 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
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Other: Supporting and working with the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector is 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 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 Equality Impact Assessment 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

A consultation meeting was held for each of the buildings that deliver supported accommodation for adults with additional needs. People using the service and staff members working at them attended. Both group and individual feedback opportunities were offered at the meetings.

Date held	Service	Attendees
4 November	Priory Avenue	10
8 November	St Aubyn's	3

Group feedback

Priory Avenue - residents of the service

- **Views:** Everyone at the meeting disagreed with the proposal to stop funding on-site support. It would be a false economy to stop the funding, as people would still need support from other services, many of which would be more expensive. Given the housing crisis in Hastings it doesn't make sense. Some residents are already struggling to access housing.
- **Service:** People praised the service and how it provides safety, stability and security, as well as building their confidence. Staff support them and listen to them when they are frustrated, which helps put things in perspective. They have also built relationships with each other.
- **Impact:** People are scared and worried about what it would mean for them. They fear it would be hard to find accommodation and have struggled to do so in the past. For a couple who have young children this was a particular concern.

People said it would put massive strain on hospitals and the police, and create lots of extra cost for them. Temporary accommodation is also likely to be more expensive, and one person felt that prison is a better option than the alternatives if the service closes.

St Aubyn's - residents of the service

- **Views:** Everyone at the meeting disagreed with the proposal to stop funding on-site support. People said it would cost more in the long term if the service ended up closing, particularly given the mental health crisis that is already happening and the services that are being cut.
- **Service:** One person said they wouldn't be here without the service. Another said they would have ended up back in hospital. A third said they would have been homeless, having been refused help from their local authority. It was emphasised that a service like this is very much needed given the pressures on other mental health services.

There was lots of praise for staff and how they listen to residents. Having someone always there to talk to you and support you is vital, and not on offer from other services who leave you to cope. This allows people to reinvent themselves and find training/job opportunities.

- **Impact:** NHS services, including mental health, are already very stretched and the treatment can be hit and miss. The support is a vital part of the service and people don't know how they would cope without it. Mental health services have no time to listen or support people in the way the service does.
- **Other comments:** The timeframe being so short about making a decision is very stressful, and will affect people's behaviour and wellbeing in the meantime.

Individual feedback

The themes in this section represent the feedback shared by residents of the two supported accommodation services for additional needs during the consultation meetings.

Views

Comment themes	Total
Views: Unhappy/disagree with proposal	9
Views: Concerned where people would live instead	5
Views: Cuts target vulnerable people	3
Views: Proposal adds more cost in the long term	2
Views: Concerned where else people would get support	1
Views: Equivalent services not available	1

Service

Comment themes	Total
Service: Would not be alive without service	3
Service: Service is vital	2
Service: Immensely valued	1
Service: Lifeline to people	1
Service: Praise of service	1

How the service helped

Comment themes	Total
Improve mental health	12
Builds life skills and ability to cope independently with day-to-day tasks	9
Help with cooking	9
Developing social/relationship skills	8
Gives people accessing the service someone to reach out to	8
Safe environment	8
Ability to talk to staff	7
Builds independence/confidence	7
Support to carry out tasks I struggle to do myself	6
Sense of community	6

Emotional support	5
Filling in forms	5
Stability	5
Financial support	4
Prevent/reduce use of drugs and/or alcohol	4
Gave me hope	3
Freedom/autonomy	2
Make friends	2
Praise of staff	2
Provides person-centred support	2
Rebuilds lives	2
Support to get your own home	2
Support with IT/internet	2
Goal setting	2
Setting boundaries	2
A place to call home	1
Alternative accommodation set-ups are inadequate or unsafe	1
Better engagement with other services	1
Help always available	1
Improve physical health	1
Liaising with other services	1
Staff able to recognise decline in the wellbeing of people accessing the service	1
Support to attend appointments	1
Support to take medication	1
Support with parenting	1

Impact

Comment themes	Total
Impact: Homelessness	13
Impact: Couldn't cope without service	9
Impact: Poorer mental health	6
Impact: Ability to have a home/suitable home	4
Impact: Drug and/or alcohol use	4

Impact: Fear for future	3
Impact: Less independence	3
Impact: People won't get the support they need	3
Impact: Alternative accommodation set-ups are inadequate or unsafe	2
Impact: Detrimental to the family and/or carer of the people affected	2
Impact: More people in crisis	2
Impact: Ability to find/maintain employment	1
Impact: Cannot rely on family/friends	1
Impact: People who access the service couldn't live independently	1
Impact: Cuts create inequality	1
Impact: Detrimental to those with a criminal record in particular	1
Impact: Feeling less safe	1
Impact: Financial hardship	1
Impact: Isolation	1
Impact: Long wait for alternative support	1
Impact: Lose my current support	1
Impact: More people having to use temporary accommodation	1
Impact: People could/will die	1
Impact: Poorer/no access to support	1

Suggestion

One suggestion was given, which was to signpost to housing schemes.