

Covering paper for reports on Proposal for the future of the Integrated Adult Social Care 18+ Homelessness Prevention Contribution and Contract, and Proposal for the future Council contribution to the Wellbeing Exeter Partnership Fund

Report of the Director of Integrated Adult Social Care

1. On the 13 June the Council's Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee passed a recommendation that the Committee holds a Special Scrutiny Committee Meeting in July, taking place on 27 July, to provide a further opportunity for committee members to understand how the recommendations, post public consultation, are developing on the consultations that concluded. These consultations are:
 - Proposal for the future of the Integrated Adult Social Care 18+ Homelessness Prevention Contribution and Contract
 - Proposal for the future Council contribution to the Wellbeing Exeter Partnership Fund
 - Proposed closure of North Devon Link Mental Health and Wellbeing Service in Barnstaple, Bideford and Ilfracombe (NDLS)
2. The intention was that once the recommendations have been developed on the back of the above consultations and following additional input from the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee, they would be presented to Cabinet for decision at a Special Cabinet Meeting on the 23 August.
3. Committee Members will be aware of the three halted consultations:
 - Proposals for Learning Disability day centres
 - Proposals for Learning Disability respite centres
 - Proposals for changes to Carers Services
4. We are currently developing a new approach in these areas, re-evaluating our proposals and undertaking additional engagement in identifying next steps, following which further updates will be provided.

Proposals for Future of the integrated Adult Social Care 18 + Homelessness Prevention Contribution and Contracts

5. Following conclusion of consultation proposals have been formed for the future of the service. A draft report is attached which provides the background, consultation responses and options in detail.

6. During the consultation the Council received responses and challenge regarding the proposals including suggestions that it had a legal/ statutory duty to continue to provide these services. The Council has investigated this matter thoroughly and has established that it does not have a duty as the respondents have suggested.
7. Both the Housing Act 1996 and the Care Act 2014 impose a mutual obligation to co-operate in the exercise of the respective functions of the Local Housing Authority and the Council, as the relevant social services authority, concerning its responsibilities relating to adults with needs for care and support and the obligation to have regard to the homelessness strategies. The Council's position is that where it is asked by a District or City to assist the housing authority with the exercise of its functions under the Housing Act 1996, it will offer such co-operation and assistance where it is deemed reasonable to do so and, it does not result in the Council doing anything which another local authority is required to do under the Housing Act 1996.
8. The Council has been and will continue to work closely with all partners including the NHS, Districts and City Councils.
9. The Council continues to carry out its adult social care responsibilities in accordance with the Care Act 2014, including S.2, and relevant regulations. It conducts its assessment of need for care and support and prevention functions with regard to the homelessness strategies of districts and the 'duty to refer' responsibilities placed on the Council by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.
10. The proposals will still ensure that the Council will exercise its duties to ensure those who need an assessment under the Care Act receive one and to consider how care and support needs can be met. The Council will work closely with the District and City Councils to develop and support transitional plans to meet the needs of individuals.

Proposal for the future Council contribution to the Wellbeing Exeter Partnership Fund

11. Following the close of consultation, a draft report has been produced detailing the proposal to cease the Council's contribution to the Exeter Wellbeing Partnership Fund. The report details the proposal in full.
12. The Council does not receive any grant funding from government to fund Exeter Wellbeing partnership fund and the partnership is not delivering value for money in terms of performance and outcomes for our Residents.
13. There is no statutory duty to continue funding the wellbeing Exeter Partnership Fund.
14. Consultation responses have been fully considered.

Proposed closure of North Devon Link Mental Health and Wellbeing Service in Barnstaple, Bideford, and Ilfracombe (NDLS)

15. We have taken legal advice through our proposals in relation NDLS. The consultation process to date has been lawful. The responses received have requested that further

detail is provided on information contained within the impact assessment, consultation documentation and details of alternative offers within each area.

16. In light of this we have decided to [extend the NDLS consultation](#) so that we can fully [explore this](#) and allow consultees additional time in which to respond to the requested detail. The Special Scrutiny Committee Meeting on the 27 July will therefore not discuss the NDLS consultation as per the initial intention.
17. This approach will also enable us to contain within the updated documentation the additional risks that have been identified through the consultation process and highlight any mitigation activity that might need to be considered.
18. Communications have been sent to all NDLS stakeholders, including staff and people accessing the services. The consultation extension will commence on the 1 August and will run until 31 August. The consultation documents can be found on the Council Have Your Say pages. We intend to bring a paper to the 21 September Scrutiny Committee and the recommendation to Cabinet 12 November.
19. When the Council comes to make a decision following the extended consultation, it will take into consideration all feedback and responses already provided from the existing consultation.

Name

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Electoral Divisions: All Exeter Divisions

Cabinet Member for Integrated Adult Social Care and Health: Councillor James McInnes

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Nil

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