

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Care &amp; Independence Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015Supporting People 2020 Savings**1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The report outlines the how the current savings profile for the Supporting People Budget has developed since February 2014.

**2.0 Introduction**

- 2.1 As part of the development of the overall HAS savings plan, it was identified as part of the Executive report of **4<sup>th</sup> February 2014** that there would be £1.868m savings from the locally ring-fenced Supporting People budget in 2015/16. This equated to approximately the same level (percentage) of savings expected from HAS as a whole.
- 2.2 At the same Executive meeting, after the consultation on Making Difficult Decisions, a number of changes to the charging policy that will be outlined below, were agreed which impact on the Supporting People savings.
- 2.3 The Supporting People Commissioning Body and HASLT in April to June 2014 undertook a risk based approach to identifying areas where savings could be made and what the priority service areas were:

**3.0 Service Areas and Savings Programme**

- 3.1 The following service areas were identified as high priority and therefore, either no savings or minimal savings:
- All Young Peoples Pathway services
  - Domestic Abuse services
  - Rehabilitating Offenders Service
  - Mental Health Supported housing
  - Home Improvement Agency/Handyperson services
- 3.2 The services below were identified as areas for savings and a savings programme put together:
- Homeless Prevention Services
  - Community Support with Telecare
  - Older Peoples Supported housing

- Floating support for people with mental health problems
- Gypsy and Traveller Support Service

- 3.3 Plans were therefore being put into place regarding the detail of how the savings would be applied across the areas identified for savings.
- 3.4 However, it began to emerge in May/June 2014 that the charging changes as referred to above were having a significant impact on the Supporting People budget
- 3.5 Briefly, people in sheltered or Telecare services used to be eligible for financial assistance through Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit. The changes meant that they would undergo a financial assessment through HAS Benefits and Assessment Team.
- 3.6 As the re-assessments of the 6,000 in receipt of financial assistance were started to be carried out, it became clear in the first two months, that 40% of people were being assessed as not being eligible for financial assistance. Forecasting this profile forwards showed a forecast reduction in expenditure of £885k in 2014/15.
- 3.7 Therefore, in late June HAS Executive agreed to re-profile the savings to include this and some base budget savings that had been found. It was also agreed, due to the uncertainty about the eventual outcome of the re-assessments that a cash balancing figure could be used for 2015/16 as a buffer.
- 3.8 This was in order that reductions in services did not have to be made until a more firm figure of savings required was available. However, depending on the eventual outcome of the re-assessments, it is likely that some savings will have to be identified for 2016/17. The previous work on the risk analysis can be used as the basis for decision making as well as other factors.

#### 4.0 Current Savings Profile

As at March 2015	<b>2015/16 (£000)</b>
Base Budget Reductions achieved	115
Forecast savings from charging (SP service only) (subject to on-going review of forecast).	974
Homeless Prevention savings achieved	351

Total	1440
One off Cash Balancing Figure from SP for 2015/16 (subject to on-going review of forecast).	<b>428</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1868</b>

- 4.1 The Homeless Prevention savings of 20% had to be implemented for April 2015. These services provide support for those who are experiencing difficulties in their housing situation, or who are in transition from actual or threatened homelessness. They provide support for households in temporary accommodation to speed up move-on. Some also act as authorised agents for the North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund (NYLAF) as part of a short term intervention service (called triage).
- 4.2 An EIA was undertaken which showed that there would be a reduction in services, but no detrimental impact was evidenced for protected groups. If this proposal was not implemented, it would mean considering savings in other services that are regarded as more important.
- 4.3 Proposals were put together and robust discussions were held with District and Borough Council partners on the Commissioning Body about the formula for applying the reductions in each area and agreement was reached in December 2014.
- 4.4 Discussions are now on-going with service providers to look at the priorities for services within the reduced contract value.

## **5.0 Recommendation**

- 5.1 That the report be noted.

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Background Documents: None