

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

15th July 2014

REPORT OF THE ACTING STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – ADULT CARE

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT PROGRAMME -
PHASE ONE**

ADULT CARE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the outcome of the recent consultation on the proposal to end funding for Phase One services in the Housing Related Support (HRS) services programme and to agree the mitigating actions to reduce the impact on local vulnerable people. The proposals relating to Phase Two will be presented to a future Cabinet meeting.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet agreement to:
- Allocate one off funding of £477,050 to Action Housing and Support Ltd and £410,448 to Derbyshire Directions Consortium to deliver the Adults Accommodation and Floating Support services.
 - Extend the Derbyshire Directions Consortium Contract from 30th September 2014 until 30th September 2015 and the Action Housing and Support Ltd from 30th September 2014 until 31st March 2016. After this time, the contracts will not be re-procured. These contracts provide support to vulnerable people with housing related support needs to secure and maintain a tenancy; often these clients have complex and multiple needs such as mental ill health, drug or alcohol problems, or are ex-offenders.
 - Not to re-procure the contract for the Housing Options Service for People with Learning Disabilities. This scheme ended on 31st May 2014 and provided advice and support to people with a learning disability to access supported accommodation, including shared supported living schemes.
 - Not to re-procure the Leaseholders Scheme from 1st January 2015. This scheme provides direct financial assistance to 21 older people on low incomes, which funds their housing and support charges. The charges

include maintenance and on-going support to maintain the property and form part of a leaseholder agreement that the individuals agreed to when they rented or purchased the property. The Council inherited this scheme as a legacy service with the introduction of the Supporting People programme in April 2003.

- 1.3 That Cabinet agree not to extend the accommodation based support service for High Risk Serious Offenders (HRSO) after the contract end date of 31st March 2015. If our approach to acquiring multi-agency funding is successful the service will be extended in line with the budget availability.

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1 Due to reductions in funding from Central Government, the Council must reduce its expenditure by £157m by 2017/18. In order to achieve this saving, Cabinet is reviewing all aspects of council services. On 21st January 2014, Cabinet considered a report from the Acting Director of Adult Care entitled Consultation and Engagement on the proposed changes to the Housing Related Support (HRS) programme.
- 2.2 It is acknowledged that the provision of HRS is not a statutory duty of requirement for the Council, however these services do provide cost effective preventive support to vulnerable people. The report outlined a range of measures including efficiencies, service re-design and reduction and de-commissioning of some services in order to deliver £9m of savings phased over the two year period 2014-16. The proposed phase one saving of £2m was based on decommissioning the following services:

Phase One Proposed Services to be Decommissioned 2014-15				
Client Group / Service Type	Provider	Contract end date	No. of Services Affected	Annual Contract Value
Adults Under 65 Accommodation and Support	Action Housing & Support Ltd	30/09/14	2	£954,100
	Derbyshire Directions Consortium (NCHA, Amber Trust, Young Mens Christian Association (YMCA), National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO), P3 & Riverside)	30/09/14	2	£820,916

	Sub Total		4	£1,775,016
High Risk Serious Offenders	Action Housing & Support Ltd	31/03/15	1	£109,424
Housing Options for People with Learning Disabilities	Nottingham Community Housing Association	31/05/14	1	£35,000
Leaseholders	21 Individuals	No end date	1	£5,545
Totals			11	£1,924,985

The rationale for the proposed savings is based on decommissioning services for which the council does not have a statutory responsibility and the aim to continue to invest in HRS which delivers on the Council Plan and service plans for Adult Care and Public Health.

Following Cabinet approval, Adult Care embarked on a 12 week period of consultation, which commenced on 28th January 2014 and finished on 21st April 2014. The consultation was carried out over a 12 week period. Leaflets and a questionnaire were sent to all clients who would be affected by the proposed changes to the HRS services. Staff from the Consultation and Engagement Team attended meetings involving clients, carers and members of the public to gather views on the proposals. Voluntary sector groups and local statutory agencies were also invited to submit responses. In addition, the consultation was publicised through press releases and all the documentation, including the questionnaire, was made available on the Council's website. Appendix 1 provides a breakdown of the responses to the consultation as well as a detailed summary of how the consultation was carried out.

In relation to the Equality Impact Analysis, focus groups were held involving representatives of groups with protected characteristics and the analysis and proposed mitigating actions is included as Appendix 2.

In parallel with this consultation, proposals to raise the eligibility threshold to access Adult Care services, increase the client contribution to non-residential care services and the introduction of a transport policy, were also subject to formal consultation. A separate Cabinet report was considered and in part approved in relation to these changes. Some clients will be affected by all of these proposals, so it is important that attention is paid to the potential cumulative impact on clients of all the proposed changes.

A summary of the responses to the consultation is detailed below. A full breakdown of the responses, along with a summary of how the consultation was carried out, is provided in Appendix 1.

As indicated in the Legal Considerations below, it is extremely important that Members have fully considered the two appendices to this report as well as the report itself. In considering whether or not to approve the proposals Members must have in their minds the adverse impact that these proposals, if implemented, would have on many vulnerable people

The initial proposal was to end funding for the following services:

- Adults (age 25 plus, under 65) Accommodation and Floating Support Services
- High Risk Offenders Accommodation Based Service
- Housing Options Service for People with a Learning Disability
- Leaseholders Scheme

It is estimated that by 31st March 2016 up to 560 clients would be affected by the proposal. This figure excludes the Housing Options Scheme for People with Learning Disability as this service will continue to be provided by adult care and potentially supported by a local housing provider.

The Equality Impact Analysis, which included further consultation with protected groups, identified potential areas of adverse impact which are set out in Appendix 2. Steps to mitigate the impact of the proposal are set out in the Equality Impact Analysis. Members should be aware that many protected vulnerable groups will no longer receive any support. Many of the areas of mitigation identified in the Equality Impact Analysis are limited to postponing a cut to the service for a limited period of time.

While there are high levels of opposition to the proposed changes from respondents and these proposals would affect the quality of life of people who will have services withdrawn or, in the case of prospective clients, not be provided at all, not proceeding with this proposal would result either in deeper cuts still to other services provided by Adult Care or to a further consideration to alternative ways of meeting the cuts across the Council.

The Equality Impact Analysis highlights the need to work with partner agencies, which assist citizens to maintain their independence.

Since the proposed cuts were initially considered, work has taken place within the Council, with other statutory agency funders and with all providers affected by the proposed changes, to seek ways to offset the adverse effect of the proposed cuts.

This work has enabled us to amend or delay implementation of the proposals. This has been achieved by obtaining additional Council resources and by the HRS providers re-modelling their services.

In addition, there has been a dialogue about future funding, specifically with the Police, National Offender Management Service (NOMS), Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner specifically about the High Risk Serious Offenders Service.

The Council has a large scale investment in preventative services funded by Adult Care and Public Health. In recognition of the potential harmful impact of the proposed changes, the Council has made additional investment comprising of £450,000 recurring, dependent on income from business rates staying at the current level and £512,000 (non-recurring) from Public Health. This will be allocated to the services affected by the Phase One proposals for 2014/15, as set out below. The council is also continuing discussions with providers and other funding agencies, to seek alternative additional funding where possible. This additional investment will delay the proposed cuts to the Adults Accommodation and Floating Support Services until 30th September 2015 and 31st March 2016.

3 Proposed Changes to HRS Services

3.1 Housing Options Service for people with a learning disability

The scheme provides advice and support to people with a learning disability to access supported accommodation including shared supported living schemes.

The initial proposal was to stop funding this service, currently delivered by Nottingham Community Housing Association, with an annual contract value of £35,000 supporting around 74 people to access accommodation. The current provider does not wish to continue to deliver this service beyond its contract end date of 31st May 2014.

The question asked in the consultation was:

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to end funding of the Housing Options service for people with learning disabilities?

This table sets out a summary of the 127 responses to this question

Strongly agree or agree	15.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	10.2%
Strongly disagree or disagree	74.1%

It is clear that the responders disagreed with this proposal.

The principal themes which emerged from the consultation are as follows:

- Respondents acknowledged the importance of having a special housing service that helped people with learning disabilities to find accommodation.
- It fulfilled respondents desire to live independently.
- Many respondents highlighted the negative impact if it was no longer available.
- There may be a cumulative impact of the proposed changes to HRS services, proposed changes to adult care eligibility, co-funding and transport as well as the impact of the welfare reforms on already vulnerable clients.

Appendix 1 summarises the views and opinions which have been received in relation to this proposal.

The Equality Impact Analysis, which included further consultation with protected groups, identified potential areas of adverse impact which are set out in Appendix 2. Many of the comments received concerning the proposed removal of this service, stated that this would result in there being no specialist assistance available to individuals to gain and maintain supported living tenancies.

There may be a cumulative impact as a result of the proposed changes to HRS services and the introduction of new changes to Adult Care eligibility, co-funding and transport policy, on people with a learning disability. The mitigation plan is that there will be a programme of reviewing all individuals affected against the new criteria. Individuals will be provided with an appropriate care and support package if they meet the new criteria, including access to housing options and suitable accommodation provided by Adult Care. This will be co-ordinated through the Supported Living Forums in the North and South of the County led by Adult Care. The District and Borough Councils also provide housing advice and will be invited to the forums. The Council will seek to formalise an agreement with these councils setting out our respective roles in this process.

The mitigation plans for those who do not meet FACS criteria is that they will be offered alternative advice and support through the existing housing related floating support services for people with a learning disability. It is also intended to supplement these approaches using the offer from a local housing provider of a Housing Options worker independently funded by the Provider.

Recommendations

The proposal is not to retender the Housing Options Service for people with a learning disability, which supports up to 74 people per annum, with an annual contract value of £35,000.

3.2 Adults (under 65) Accommodation and Floating Support Services

This scheme provides support to vulnerable people with housing related support needs to secure and maintain a tenancy; often these clients have complex and multiple needs such as mental ill health, drug or alcohol problems, or are ex-offenders.

The question asked in the consultation was:

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to end funding of the Adults Accommodation and Floating Support services for people aged between 25 and 65 years?

This table sets out a summary of the 180 responses to this question:

Strongly agree or agree	6.6%
Neither agree nor disagree	6.7%
Strongly disagree or disagree	86.6%

It is clear that the responders disagreed with this proposal.

The principal themes which emerged from the consultation are as follows:

- The service has enabled people to remain living independently in the community; helped them fill in forms to access benefits; provided on-going support in times of intense mental ill health, helped them maintain their tenancy, find accommodation, pay bills and prevented them going into debt.
- People using this service are currently marginalised in society and have chaotic lives. Some struggle with drug and alcohol misuse, mental ill health, homelessness and are at risk of re-offending. Many are getting very anxious and have no other support mechanism or family willing or available to help.
- People felt it was important that there was an alternative if funding was cut to the current service
- Increased pressure on other statutory services is highlighted as a major consequence of stopping this service.

Appendix 1 summarises the views and opinions which have been received in relation to this proposal.

The Equality Impact Analysis, which included further consultation with protected groups, identified potential areas of adverse impact which are set out in Appendix 2. The comments received referred to the negative impact on vulnerable people:

- Increased drugs, alcohol misuse and harm are likely to have a negative impact on Public Health outcomes (including alcohol and drug related hospital admissions).
- Increased Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) reported to the Police and Housing Providers, therefore increased loss of tenancies and victims of ASB, increased homelessness, which would impact on District and Borough Councils and an increase in offending behaviour.
- Increased presentation of homelessness as evictions are not prevented and tenancies not sustained.
- Increase in rough sleeping
- Homeless clients (not only rough sleepers but people with no tenancy of their own) struggle to access statutory services, such as mental health services, therefore leading to chaotic lifestyles.
- Many providers report an increase in clients with more complex or multiple needs, particularly alcohol or drug use, mental health problems and involvement in the criminal justice system. Without HRS or the ability to access statutory provision, these needs will continue or escalate to crisis point.
- Impact of welfare reform has caused an increase in debts, rent arrears, benefit sanctions and crime. Unsupported these clients are at increased risk of homelessness.
- Increased hospital admissions and presentations to primary care.

The mitigation plan has been developed with existing service providers, which have proposed the following service remodelling and efficiency actions to extend the service end dates. The plan will result in continuing to deliver part of the service into 2016, after which the service is proposed to end. There is no scope for further mitigation once the service has been decommissioned.

The Derbyshire Directions consortium of providers (led by Nottingham Community Housing Association, with Amber Trust, YMCA, NACRO, P3 and Riverside), will start to reduce the client numbers receiving a service from July 2014, to achieve an overall reduction in unit numbers from 258 to 183. They will retain a mix of accommodation and floating support provision. With use of some of the County Councils' additional short term investment outlined above and the provider's in-year efficiencies, this will enable this service to continue up until 30th September 2015 representing a one year extension. Action Housing and Support Ltd will start to reduce the client numbers from July 2014, to achieve an overall reduction in unit numbers from 272 to 105. This will primarily be floating support provision. The additional County Council short term investment and the Provider's in-year efficiencies will mean that

this service will now continue up until 31st March 2016 representing an eighteen month extension.

Recommendations

The proposal is to stop funding these services, which currently supports 530 people, and is delivered by two providers, Derbyshire Directions consortium, with an annual contract value of £820,916 which will end on 30th September 2015 and Action Housing and Support Ltd which will end on 31st March 2016, with an annual contract value of £954,100.

3.3 Leaseholder Scheme

This scheme provides direct financial assistance to 21 older people on low incomes, which funds their housing and support charges. The charges include maintenance and on-going support to maintain the property and forms part of a leaseholder agreement that the individuals agreed to when they rented or purchased the property. The Council inherited this scheme as a legacy service with the introduction of the Supporting People programme in April 2003.

The question asked in the consultation was:

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to end funding of the service to support people who are Leaseholders?

This table sets out a summary of the 112 responses to this question:

Strongly agree or agree	14.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	17.9%
Strongly disagree or disagree	67.8%

It is clear that the responders disagreed with this proposal.

The principal themes which emerged from the consultation can be described as follows:

- Some respondents said that it was not necessary to continue to financially support people.
- Whilst others felt that it was needed 'Older people have needs and often feel isolated and un-supported in their local community and that nobody cares. They have rights too and are valued members of the community'.
- Some felt negotiations between the landlord and the Council should be considered 'Some agreement needs to be sought about how landlords can absorb this within increased Housing Benefit charges but also by having less profit on rents to do the work.'

Appendix 1 summarises the views and opinions which have been received in relation to this proposal.

The Equality Impact Analysis, which included further consultation with protected groups, identified potential areas of adverse impact which are set out in Appendix 2. Many of the comments received stated the primary negative impact would be that without this funding, individuals would be unable to afford to pay their service charges as required by their lease agreement.

The mitigation plan includes signposting leaseholders to other sources of support. For example, leaseholders can apply for financial support with their service charge from the Department of Work and Pensions if they are in receipt of benefits such as Pension Credit and from the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund.

Even with this assistance it is likely that this client group will be financially disadvantaged by this proposal.

Recommendations

The proposal is to issue a six month contract notice to stop funding this service from 1st January 2015, which currently supports 21 individuals with an annual contract value of £5,545.

3.4 High Risk Offenders Accommodation based Service

This service provides secure accommodation and linked housing related support for high risk offenders to maintain independent living. The service also works closely with the Police and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) which supervise and monitor high risk offenders in the community.

The original proposal was to stop funding this service from September 2014. Action Housing and Support Ltd delivers this service and currently supports 15 high risk offenders at a cost of £109,424. This scheme delivers a shared strategic objective of Derbyshire's Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) to "support the safest achievable offender housing resettlement into communities". The Strategic Management Board (SMB) of MAPPA acts on behalf of the statutory agencies including Police, Probation, Prison and Local Authorities, all have a responsibility for managing High Risk Offenders in the community. The High Risk Offenders Accommodation Based Service is jointly commissioned by the HRS programmes in the County and Derby City, which supports an additional 15 people to deliver on the stated

strategic objective. It operates across the city and county, providing supervised accommodation and managing offenders in the community.

The question asked in the consultation was:

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to end funding of the accommodation linked support for high risk serious offenders and people at risk of offending?

This table sets out a summary of the 123 responses to this question:

Strongly agree or agree	15.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	11.4%
Strongly disagree or disagree	70.7%

It is clear that the responders disagreed with this proposal.

The principal themes which emerged from the consultation can be described as follows:

- Removal of the service would result in increased re-offending therefore crime would increase.
- People eligible to use the current service will be more likely to return to offending networks.
- There would be community safety and public protection concerns and an increase in the possibility of people being at risk of becoming a victim of crime.
- There would be a reduction in opportunity for offender rehabilitation in the community.
- There would be an impact on other statutory agencies including the Police, NHS, housing authorities and private landlords.

Appendix 1 summarises the views and opinions which have been received in relation to this proposal.

The Equality Impact Analysis, which included further consultation with protected groups, identified potential areas of adverse impact which are set out in Appendix 2. Many of the comments received referred to the negative impact on vulnerable people:

- National Offender Management Service will have no designated housing to move High Risk Serious Offenders on to from their registered premises in Derby City
- Likely to result in an increased rate of re-offending
- Likely increase in number of victims.
- Increased presentation of homelessness as evictions are not prevented and tenancies not sustained.
- Unsettled accommodation leads to crisis and offending behaviours.

The mitigation plan is that after 1st April 2015, the Council will continue to invest a quarter (£27,356) of the total funding and the Council will seek to establish a multi-agency funding partnership, comprising of District and Borough Councils, NOMS and the Police and Crime Commissioner, to fund the remainder. If this funding is not forthcoming from other agencies, the service will end completely and there will be significant adverse impacts which will be difficult to mitigate against.

Recommendations

The proposal is that not to extend the accommodation based support service for High Risk Serious Offenders (HRSO) after the contract end date of 31st March 2015. If our approach to acquiring multi-agency funding is successful the service will be extended in line with the budget availability.

4. Financial Considerations

Adult Care has to meet budget cuts of £52.9m by 2017/18. Phase One of the Housing Related Support Services programme aims to achieve £2m savings by not continuing to fund the following services:

- Adults (age 25 plus, under 65) Accommodation and Floating Support Services
- High Risk Offenders Accommodation Based Service
- Housing Options Service for People with a Learning Disability
- Leaseholders Scheme

5. Human Resource Considerations

The proposed changes will not in themselves have any immediate impact on staff working in Adult Care. The longer term proposed reduction in the HRS funding will result in a review of the current staffing of the HRS team.

6. Legal and Human Rights Considerations

In reaching a decision the Council has a duty to read and give conscientious, genuine consideration to the responses to the consultation process set out in the report (including its appendices). In assessing these proposals, the Council should also have regard to its statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Insofar as the Equality Act 2010 is concerned Cabinet Members are reminded that they are under a personal duty, when considering a decision, to have due regard to, in short, the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics (e.g. people who are vulnerable on

account of age, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, race, disability, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).

In order to discharge this duty, Cabinet Members will need to give careful consideration to what is said in the report, the consultation feedback document (Appendix 1) and the Equality Impact Analysis (Appendix 2) about the potential adverse impacts of the proposed changes. Members should also take into account the cumulative impact of these proposals in addition to those previously considered by Cabinet in relation to Adult Care services. Members should also consider for themselves the types of adverse impacts that could result.

Members are under a duty to consider whether these potential adverse impacts are justifiable and/or whether they should be mitigated and how. Members should also be aware that one of the available options is to decide it is not possible, because of the severity of the impact, to proceed with any or some of the proposals. In that event it would be necessary for the Council to consider alternative ways of making savings.

7. Equal Opportunities Considerations

In parallel with the consultation, an Equality Impact Analysis has been completed and this is included as Appendix 2 to this report.

The purpose of an Equality Impact Analysis is to highlight issues of concern and seek to address the implications of the proposals. The Equality Impact Assessment contains monitoring arrangements and an action plan. It is intended to report decisions related to these services back to the representative groups who were consulted during the Equality Impact Analysis process.

8. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, equality of opportunity; and environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

Particular attention has been paid to the prevention of crime and disorder, hence the proposal for continuation of funding for the High Risk Offenders Accommodation Based Service.

9. Background Papers

Cabinet reports of 21st January 2014 Consultation and Engagement on proposed changes to the Housing Related Support Programme.

10. Key Decision

Yes

11. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 That Cabinet considers the response to the consultation and the Equality Impact Analysis and having given due regard to the responses to the proposals balances these against the need to save £157m from the Council's budget.

11.2 That Cabinet agrees to:

- Allocate one off funding of £477,050 to Action Housing and Support Ltd and £410,448 to Derbyshire Directions Consortium to deliver the Adults Accommodation and Floating Support services.
- Extend the Derbyshire Directions Consortium Contract from 30th September 2014 until 30th September 2015 and the Action Housing and Support Ltd from 30th September 2014 until 31st March 2016. After this time, the contracts will not be re-procured. These contracts provide support to vulnerable people with housing related support needs to secure and maintain a tenancy; often these clients have complex and multiple needs such as mental ill health, drug or alcohol problems, or are ex-offenders.
- Not to re-procure the contract for the Housing Options Service for People with Learning Disabilities. This scheme ended on 31st May 2014 and provided advice and support to people with a learning disability to access supported accommodation, including shared supported living schemes.
- Not to re-procure the Leaseholders Scheme from 1st January 2015. This scheme provides direct financial assistance to 21 older people on low incomes, which funds their housing and support charges. The charges include maintenance and on-going support to maintain the property and form part of a leaseholder agreement that the individuals agreed to when they rented or purchased the property. The Council inherited this scheme as a legacy service with the introduction of the Supporting People programme in April 2003.

11.3 That Cabinet agree not to extend the accommodation based support service for High Risk Serious Offenders (HRSO) after the contract end date of 31st

March 2015. If our approach to acquiring multi-agency funding is successful the service will be extended in line with the budget availability.

Mary McElvaney
Acting Strategic Director – Adult Care
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MATLOCK

CONSULTATION REPORT on proposals to stop funding Housing-Related support services: Housing Options for people with learning disabilities; Accommodation and floating support services for people aged between 25 and 65 years; Accommodation linked support for offenders and people at risk of offending and; Service to support people who are leaseholders.

1. Purpose of the Report

On 28th January 2014 Cabinet approved consultation about proposals to stop funding £2m of housing-related support services. This report explains the detail of the consultation and outcomes.

2. Methodology and Approaches

The period of consultation about the proposals to stop funding £2m of housing-related support services took place between 28th January and 21st April 2014. This report will summarise views and opinions submitted by the people of Derbyshire during this period.

The consultation used a mixed method approach using both qualitative and quantitative ways to gather people's views about the proposed changes. We tried to enable as many people as possible to take part by offering different formats i.e. we sent easy read material to people with learning disabilities, contacted people with sight impairment and offered braille to those who used this form of communication. We also offered a range of ways in which people could share their views, see below:

1. All current clients identified by each housing-related provider received an information pack detailing the proposed changes via a leaflet; an introductory letter and a postal questionnaire with a pre-paid envelope.
2. The leaflet gave information about the proposed end of funding, detailed how people could have their say and signposted them to further information either via the Derbyshire County Council website www.derbyshire.gov.uk/challenge, a dedicated telephone helpline (supplied by Call Derbyshire) or via an email address: telladultcare@derbyshire.gov.uk.
3. The DCC website gave an outline of the proposal, the leaflet and letters in standard format and in easy read format, case studies, the cabinet reports and the questionnaires both in Word version and online version.
4. If the Call Derbyshire staff were unable to assist the caller fully then they passed the call to the specialist consultation team – Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Team, who was able to answer all queries identified.
5. People were encouraged to send in their comments using the postal questionnaire, or by completing the questionnaire online.
6. Participants were also encouraged to write in to the Council via a letter or using email dependent on their preferred method of communication.
7. For those people having difficulty in having their say, the Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Team assisted them to take part either via a telephone interview or by a home visit.

8. The Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Team also attended 2 service user and carer meetings in Alfreton and Ilkeston which people in direct receipt of the services in Phase One consultation were invited. In addition, the Team attended a range of existing meetings where older people and people with learning disabilities attended including day services, learning disability partnership board meetings, the stakeholder engagement Board, 50+ and DOPAG meetings, dementia cafes, equality and diversity groups, pressure groups, voluntary sector meetings and partner agency forums, as well as the BME forums and Mental Health carer groups. All were given the opportunity to comment about the housing-related support consultation. Cllr Clare Neill and Cllr Rob Davison attended a range of stakeholder meetings across the County.
9. Staff from the Housing Related Support Team also held meetings with provider organisations to encourage them to help service users to take part in the consultation.
10. Leaflets and information was also made available via services and community centres and providers of housing related support. Staff employed by DCC and those contracted by the Council and partner agencies assisted clients and the public to take part in the consultation.
11. Press releases were sent to all media on a regular basis during the period of consultation; news releases were published on the Derbyshire County Council website and together with an article in the Derbyshire Gold Magazine (2014) explaining the proposals.
12. All responses were collected and collated by the Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Team based in Derbyshire Adult Care and a thorough analysis was made of the material.

The Analysis

The Consultation was not a referendum, but a range of opportunities for the people of Derbyshire to register their views about a number of important proposals. We have based our analysis on 2 approaches but have reported them side by side. Both approaches carry equal validity as both methods carry a mix of advantages and shortcomings. Lessons learnt from the consultation are considered at the end of the report.

Quantitative Approach

The tick box questions used in the postal and online questionnaires was analysed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science). This gave people an opportunity to indicate whether or not they agreed with the overall proposals and shows the % of agreement and disagreement with each proposal.

Qualitative Approach

The open text material detailed in the questionnaires, letters, emails and comments given at meetings were all analysed using NVivo software. This allowed the information to be condensed into manageable summary categories or themes for analysis. Comments and quotes were coded by the researchers in the Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Team which allowed themes to emerge directly from reading people's views. The software provided a sophisticated workspace that enabled the team to work through the complex information allowing classification, sorting and arranging of the information. This gave us an opportunity to widen our understanding of the views about the proposals and indicate some of the reasons behind people's opinions. It also allowed people to expand and give examples as to the potential impact of the proposed changes.

Who was encouraged to Participate?

All service users in receipt of housing related support services that were part of the range of services being considered for withdrawal of funding, on the week commencing 20th January 2014, were sent an information pack.

507 information packs were sent out in the post or passed to clients by their support workers.

Breakdown of who was sent/given the pack

By Service

service	Number
Adults in accommodation or floating support	478
Leaseholders	22
People with Learning Disability	7
Total	507

By Gender

Gender	Frequency
Male	298
Female	209
Total	507

By Area

Area	Frequency
Amber Valley	34
Bolsover	39
Chesterfield	100
Derbyshire Dales	56
Erewash	45
High Peak	49
North Derbyshire	35
South Derbyshire	20
Outside Derbyshire	24
Not Known	105
Total	507

Staff from the Adult Care Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Team attended upon invitation 3 meetings specifically attended by people who were in receipt of housing-related support. In addition the team attended 48 meetings where all the Derbyshire Challenge proposals were being considered including a

meeting where disabled young people in transition were present. A list of all meetings attended is included as Appendix A.

An email was sent to all our housing-related support service providers explaining the Derbyshire Challenge as well as to 238 voluntary sector groups and to all local statutory agencies with an involvement with housing.

Response Levels

As a result of the mixed approach a good response level was achieved. This can be described as follows:

A total of **129 paper questionnaires** were received back. Of which, 126 forms were completed using the **standard format** and **3** forms were completed using the **easy read format**;

61 questionnaires were completed **on-line**.

In total 190 questionnaires were returned. The online and postal questionnaire responses have been analysed together as the forms were identical.

Return Rate

It is very difficult to give a return rate in % terms as we used a variety of ways of contacting people. Some of the ways we contacted people are quantifiable for example we know exactly how many packs were sent out in total to people. However it is very difficult to estimate how many people may have received information about the consultation from other sources including letters sent via the voluntary and provider sector, information displayed in community settings, other disability campaigning groups and the number of people coming along to the group meetings. For this reason we have not quantified the % return rate.

Demographics of who replied via the questionnaires

Gender

Q17_gender					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	93	48.9	49.7	49.7
	Female	94	49.5	50.3	100.0
	Total	187	98.4	100.0	
Missing	-9	3	1.6		
Total		190	100.0		

Ethnicity

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	White	171	90.0	97.7	97.7
	Mixed	2	1.1	1.1	98.9
	Asian or Asian British	1	.5	.6	99.4
	Any other	1	.5	.6	100.0
	Total	175	92.1	100.0	
Missing	-9	15	7.9		
Total		190	100.0		

Disability

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	-9	3	1.6	1.6	1.6
	0	1	.5	.5	2.1
	Yes	36	18.9	18.9	21.1
	No	150	78.9	78.9	100.0
	Total	190	100.0	100.0	

Q20_Hearing

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	-9	3	1.6	1.6	1.6
	0	1	.5	.5	2.1
	Yes	9	4.7	4.7	6.8
	No	177	93.2	93.2	100.0
	Total	190	100.0	100.0	

Q20_Vision

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	-9	3	1.6	1.6	1.6
	Yes	10	5.3	5.3	6.8
	No	177	93.2	93.2	100.0
	Total	190	100.0	100.0	

Q20_Learning Disability

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	-9	3	1.6	1.6	1.6
	Yes	20	10.5	10.5	12.1
	No	167	87.9	87.9	100.0
	Total	190	100.0	100.0	

Q20_Mental Health

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	-9	3	1.6	1.6	1.6
	Yes	58	30.5	30.5	32.1
	No	129	67.9	67.9	100.0
	Total	190	100.0	100.0	

Q19_age_group

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0 - 17	2	1.1	1.1	1.1
	18 - 24	3	1.6	1.7	2.8
	25 - 34	46	24.2	25.8	28.7
	35 - 44	38	20.0	21.3	50.0
	45 - 54	43	22.6	24.2	74.2
	55 - 64	26	13.7	14.6	88.8
	65 - 74	11	5.8	6.2	94.9
	75 - 84	5	2.6	2.8	97.8
	85 and above	4	2.1	2.2	100.0
	Total	178	93.7	100.0	
Missing	-9	12	6.3		
Total		190	100.0		

Sexuality

Q22_sexuality

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Heterosexual	162	85.3	91.0	91.0
	Lesbian	4	2.1	2.2	93.3
	Gay man	1	.5	.6	93.8
	Bisexual	1	.5	.6	94.4
	Prefer not to say	8	4.2	4.5	98.9
	Others	2	1.1	1.1	100.0
	Total	178	93.7	100.0	
Missing	-9	12	6.3		
Total		190	100.0		

Relationship to adult care

Client

Q23_client

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	-9	9	4.7	4.7	4.7
	0	12	6.3	6.3	11.1
	Yes	123	64.7	64.7	75.8
	No	46	24.2	24.2	100.0
	Total	190	100.0	100.0	

Carer

Q23_carer

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	-9	9	4.7	4.7	4.7
	Yes	8	4.2	4.2	8.9
	No	173	91.1	91.1	100.0
	Total	190	100.0	100.0	

Staff

Q23_staff

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0	3	1.6	2.6	2.6
	Yes	12	6.3	10.4	13.0
	No	100	52.6	87.0	100.0
	Total	115	60.5	100.0	
Missing	System	75	39.5		
Total		190	100.0		

Telephone Helpline and follow-on calls

NB These statistics cover all 4 Adult Care proposals and have not been coded separately.

Over 900 calls were received by the dedicated helpline hosted by Call Derbyshire. Just over 1/3 of these calls (235 calls) were passed to the Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Team. Callers were generally seeking reassurance that they understood the proposals correctly or were seeking clarification of the details of the proposal.

People sought clarification about what effect the changes would have on their individual circumstances, for example some people did not know whether they fell into the higher moderate category or not. A frequent point to be clarified was around capital and whether a couples assets would be taken into account or just the individuals.

There were 26 telephone calls where people requested assistance with the form, which resulted in a home visit or assistance over the phone. 6 telephone calls requested the consultation papers in an alternative format.

Derbyshire Challenge Webpage

People were directed to the Derbyshire Challenge webpage which gave additional information and stored all the consultation pack materials for people to browse and download at their leisure. It also provided the link to complete the questionnaire online. At the time of the Adult Care consultation 2 other consultations about mobile libraries and transport in CAYA were being run and therefore it is difficult to be clear as to the proportion of people accessing the Derbyshire Challenge page solely for the Adult Care Consultation. However the breakdown of number of hits on the overall Challenge page and subsequent documents specific to Adult Care are detailed below.

Views 28 Jan-21 April 2014

No. of hits

Derbyshire Challenge Page
Consultation

2015

3136

Page

PDF Documents (in
total)

2370

Letters and Emails

8 letters and 8 emails were received concerning the consultation of which none were from clients, 1 was from a carer and 15 were from statutory organisations.

Meetings

General Meetings covering all the Proposed changes: A total of 1,226 people attended meetings across Derbyshire during the consultation. Approximately 384 clients, 348 carers, 316 staff and representatives of agencies and 178 members of the public were present at these meetings at which the consultation was discussed with a member of the Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Team. At the meetings many questions were asked about the proposed changes which allowed people to have a better understanding and so helped them to send in their comments via email, telephone, postal and online questionnaires or by writing a letter.

Specific meetings arranged with people who access housing-related support services: 3 meetings were held: 1 was with providers and 2 were with services users and staff.

What people said?

Proposal to end funding of the Housing Options for people with learning disabilities.

Quantitative Analysis

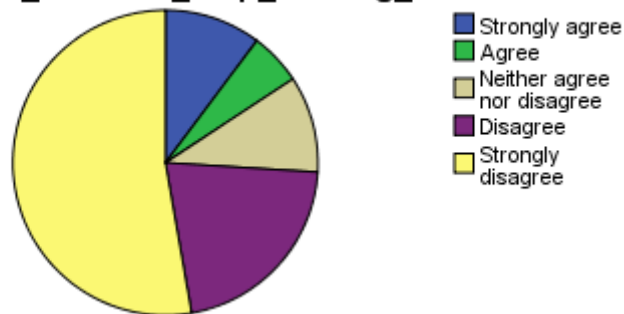
Q1_Service1_Using_the_Housing_Options_Service

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	16	8.4	11.7	11.7
	No	121	63.7	88.3	100.0
	Total	137	72.1	100.0	
Missing	-9	53	27.9		
Total		190	100.0		

Q2_Service1_stop_funding_service1

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	13	6.8	10.2	Strongly agree + Agree
	Agree	7	3.7	5.5	15.7
	Neither agree nor disagree	13	6.8	10.2	Neither agree nor disagree 10.2
	Disagree	27	14.2	21.3	Strongly disagree + Disagree
	Strongly disagree	67	35.3	52.8	74.1
Total		127	66.8	100.0	
Missing	-9	63	33.2		
Total		190	100.0		

Q2_Service1_stop_funding_service1



Qualitative Analysis

Free text boxes - Questionnaires

The most common responses given in relation to this service were threefold. Firstly respondents acknowledged the importance of having a special housing service that helped people with learning disabilities to find accommodation and fulfil their desire to live independently. Many highlighted the impact that this would have if it was no longer available.

‘For those people with learning disability who have no other support, this will cause a great deal of unnecessary stress and anxiety. If Derbyshire County Council takes this option it could be failing in its duty of care to vulnerable adults.’ **(Carer)**

‘How will people with LD access suitable homes without this service? Assume that Social Workers etc. will not be able to dedicate the time or have the expertise to do this. "Normal" housing advice services will not be able to dedicate more time to clients with LD than they can with anyone else. Housing people with LD in social housing can be complex - in sorting out the type of accommodation needed, benefits and other payments arrangements, awarding appropriate priority etc.’ **(Staff)**

Impact on Clients:

'If this service was severed, young people could become vulnerable, not learn sufficient life skills to become independent, their families will also feel isolated and unsupported and there could be the risk of them falling into patterns of rough sleeping, associating with the wrong Peers to become and feel socially accepted, which could result in them being taken advantage of due to their disability and being at risk of harm or of re-offending.' **(Staff)**

..... For people with learning Disabilities it can be a nightmare to look for suitable housing, fill in all the forms, etc. They say moving house is the 2nd most stressful thing to do add to a learning disability this can be frightening. **(Client)**

'People with learning disabilities are a vulnerable group of adults in society. Some may be lucky in that they have family members or friends who care for them and who have their best interests at heart. Others however, may not be so lucky. The Housing Options Service for people with learning disabilities allows them to access services in the same way adults without learning disabilities may, by allowing people to spend time with them to explain their options, read things out to them, complete forms on their behalf, advocate for them and liaise with agencies. Taking this service away will deny them equality of opportunity in a society which already discriminates against them at the personal organisational and cultural levels.' **(Client)**

'Derbyshire's "Be In Control" Charter states "You should have a choice of where you live and who you live with" - a basic right for many of us, but one denied to many people with a learning disability.' **(staff)**

'What will replace this service? And if nothing replaces this services what will people with learning disabilities do?' **(Client)**

Secondly, respondents felt that there was a need for an 'alternative support mechanism.'

'Can it be provided adequately in-house instead?' **(Client)**

'At the very least you must ensure that a viable alternative is put in place.' **(Client)**

'The introduction of this service a while back seemed to be a really positive move. The removal of this service without clearly stated and clearly funded plans seems very short-sighted.' **(Client)**

Meetings, emails, letters

Meetings:

Carers from Fairplay felt that:

'Most young people with a learning disability needed additional support to live independently and will mean if appropriate support is not in place then they will not be able to achieve independence.....carers will again suffer as a result of changes.' **(Fairplay)**

Emails:

Response from Erewash Borough Council

'This service has only been in place for a couple of years, but it appears to have been doing valuable and focused work in helping to find suitable accommodation for people with Learning Disabilities.

If this service closes, would, for example, Social Workers have the time or expertise to concentrate on this very important area of work.

Other housing advice services would not be able to offer the additional time and expertise which may be needed to assist people with Learning Disabilities.

From our understanding, there can be many issues to sort out – including claiming of benefits; long “lead in” time needed to prepare for moving into a property; people sometimes needing help with understanding e.g. tenancy agreements; capability of holding a tenancy. It would be of concern if people with Learning Disabilities were not given the specialist support needed to assist them.

Sourcing suitable properties and potential landlords takes focused and expert time, as does signing up leases and legal agreements.

If the Housing Options for people with Learning Disabilities was to close, then we would hope that detailed plans were already in place to provide this service by other means.

Proposal to end funding of the Accommodation and floating support services for people aged between 25 and 65 years

Quantitative Analysis

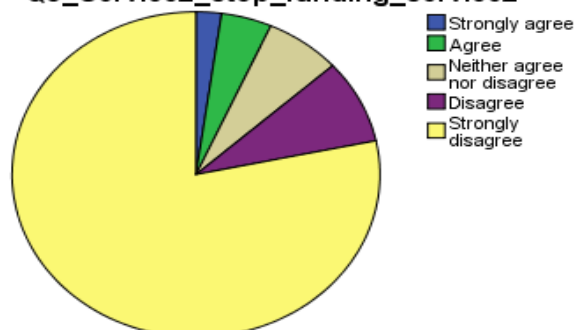
Q4_Service2_Using the accommodation and floating support_sers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	104	54.7	59.4	59.4
	No	71	37.4	40.6	100.0
	Total	175	92.1	100.0	
Missing	-9	15	7.9		
Total		190	100.0		

Q5_Service2_stop_funding_service2

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	4	2.1	2.2	Strongly agree + Agree
	Agree	8	4.2	4.4	6.6
	Neither agree nor disagree	12	6.3	6.7	Neither agree nor disagree 6.7
	Disagree	15	7.9	8.3	Strongly disagree + Disagree
	Strongly disagree	141	74.2	78.3	86.6
	Total	180	94.7	100.0	
Missing	-9	10	5.3		
Total		190	100.0		

Q5_Service2_stop_funding_service2



Qualitative Analysis

Free text boxes - Questionnaires

Many clients have detailed the difference the service has made to their lives:- how the service has allowed them to remain living independently in the community; helped them fill in forms to access benefits; provided on-going support in times of intense mental ill health, helped them maintain their tenancy, find accommodation, pay bills and prevented them going into debt.

‘Accommodation based services provide a valuable resource for the most vulnerable people in Derbyshire, this is particularly poignant within the Derbyshire Dales where private sector accommodation rents are often higher than average and single person accommodation is limited and in high demand. Accommodation is usually accessed when the individual has no other choice due to their background/previous history. Living in supported accommodation enables the individual to learn tenancy sustainment skills and makes the move-on process fluid as support and housing providers are aware of progress made as the system is transparent. A reduction in this service would lead to an increase in homelessness. Floating support is crucial to those who are at risk of losing their tenancy or have just commenced a new tenancy, without support many individuals will become homeless and there will be increase in rent arrears, evictions etc. In 2012/2013 an audit recorded 457 positive move-ones* from supported accommodation within Derbyshire which means that these vulnerable individuals were helped to find suitable accommodation and live independently.’ *Move-on Audit Analysis Report 2012/2013

'My ex-wife has used this service and it is invaluable to people who require this help. She has been admitted to hospital numerous occasions until this service intervened. This service is far too important to the community to have it withdrawn.' (**Carer** -Reference 19)

'If it weren't for such service, I would have been left homeless and without support after my discharge from a Psychiatric hospital. The support has been crucial to my recovery and helped me gain more independence. Without it, I feel I would have been admitted to hospital further times since, and would probably not be as far along my path to recovery as I am. '**(Client** - Reference 20)

'This service has helped me to address my MH problems and get me funding for a cooker. I wouldn't have known what avenue to go down to get this on my own. They have also helped me to reapply for housing and filled in forms for me. I never would have been alive if it wasn't for action housing. it is essential service' (**Client** - Reference 42)

'People with MH issues find it extremely hard to cope with the bureaucracy of everyday life. My support worker has saved my life because I wasn't coping.' (**Client** - Reference 50)

'It makes me feel really anxious if my support worker hadn't started coming round I would probably be sat here with 1 electric or heating or anything. Even now I find it hard to cope with my letters and bills, but my support worker helps me find a way through and feel there may be hope for the future.' (**Client** - Reference 48)

Again many clients indicated that without the service they would be in a lot worse state. Some indicated that they would be homeless; many said that they would be isolated, in debt, possibly in prison and even at risk of suicide.

'.....without support from Derbyshire PST I would be homeless, I was facing eviction because I cannot understand my finances and cannot read and cab do not understand my needs to disability and cab would not put the time needed to help me like my support worker has done.' (**Client** - Reference 12)

'Without the service I would be totally isolated. I am divorced, I have multiple sclerosis. My family live in Sheffield/Chesterfield Abu Dhabi.' (**Client** - reference 37)

'Without the support I've had from action housing I would more likely have ended up in a prison and homeless the support I have received has been invaluable' (**Client**- reference 38)

'Action housing have helped me start to get my and daughters lives back together. If it hadn't been for help Louise has given me, I would be out of my home with 1where to live with my 13yr old and mentally !!! 29 yr old daughter. I have great difficulty dealing with people both on the phone and in person and have a lot of debts and was unable to sort out my benefits. XX sorted things out for me and still is, it would be disgraceful to lose this excellent service. ' (**(Client)** Reference 58)

'I would be homeless without the support I receive. I would feel left in the lurch. I would be lonely, frightened, forgotten and sad' (**Client**) (Reference 60)

Clearly many people using this service currently are marginalised in society and have chaotic lives. Some struggle with drug and alcohol misuse, mental ill health, homelessness, either being at risk of offending or having offended and many struggle to read and write, get very anxious and have no other support mechanism or family willing or available to help. Therefore the impact of the service ending is an extra worry. People felt it was important that there was an alternative if funding was cut to the current service.

'I know people who get support from P3. You just cannot be seriously going to stop this funding!! These people are often on the very margins of society. The people who use P3 in Swadlincote are very distressed by this proposal.' **(Client)**

'by cutting services such as this has the potential to put people into crisis which would be more costly to the council. a revamp of these services rather than cutting would be more beneficial long term.' **(Client -Reference 13)**

'This is an age group which, if people have no family or support from a network of friends, have the least safety net in terms of benefits. Due to, redundancy, a lack of education/skills, bad luck, they will have relatively little financial support and may find themselves in dire straits. By funding accommodation and floating support services DCC are providing a breathing space for already marginalised members of society to be able to get back on their feet, giving them back their self-esteem, confidence and self-respect.' **(Client -Reference 15)**

'I haven't used the service, but my brother has. As before, where would my brother access support if these services weren't here. A lot of people accessing these services don't fit into the remit of other services and reducing or stopping funding would cause strain on other services and vulnerable service users would get a less focussed and supportive service offered by staff that aren't trained to cope with complexities.' **(Carer -Reference 23)**

'If this service stops, what service will take its place? Or what services will have to pick up the support that these services provide? More importantly, what will the clients that access this service do without it?' **(Staff -Reference 28)**

'The proposal to cut the accommodation and floating support services for the vulnerable in Derbyshire would see an increase in homelessness and rough sleeping in the County, this would in turn lead to an increase in crime. Clients with debt, housing and benefit issues would go to already stretched money advice services such as Citizens Advice Bureau. Lack of support and advocacy for clients with mental health issues may result in clients in critical need, being institutionalised, at risk of harm or dead. These services provide excellent value and save the County money overall. Let's hope that Derbyshire learn from the mistakes made in Derby City and opt to keep a Service that supports the most vulnerable in the Community sustain themselves in their accommodation.' **(Staff -Reference 29)**

The pressure on other statutory services is highlighted as a major consequence of stopping this service.

'I work in the housing related support sector and we support people with mental health issues. Some of these people have been on our service for many years suffering from long term and enduring mental ill health, and without our support would suffer greatly and in many cases end up spending more time in hospitals around the country. And as we all know this expense far outweighs the cost of our services and in my view these cuts are very short sighted. We understand the position of council having to save a vast sum of money but urge you to think again about the devastating effect these cuts will have on some of our most vulnerable people in Derbyshire.' **(Staff)**

'- it will cost Derbyshire considerably more through health and the police once the issues for this group escalate into a crisis situation, when these services provide early intervention and prevention, so as not to get to a crisis point.' **(Client)**

Some respondents also highlighted the relationship of the service between landlords and accommodation and the availability of support. They stated that without the availability of

support many accommodation facilities would not be available for vulnerable clients. In other words without the support the tenancy could not be ascertained. 'No support.....no accommodation.'

'Although there is an understanding that the Council is required to make cuts it is of concern that there will no longer be a housing related support for this group. My organisation along with others across Derbyshire have worked hard to build up a strong working relationship with private sector landlords to accommodate single people with support needs with the understanding that support will be provided through the DCC contract. Landlords are already starting to indicate that they will no longer be able to accommodate with that much needed support. Smaller districts such as North East Derbyshire have a very low supply of one bed room units for this client group. Since the introduction of welfare reforms we have been negotiating smaller units within new developments - some of which we have requested be supported units. Again this was on the understanding that there would be an element of housing related support from this contract. There should be an element of funding retained for such a large client group.' (**Staff - Reference 26**)

Client experiences taken from the open text part of the questionnaires

Reference 17

Have received support with amber trust but my 2 year limit is up so could no longer use this service, I am noticing a difference since not getting any support I find it hard work keeping things going and on a level, I manage reasonably ok but now have more pressure on me to keep living independently, a parent of 3 yr old and trying to move forward by doing voluntary work (move forward) it's a slow process working towards moving on as I have to keep slipping with housing related issues, mainly phone calls for utilities so avoid doing it and if this carries on will be in debt again, the support I got helped 100% manage these housing issues so I was able to focus more on my addiction parenting and anxiety issues which are almost not a problem anymore so without the support this would not have been possible for me, I'm realising how much support they really did give me now they not around

Reference 24

I am a single mother with a severe disability and have used Action Housings Tracy Shepherd to support me through getting a safe house to live in. Both I and my daughter have been in close contact with them because of a fall in help from CAB. There seems to be no communication from one department to the next and mixed messages have been received from Chesterfield Borough Councils staff. I have had to fight with them for over 4 years to get us to safety and Action Housing has attended meetings with me all along the way. Then suddenly out of the blue I received an email from housing asking me to apply for a house and I got it. I was gen points for medical reasons but couldn't use these on a house the points were just for bungalows and ground floor flats. There were numerous houses I had applied for to be close to my daughter's school and my elderly disabled father but everyone was given to someone else. I am at the moment just getting myself and my young daughter backing on our feet and again Action Housings Tracy Shepherd is helping us again. I do not know what I would have done without her. If there is no support for all people this could leave vulnerable people like me and my daughter to give up.

Reference 31

This is targeting a group of people - some of whom have complex needs (offending, mental health, dependencies). These support services often provide an additional layer of support to statutory services who do not have the time or resources to provided day to day support. Support is also provided to clients classed as generic who are struggling to manage due to the recent changes in welfare reforms. Much support is given to people with spiralling debts and those who are struggling to make ends meet: the problem is compounded where people have problems with substance misuse, dual diagnosis or offending histories. Support provided by these services assists people in

addressing their debts - arranging manageable payment plans, claiming correct benefits, accessing food banks etc. Support is also given to people in accessing statutory services such as the drug and alcohol teams, and mental health services. Without this support people suffer and communities will suffer as poverty may lead to increased offending and more problematic substance misuse as individuals can't see a way out of their depressing situations. I can see that there will be increased levels of homelessness as individuals who would have received support in maintaining their tenancies fall through the net. Despair for some will lead to worsening mental health problems - but with individuals not knowing where to turn. The costs to society as a whole are likely to increase.

Meetings, emails, letters

Meetings:

A range of clients supported by Derbyshire Directions, along with their support staff and a family member, attended a consultation workshop in, Ilkeston – on 4th April 2014. 10 Clients, 6 Staff and 1 Family Carer attended and shared their experiences of what housing-related support meant to them:

'If I don't get help from HRS I would be in prison – and so I would cost the state more – it costs more to keep me in prison' **(Client)**

'My friend goes pinching – it makes them feel safer, his family has given up on them, no-one will help' **(Client)**

'I would have topped myself if I hadn't been for NACRO (HRS) – they helped me to go back to college, to learn how to read and write, to develop a positive approach, build my confidence' **(Client)**

'I self-harmed – without P3 I would still be doing it' **(Client)**

'Since being with P3 it's the longest time that I've been out of prison – I'm 56 and I've been out of prison for 1.5 years – they fill me with confidence, they don't look down on you, they get the ball running, they route out problems, if they don't think you are strong enough they help, without them I'd be homeless.' **(Client)**

When clients asked where they would be without HRS, 4 said they'd be dead or homeless and 2 said that they would be dead or in prison.

'They build your strength up. Riverside helped me to get ready to go out, before I was homeless and suicidal.' **(Client)**

'They aren't pushovers – they make you take responsibility' **(Client)**

'Karen has been my rock and rainbow – my pot of gold, she's helped me to find purpose, sort out the way I take my tablets, helped me to find a photography course, Karen treated me like a normal person, given me confidence. The service is worth fighting for' **(Client)**

If HRS goes then crime, homelessness and suicides will increase' It will cost more

'We do want to get jobs but with a criminal record it isn't easy, P3 help you set up your benefits and food banks.' **(Client)**

‘Some people are scared to go out and leave their home so having floating support allows people to be supported to get out’ **(Client)**

‘The floating support means staff go into their homes – that way we find out hidden issues, uncovers severe mih particularly when GP hasn’t picked it up. **(Client)**

‘Without HRS I would be put at risk, I have epilepsy, I used to live with my mum but she has problems too. I was trying to run away – Karen understood and helped me to move away from my mum and helped me to build, put my life back together. She has taught me right from wrong as this is not my native country – I behaved differently which sometimes got me in to trouble, Southcroft have helped too.’ **(Client)**

Emails:

My housing officer got in contact with Derbyshire Directions and Sammy came out in May 2013 and since then has supported me not just coming out to visit but to get me other help as well she also helped me with the move from a house I've lived in for 36 years to a flat and the support is ongoing but recently I learned that because Derbyshire County Council has to save 103 million pounds and that when the contract runs out in September 2014 You might not renew because it costs over 800 thousand pounds to fund Derbyshire Directions.

There are a lot of people like me that need this help and support who are vulnerable. Support workers don't just support people who have lost loved ones and find it hard to cope with everyday life on their own, they also help people in other crisis like young women who all too often are involved in domestic violence and have nowhere to go and no one else to turn to for support. Support workers have contacts with local housing associations, bereavement counsellors,

I know you have tough choices to make and you don't want to cut any of your services and it's the government's fault for cutting down your funding but please reconsider this crucial service that vulnerable people need and have a heart.

Letters:

Response from Derbyshire Directions (Provider)

Derbyshire Directions comprises floating support (provided by NCHA and Nacro) and accommodation services (provided by Riverside ECHG and P3). We provide services for people over the age of 25 in Amber Valley & south Derbyshire Dales and Erewash & South Derbyshire. The projects within the Consortium support up to 258 service users at any time and during our first year of operation we supported 525 individuals and families. As of today our services are full to capacity with a waiting list of people for both accommodation and floating support.

Our services are essential within the communities we work, not only for the individuals we accommodate or provide support to, but in complementing and supporting the work of statutory, voluntary and community organisations. The Derbyshire Directions contract focuses upon supporting service users to achieve outcomes such as maintaining

accommodation or successfully moving into independent living but we also achieve a great deal of added value work. For example it costs approximately £3,500 for a social landlord to evict a tenant. During our first year, NCHA floating support directly supported 30 people to maintain accommodation and avoid eviction, including 19 social rent tenants, saving approximately £66,500 in landlord eviction costs.

We also work closely with schemes such as Derbyshire No Second Night Out supporting rough sleepers to find accommodation as well as accommodating people leaving prison or on probation and so reducing the likelihood of re-offending. A personal testimony from a Riverside ECHG resident states that:

‘If it were not for Riverside’s help I would have most definitely been back in prison. I was obsessed with my ex partner and was continually breaching my order to stay away. I was paranoid and not taking my medication. Riverside support staff have encouraged and monitored me to take my medication, since then I have become healthier, less paranoid to the point where my ex partner trusts me enough to have contact with my son.’ **(Client)**

As part of their service Nacro deliver a resettlement programme which provides temporary housing and support for offenders (including high-risk offenders) so they can move on into independent accommodation. Through this programme Nacro deliver successful outcomes for everyone concerned, giving offenders the skills and support they need to live independent, law-abiding lives.

P3 services work closely within the community, for example involvement in a project called Shop Watch. This is a result of awareness that some residents are involved with shop lifting locally. P3 has a good working relationship with local police and were invited to attend the quarterly meeting comprising local shop keepers, police and the council. For P3 the purpose of joining this group was to raise our profile within the local community, educate people about our client group and quash some of the myths. P3 are also looking at an initiative for persistent offenders to make them more aware of the impact they have through shop lifting, in order to try and reduce it.

Unfortunately, the proposed cuts by Derbyshire County Council would mean the complete closure of Derbyshire Directions with the loss of 103 units of accommodation and 155 units of floating support. Without our projects many of the most vulnerable people in Derbyshire will lose the support they need to turn their lives around and re-engage with the communities they live in. This is likely to impact on statutory services as well as other voluntary and community organisations: for some people the impact will be having no alternative but to sleep rough and for others it will mean losing their accommodation and becoming homeless. Whilst we appreciate that the Council has to identify savings, if there are increased costs to other statutory services including Adult Social Care and Health as a result of this, then the planned savings may be negated. If, as has happened in other local authority areas, a decision is taken in the future to commission new housing related support services then replicating the current high quality service we provide will be costly and time consuming. We are locally based providers with expert knowledge of our local communities and services, who have built robust and effective referral pathways with key organisations. The momentum we have built will be lost and scarce resources will be used to attempt to rebuild this.

The Derbyshire Directions Consortium urges you to consider what the impact of approving the phase one proposal will be: the impact to the communities and people you serve as well as the potential impact on rising costs to other Council departments that the loss of our services would generate.

The main comment coming from letters in response to the proposed increase in co-funding contributions was that it comes at a time of heightened reductions in state benefits for disabled people coupled with increases to the basic cost of living. Many respondents felt this was unfair and unsustainable.

Proposal to end funding of the Accommodation linked support for offenders and people at risk of offending

Quantitative Analysis

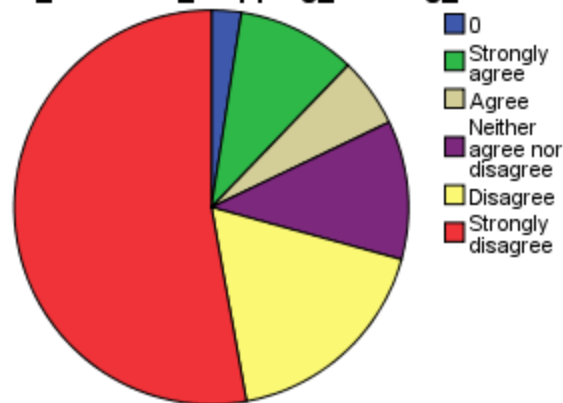
Q7_Service3_Using the accommodation linked support for offenders

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0	3	1.6	2.2	2.2
	Yes	24	12.6	17.9	20.1
	No	107	56.3	79.9	100.0
	Total	134	70.5	100.0	
Missing	-9	56	29.5		
Total		190	100.0		

Q8_Service3_stopping_funding_service3

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0	3	1.6	2.4	
	Strongly agree	12	6.3	9.8	Strongly agree + Agree 15.8
	Agree	7	3.7	5.7	
	Neither agree nor disagree	14	7.4	11.4	Neither agree nor disagree 11.7
	Disagree	22	11.6	17.9	Strongly disagree + Disagree 72.5
	Strongly disagree	65	34.2	52.8	100.0
	Total	123	64.7	100.0	
Missing	-9	67	35.3		
Total		190	100.0		

Q8_Service3_stopping_funding_service3



Qualitative Analysis

Free text boxes – Questionnaires

For many clients it was clear that they perceived that this service had been a life-saving experience.

'IF it wasn't for help I received from my key workers in prison, I'd of probably been in & out of prison another 3-4 times by now. I got help & support to move to a different city. I used to be a prolific offender but thanks to the staff where I live & the support I've received from other key workers my life's a lot better. I don't feel the need to commit crime; I have a lovely partner and hoping to see my children soon. If it wasn't for the support ext. the tax payer would have spent a lot of money keeping me in prison & paying for all the damaged & stolen items' **(Client)** (Reference 42)

'I would be totally lost without this service. Important phone calls/letters wouldn't be dealt with as I cannot function when I am feeling unwell and even on a good day I still suffer from severe anxiety when having to speak over the phone. My key worker has told me information regarding housing benefit which I never would have known otherwise as I am unable to gain access to this I would be in a real mess without my keyworker' **(Client)** (Reference 47)

In particular, many respondents commented on what the impact on society and the local community would be if this service stopped being funded.

'Without this service some of the most high risk offenders in the county would have no means of accessing accommodation on release from prison other than hostels or B&B's which can make it difficult to monitor behaviour and progress which in turn could increase the risk to the public and result in offenders being returned to custody. The Arbour project enables a joined up approach to managing high risk offenders within the county and employs specialist staff to manage and deliver the scheme'. **(Client)** (Reference 2)

'Offending will increase if people are not supported once they leave prison. **(Client)** (Reference 5)

If Offenders were not given such support in the Community, there is a risk that they could become homeless and feel undervalued and un-supported by their local Community. This in turn could also impact on their self-esteem, confidence and level of vulnerability. Quite a lot of people who offend are sometimes dependant on illicit substances and they need help with reducing their level of use in a guided and structured way, to ensure that any chance of rehabilitation is successful. They also lack the appropriate social and practical skills to help them move on with their lives and to feel accepted in society. Accommodation linked support for Offenders and those at Risk of Re-

Offending are vital as it is greatly needed to assist them in that process, whilst helping to maintain a safer community. **(Client)** (Reference 10)

Support needs to be available to people when released from prison hopefully then they likely going to stay out prison and focus on new changes being made with their lives and should be easier for them to move on -working instead of backwards to from prison, surely this in long term is cheaper for Derbyshire county council funds than someone spending time in prison again n again **(Client)** (Reference 15)

This group of people are very difficult to work with - often have multiple problems - and the offence is just the symptom of unrecognised need mental / intelligence issues removing support from those who are vulnerable , even if they may have been offenders, will lead to increased crime, ill health and possible mortality **(Client)** (Reference 19)

Remove support then you re-engage the revolving door process for offenders and ex-offenders. The investment in the prison service and courts and probation service to reduce the risk of offending and rehabilitate the offender will be undone if there is no support available for the offender once he or she is in their own accommodation. **(Client)** (Reference 28)

We all at the same point in life need a helping hand. This might cause our prison to fill up and the cost is greater. **(Client)** (Reference 33)

One person felt that the Council should:

'stop it to repeat offenders but I think 1st time offenders might find the support helpful. ' **(Client)** (Ref 37)

Also many respondents left comments on the impact of ending the service on other statutory agencies including the police, the NHS and housing authorities and non-statutory i.e. private landlords.

I work with a landlord in Buxton who offers tenancies to vulnerable people, many of whom receive support from the SAFE project. Many of the tenants would struggle to maintain their tenancies without the support. If the support stops, it is very likely that there will be: Increased crime in the area (drug dealing/stealing etc...). Tenants will accumulate more debts and rent arrears. Increased mental health issues. Tenancies not being maintained therefore risk of more homelessness. Private Landlords would be less inclined to offer accommodation to vulnerable people if the support wasn't there, therefore more council housing would be needed (or there would be more homeless people). Buxton would be a less desirable place for people to visit and to move to. **(Staff - Reference 12)**

If we don't help offenders then they will reoffend, costs to Police, Courts the general public. As I have stated previously "Derbyshire has always been proud of looking after its vulnerable people, I feel this is only a "saving" to the budget but in real terms it will cost more with other services having to intervene." (Reference 18)

Who should provide it?

This service should be provided by the Probation service and re offender's charities...after training. **(Client -Reference 6)**

Essential probation services for managing risk before it escalates. **(Client -Reference 7)**

'Whilst it might be considered that Probation should have the responsibility to ensure that offenders

are supported - they do not receive any funds to do so. The impact of prisoners who are not in suitable accommodation and receiving appropriate support has been highlighted strongly by DCC staff themselves - the cost of continuing and increased offending and the subsequent impact on local communities, police, prison services etc is enormous.' (**client** -Reference 8)

'Crime rates are bound to be affected greatly if this service no longer exists. It is unreasonable in my opinion to rely on the probation service to pick up the support for these people as they will not all be currently subject to a probation order. SO again where are these people going to turn for help??' (**Client** -Reference 9)

'Again, as with the homeless client group, this is a short sighted response to a client group that, until issues start to arise, generally people will not be aware of the impact their behaviours can cause. To remove these services will place an additional burden on police budgets.' (Reference 25)

'It is worrying that a client group with such high support needs is being decommissioned in the first round without other provision being found to support them. A strong exit plan in partnership with key agencies including district community safety teams and housing is required.' (**Staff** -Reference 22)

A lone service user stated:

'Who will help these people if you stop this funding and destabilise Action for Housing? This service is in place because it is needed. It does not all of a sudden become not needed. It is all about money. Sell County Hall or some of the fancy stuff in there and reduce councillor expenses and allowances first. Come on! A bunch of millionaires are holding us to ransom and you are complying. Whose side are you on?' (**Client** -Reference 1)

Meetings, emails, letters

Emails:

Here are the specific responses to the proposed decommissioning of the housing related-support service for serious offenders and those at risk of re-offending.

The SMB is not unmindful of the challenging budget reductions which the County Council in common with other public authority bodies must find. In relation to the proposed HRS reductions which may see disinvestment from the High Risk offender scheme the Board anticipates the following likely consequences:-

- Increased demand on Police resources to environmentally scan proposed offender addresses.
- Increased difficulties for Probation offender managers in securing and approving suitable offender accommodation, taking account of victims and communities.
- A prospective 'silting-up' of bed spaces in probation Approved Premises (hostel) pending move-on addresses for offenders being found, scanned and approved.
- A likely increase in referrals to MAPP level 2 and 3 (multi-agency meetings) due principally to housing/homelessness issues and more time spent in meetings discussing accommodation issues.
- Increased numbers of offenders (who have not previously demonstrated an ability to manage a tenancy) being referred/presenting directly to local authority housing services.
- More high risk offenders residing in less suitable shared accommodation.
- Increased tenancy breakdown, with collateral increased risk of reoffending

Suitable housing is known to be highly significant for supporting desistance from offending. The High Risk offender scheme has proven an effective means of supporting the management of this cohort of offenders whilst yielding benefits for all the partner agencies concerned. No alternative commissioning arrangements can be identified within the MAPPA partnership.

Should the outcome of the consultation be the discontinuation or reduction of HRS support for a High Risk offender scheme the SMB would be committed to exploring alternative - if not equivalent - models of provision? (MAPPA)

Evidence supporting the strategic importance of accommodation and accommodation support in reducing reoffending is well documented. For example the report 'Making the Difference' from the ADASS and Prison Reform Trust' (April 2013) indicates amongst other things:

- 39% of adult offenders under supervision in one probation area had a current mental illness.
- 49% had a history of mental health problems (Brooker et al, 2011)
- 75% have a dual diagnosis of mental health problems and substance misuse (Offender Health Research Network, 2009)
- 7% of adult prisoners have an IQ below 70% [the usual threshold for assess learning] whilst a further 25% have an IQ in the range 70-79% [i.e. in the borderline or learning range] it is generally acknowledged that between 5% and 10% of the offenders population has a learning disability in some form.

Whilst not the most prevalent assessed need amongst offenders in Derbyshire homelessness or unstable and unsuitable accommodation is the most predictive both of reoffending and poor engagement with other interventions such as substance misuses treatment and employment services. By way of illustration around 15% of all Derbyshire Offenders under supervision to the Trust are assessed as having accommodation and/or support needs but amongst the smaller proportion assessed as being at highest risk of reoffending the figure rises to around 70%. Accommodation with support may be a particularly acute issue for offenders released after serving significant sentences for serious sexual or violent offences who have few family, social or community ties, and who require time and support to develop and demonstrate the capability to manage a tenancy successfully before accessing mainstream housing.

HRS provision through commissioning led by DCC Adult Social Care has played an integral part in achieving desired outcomes of reduced re-offending and harm. Derbyshire Probation Trust has seen improvement in local reoffending since the last year and half – down from 8.35% to 7.85% and attribute this in part to joint approaches such as the continuing development of IOM. A key element of this has been the contribution of HRS partners who offer stability of accommodation and/or continuing personal support to a complex and challenging cohort of offenders.

In relation to specific aspects of the consultation we would make the following observations:

- Housing Related Support contributes significantly to the objectives of achieving health and wellbeing outcomes and being or feeling safe. Both accommodation based and non-accommodation based services seek to engage offenders in primary and preventative healthcare, in accessing treatment for drug and alcohol dependencies and in addressing mental health or psychological problems. In addition to the benefits and increased safety of offenders there are enhanced safety and wellbeing gains for the wider community through the provision of accommodation with support for some of those with the highest likelihood of reoffending and those whose offending causes serious harm to victims (amongst them children and other vulnerable groups). The risks these offenders may pose is increased if they lack appropriate accommodation or live in unsuitable and less stable coordination, perhaps with others offenders where pro-offending attitudes can dominate.

- The responsibility that Local Authorities have for Public Health brings with it an objective to reduce Public Health inequalities. Lack of stable accommodation may create inequalities in accessing basic services and the Trust has seen offenders fall through the net in terms of basic needs of primary health care, sexual health and family planning and employment related support. A reduction in HRS availability may mean that preventative work which might be done to maximise the health of this (sometimes vulnerable) group will disappear resulting in a commensurate increase in demands upon mainstream health provisions once a crisis occurs. The Public Health Outcomes Framework for Local Authorities has an outcome expectation in respect of 'Reduced Reoffending' and HRS schemes can be a key contributor towards achieving this. In relation to more serious offences and offenders we are also mindful that as well as offender health issues there can be enduring health consequences for some victims of sexual offending – a disproportionate number of whom are female. It is not clear how far an Equality Impact Assessment has taken these considerations into account should the proposed reduction proceed.
- The distinction between statutory and voluntary provision may in our view be more complex than set out in the consultation document. Offenders being supervised by Derbyshire Probation may in addition to their offending behaviour have histories that entitle them to provision of statutory support. This is particularly true given the number with additional needs like learning difficulties and medical ill health within the offender population as borne out by the figures cited above from 'Making the Difference'. In recent years we have referred some of these individuals into HRS pathways where links have been strong and partner agencies work together through multi-agency meetings. Needs have been met through this approach. In the absence of proportionate HRS support these often chaotic and sometimes risky individuals will in future have to be referred into other statutory provision and support.
- Absence of HRS provision is furthermore likely to result in additional costs to a range of partner agencies, though these are hard to quantify fully. We anticipate in relation to the higher risk offender group for example that there will be additional time and cost for both the probation and police services in sourcing and assessing the suitability of proposed offender addresses and that more time will be spent in Multi Agency meetings by all partners through increased MAPPA referrals primarily to assist with identifying appropriate accommodation. At 31 March 2013 there were 1140 offences within the scope of MAPPA in Derby and Derbyshire. Only a small number of these require HRS, but for those who do – particularly on initial release from prison or after a short period of residence after release in Probation Approved Premises (Hostel) - the High Risk Offender Housing Scheme has proven to be a vital component in the safe management of serious offenders who need enhanced support and monitoring. There must be a concern that an equivalent level of provision will not be possible should the HRS reductions proceed to the extent proposed. The High Risk Offender scheme is separately but jointly funded by Derbyshire County and Derby City but is run as a single project with equal number of bed spaces in each authority area. The City has opted not to remove support for the High Risk Offender scheme in reducing its own HRS reductions and we would prefer not to see differential provision or a reduction in the flexibility provided by the current scheme to manage the project safely across the whole criminal justice area.

The Trust is acutely aware of the future financial constraints faced by the County Council and that it is necessary to review all areas of service. It is understandable that priority attention may be given to funding HRS provision which aligns to the authority's own statutory responsibilities and to look at discontinuing or streamlining other areas of service delivery. Our experiences with the offenders we supervise are that there are gains both for the authority and partners from HRS schemes which include offenders. For those within the IOM cohort the investment of services such as floating support and accommodation can prevent the escalation of risk and thereby reduce need and demand for crisis housing services in conjunction with the wider benefits of reduced reoffending. For the higher risk offender group whose resettlement can be both challenging and problematic with significant risks to the community if comprehensive and coordinated management

strategies are not in place access to safe and sustainable accommodation with support provides a foundation for effective management. As a Trust we have been proud to work alongside the County Council in achieving a safer Derbyshire which is a thriving and popular place to live. Should the outcome of this consultation be that the present level of HRS for schemes covering offenders not be sustainable we would support the continuation of a range of provision albeit at a reduced level with a commitment to undertake detailed analysis of alternative viable models of service delivery within new budgets. *(The Derbyshire Probation Trust)*

Proposal to end funding of the Service to support people who are leaseholders

Quantitative Analysis

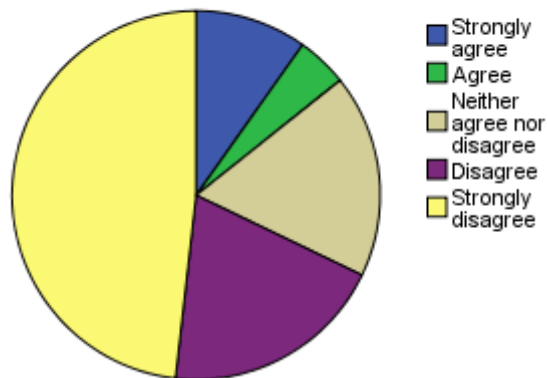
Q10_Service4_Using the service supporting leaseholders

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	14	7.4	10.8	10.8
	No	116	61.1	89.2	100.0
	Total	130	68.4	100.0	
Missing	-9	60	31.6		
Total		190	100.0		

Q11_Service4_stopping the service supporting leaseholders

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	11	5.8	9.8	Strongly agree + Agree 14.3
	Agree	5	2.6	4.5	
	Neither agree nor disagree	20	10.5	17.9	Neither agree nor disagree 17.9
	Disagree	22	11.6	19.6	Strongly disagree + Disagree 67.8
	Strongly disagree	54	28.4	48.2	
	Total	112	58.9	100.0	100.0
Missing	-9	78	41.1		
Total		190	100.0		

Q11_Service4_stopping_the_service_supporting_leaseholders



Qualitative Analysis

Free text boxes – Questionnaires

Of all the services proposed to be stopped, this service received the most polarised responses. Some respondents said that it was not necessary to continue to financially support people who are leaseholders and others did not understand the support:

‘If I understand this correctly and leaseholders are effectively receiving housing-related support funding for repairs etc - then this is, of course, not acceptable.’ (**Client** - Reference 6)

‘if people can afford to pay for the support and repairs then maybe they do not need to be funded. Allowing money to help those who can’t afford to pay for it.’ (**Client** -Reference 20)

‘Why isn’t the landlord paying for repairs?’ (**Client** (Reference 21)

‘I don’t really understand what would happen if this service was removed and the subsequent impact so I find it hard to make a proper comment.’ (**Client** -Reference 5)

Whilst others felt that it was needed:

‘Older people have needs and often feel isolated and un-supported in their local community and that nobody cares. They have rights too and are valued members of the community’ (Reference 7)

‘What is a leaseholder? Do you mean older people in rented housing? In which case then yes they do need help to protect them from unscrupulous landlords.’ (**Client** (Reference 22)

‘Rents already high for pensioners with limited assets’ (**Client** (Reference 3)

Some felt negotiations between the landlord and the Council should be considered:

‘Some agreement needs to be sought about how landlords can absorb this within increased HB charges but also by having less profit on rents to do the work.’ (*Reference 16*)

Whilst finally another person in receipt of financial support said:

‘The support I receive keeps me a float. Without it I would have difficulty in keeping my head above water. I realise that some people receiving this service may have sufficient means to no longer need it, but as I have to’ (**Client** - *Reference 23*)

General Responses

Emails and Letters:

We had many responses from providers and partner agencies who commented in general about the proposed reduction in funding to the housing-related support programme (both Phase One and Two). However in this report only those comments relating to Phase One proposals have been covered and the analysis provides extracts of their submissions either here summarising all of Phase One proposals or are covered in the relevant, specific service proposal areas detailed earlier in the report.

All respondents appreciated that there was a necessity to make significant cuts in DCC’s current and future expenditure, and all offered their commitment to work with Adult Care to make sure this was done as effectively and efficiently as was possible. However, providers and partner agencies wished that certain concerns were taken into account when decisions were being made.

Housing-related support provider forum Response:

- There is a paragraph in the report on p2 that includes information from a Local Government Information Unit report entitled Promoting Independence. The information in the DCC report states that 139 local authorities were surveyed, and that 44% of them were reducing the level of service they could offer in order to make savings. What is not included in the DCC report is the rest of that finding, which is that “nearly 90 per cent of those who responded to the survey agreed that this would put vulnerable individuals at risk and create costs elsewhere in the system.” Whilst we understand the need to make savings is it not completely counterproductive to make them when it will simply create costs elsewhere?
- The DCC report proposes finding savings of £9M over the next two years through HRS budgets. What it does not – and cannot – detail is the added and hidden value those services it proposes decommissioning and reducing provide to the residents of Derbyshire. Whilst the services currently commissioned meet outcomes and targets as set by DCC, they also delay or prevent entry into social care provision. The true cost of not providing these services will only be known when they are no longer there, but will impact not just on adult care budgets but also community budgets through anti-social behaviour, crime and hospital admissions. The ‘revolving door’ syndrome costs Local Authorities far more than low cost preventative work through housing-related support services.

- Research has been carried out regarding the costs to Local Authority areas for certain client groups. For Domestic Violence, the research (by Trust for London and the Henry Smith Charity) the cost to Derbyshire in just human and emotional support equates to £131.1M, with £25.3M in lost economic output, £16.6M in criminal justice costs and £22.8M in physical and mental health care. Reduction or decommissioning of services in such areas will impact significantly financially in all these areas, and more.
- Access to appropriate housing will be significantly impeded. Not only do many currently commissioned organisations provide supported housing but there is also an excellent county-wide network of support for individuals requiring advocacy in relation to housing issues, across all tenures. This network prevents the loss of housing for families, saves thousands each year in legal fees, reinforces both tenant and landlord rights and prevents tenancy breakdown for hundreds of people who would otherwise have nowhere else to go. Currently, hundreds of people are moved towards independence every year through these services in Derbyshire, mitigating the impact on more expensive services. Appropriate housing is shown time and time again to be one of the most critical factors in reducing offending, preventing deterioration in mental health and increasing the chances of employment.
- Derbyshire currently has a remarkable wealth of expertise in relation to the fields of housing and support. The proposals as detailed in the DCC report will effectively eliminate that expertise, through the decommissioning of many services that will see organisations disappear from the county or even close, and the vast reduction in other services that will seriously jeopardise some organisations' ability to justify continuation of services. The expertise lost through these proposals will take years to regain, as it has taken years to develop.
- There is a considerable risk through these proposals that Derbyshire will see an exodus of current providers who are committed to community development, development of services and a joined up network of provision, replaced by an influx of new, cheap providers who pay their staff minimum wage and deliver mediocre services, with no local knowledge, commitment to Derbyshire or person-centred approach. Whilst this may appear to have its benefits financially this is a dangerous approach when working with people. Our experiences show us that quality services do not have to be expensive, as the current services are not, but they cannot be cheap.
- The proposals will see a loss of income to districts and boroughs, through reduced employment of both staff and service users, increased legal fees around housing and increased anti-social behaviour and offending. This will impact on economic growth for the region thus effectively undoing many of the benefits seen by the reduction of this money. Many providers currently add value to their contracts by linking in with other funding streams and utilising their corporate resources within Derbyshire – training provision for service users, links to private landlords and employment options within companies. This further impacts negatively on both districts and boroughs as well as the county as a whole.

.....We believe that the proposals do not take into account the hidden consequences of decisions such as these, which will not only push the cost to other departments but also impact on their ability to make the savings they have identified, thus costing DCC more in the long-term. Decommissioning entire services and the proposed remodels of others leave whole groups of people with no service whatsoever. Members of the HRS Provider Forum would welcome the opportunity to shape new services with the money that is available, with the opportunity to look at all relevant services provided by DCC, including the statutory ones, as a large area of the work done by Providers currently falls into that category. As providers of these services in the County for many years, the forum feel that we are experts on what is needed and would be happy to work closely with your team to inform these decisions more fully.

Fire and Rescue Service Response:

HRS services that enable vulnerable people to achieve or maintain independent living in the community can make a positive contribution in helping people remain at a lower risk from having an accidental fire. The provision of non-care based support offered through HRS can assist reducing fire risk by:

- Helping people claim benefits - People living in poverty very often use crude and cheap forms of lighting, heating and choose cooking methods which are often unsafe and increase fire risk. Assisting people to access benefits can help them afford to use more appropriate facilities in their homes.
- Developing Skills to maintain and manage their tenancy- There are occasions where occupant's living standards or behaviour not only places them at risk of losing their tenancy but also places them at a greater risk of fire or reduces their likelihood of escape if a fire was to break out. Supporting people with improving their skills to manage and maintain their tenancy will also include helping them keep safe from fire and also reduce the risk for neighbouring properties.
- Gain access to other services they need- People that are vulnerable can become victims of fire. Often, with the correct interventions from other services, vulnerabilities can be reduced and thus safety improved; examples include, people living with alcohol dependency or substance misuse issues can place themselves in great danger within their home. If they are provided access to other services to help them manage their daily lives, improvements can be made or where someone is living in a home with unsafe or dubious electrics but has not been, or felt able, to get an appropriate service to inspect and rectify any dangerous conditions. The assistance provided in gaining access to qualified people by the HRS will improve the safety in the home.
- In cases where people are socially isolated, vulnerable, unwell and /or unhappy it is highly unlikely that they will proactively engage with DFRS or our partners to raise their awareness of fire safety through advice. Fire safety is often very low on people's personal agenda. HRS services that encourage participation in education and training, contact with family and friends and helping people manage their own physical and/or mental health can have a very positive impact for DFRS, reducing some of the main contributors to fires within the home.

Target groups

Nationally and within Derbyshire particular groups of people are more likely to have, or be affected by, an accidental fire in their home. These groups are specifically targeted for Home Safety advice by DFRS

DFRS Target / Vulnerable Groups

- Elderly (65+ Female Bias)
- Single Middle Aged People Living Alone Drink and Smoke in the Home (40-59 Male Bias)
- Single Parents (Female Bias Deprived)
- Young People (16-24 including Students)
- Disabled / Impaired
- Mental Health Issues

There is a wide range of vulnerable people currently in receipt of housing related support and many fall within the fire service target groups.

The potential implications for DFRS following the implementation of both phases of proposed changes to the HRS services are as follows.

- Elevated number of people living within the high risk groups over time, increasing the potential of having an accidental dwelling fire. It is not possible to predict exact numbers as clearly not everybody who is currently supported by HRS is at a high risk of fire. However, an increase in these numbers is likely to be in direct proportion to the reduction of people who are supported by HRS services. Reduced support for vulnerable people, including those with protected characteristics of age, disability and gender and those in receipt of a care package for assessed care needs is likely to impact negatively where DFRS identifies a risk reduction strategy that would have relied on an individual being supported by the HRS services.
- A potential increase in people living in sub-standard accommodation which may not be managed by a responsible landlord and therefore present a fire risk in itself. If people lose their tenancy in social housing then often move to the private sector housing market. There are many responsible private landlords in Derbyshire who work with agencies such as the Local Authority and Fire Service and whom maintain safe accommodation. Unfortunately some vulnerable people that have hit crisis point and have been evicted are not seen as ideal tenants for these responsible landlords and are therefore not offered accommodation. Therefore there may be an increase in the number of vulnerable people living in unsuitable housing supplied by disreputable landlords who pay scant regard for fire safety.

Part One Summary

The criteria for potentially decommissioning services as outlined in the proposals under Phase One of the report (Page 5 2.1.2) is encouraging in so far as the intent appears to be to move services to other partners or to redesign services. If support can be maintained, albeit in an amended format, DFRS would seek assurance that it is afforded access to the providers in order to give advice on how their support can deliver and maintain fire safety in the home for the most vulnerable within Derbyshire.

However the report goes on to explain (page 8 2.13) that the implementation of both Phase one and Phase two will result in a reduction in the number of people supported due to a reduced range of services available. DFRS will continue to provide fire safety advice to our community and is continually looking for improved methods of doing so. However there can be no doubt that **for the most vulnerable within Derbyshire, turning that advice into practice will require them to be given support.** Withdrawal of such support is likely to result in an increased level of risk across the County.

A serious fire in a dwelling impacts not only on the resources of the Fire and Rescue Service in terms of response to the emergency and the post fire investigation and community safety follow up action, but potentially on several other partner agencies. In the event the occupant is rendered homeless then there may be an immediate burden on the Local Authority in finding alternative accommodation. If there is a serious fire related injury there is likely to be an impact on health services, from transporting to hospital, providing acute medical treatment and on-going inpatient and outpatient care. Victims of fire often suffer psychological as well a physical harm and are likely to need support services for some time after the event to enable them to maintain independent living. Occasionally people will suffer injuries that are so life changing that they will require care services for the remainder of their lives. A serious fire occurring in a person's home generally has a significant impact on the occupants, their families and may also affect the local community. In

addition there is likely to be additional burdens placed on Local authority support services following a fire.

Therefore DFRS recommend that the potential future costs to agencies including the Local Authority that may be incurred due to a serious fire should be carefully considered against the savings predicted by the proposed changes to Housing Related Support Services contained in the report

Bolsover District Council Response:

1. Since the removal of the 'ring-fence' and the demise of the Supporting People Commissioning Body the funding has continued via DAST, albeit via a competitive process, however the vast majority of customers associate the service with the service provider, especially the Districts and Boroughs who have provided the service for many years. The cuts proposed will put people at risk, and also damage the reputation of the County and the providers of services.
2. With regards to the stage one of the proposal. This relates to services that are not provided by the council, but to some services that are provided within our district to more vulnerable people. Our main concerns here are that although these funding reductions will provide cash saving to DCC, the consequences will increase the burden elsewhere, including the District Councils. For example, as a direct consequence of the cut in services we expect to see an increase in homelessness (both in number and complexity), there could be an increase in crime and domestic violence, and the withdrawal of support could lead to an increase in debt including rent arrears.
3. Although not contained within the consultation we were shocked by the email from the DAST team of 26th March regarding the 'Critical Issues in terms of the High Risk Serious Offenders Service' and asking the districts to consider funding this service from our homelessness prevention grants, DCC propose cessation in the funding of the service. We cannot reconcile these two positions from DCC, either this is a high priority service, in which case funding should continue, or it's not. We feel it is inappropriate to then ask Districts to fill in this funding gap. To clarify, the level of homelessness grant is low and is already committed to other projects, many of which we have commissioned with other partners.

NED District Council Response:

North East Derbyshire District Council understands the difficult decisions that Derbyshire County Council has had to make in putting forward the proposed cuts to its Adult Social Care Housing Related Support budget due to central Government cuts. It recognises that some of the cuts made in the proposals are inevitable.

Members at the Council along with Board members at our ALMO, Rykneld Homes have been briefed and consulted about the cuts. Members from both the Council and Rykneld Homes are committed to its Officers working alongside Officers at Derbyshire County Council to maximise funding opportunities to protect housing related support services to our residents.

North East Derbyshire District Council's Officer Representative on the Derbyshire Commissioning Group for Accommodation and Support (CGAS) will continue to work in partnership with providers and colleagues within the Derbyshire Accommodation and Support Team to look at how existing services which will be affected by phase 2 can be remodelled in the most cost efficient and effective way with the least impact on its service users.

Officers within the Council are already working with providers of those services affected by phase one and are aware of how the decommissioning of those services may impact on the potential increase in homelessness presentations, increase in bed and breakfast use and potential health related services such as drug and alcohol services and mental health services.

We are aware that Derbyshire County Council are currently undertaking an impact assessment of the cuts and look forward to seeing the results to enable ourselves and Rykneld Homes to respond appropriately.

Erewash Borough Council response:

We fully appreciate that Derbyshire County Council need to make considerable budget savings to counteract reductions in budgets from central government.

However, it is undeniable that DCC receive, and will continue to receive millions of pounds each year (approx. £16 million?) for housing-related support services, although this is now not ring-fenced.

This funding was never designed to simply benefit those to whom DCC has a statutory duty. District and Borough Councils agreed for DCC to manage the fund on their behalf, for the benefit of residents of all of Derbyshire, and to benefit many organisations – including DCC, district and borough councils, health services, probation, prisons, voluntary organisations.

Other than DCC, no other organisation receives government funding for housing-related support. Therefore it appears unreasonable for DCC to expect that other organisations will replace the funding cut by DCC – even if the organisation benefits from people in their area receiving support. Other organisations have also had significant cuts to their funding.

District Councils replacing DCC funding for these services is unlikely to happen, as district councils simply do not have the funding to do so.

If supported accommodation and support services close, then the impact on homelessness and housing service may be initially immense. Many more people will become or remain homeless. People's mental and physical health may deteriorate considerably and people presenting as homeless may have increasingly complex needs.

At the current time, many homeless and housing advice staff will do all they can to assist single people even though they often have no statutory duty to assist them. However, if there is no supported accommodation or other accommodation with floating support to refer them to – then these staff will be able to do little to assist. Those without a priority need, or who are intentionally homeless may be homeless, even rough sleeping, and no-one will have any duty to help them. This may well be the consequence of the withdrawal of DCC funding for these services.

In order to keep services open, many supported accommodation providers are hopeful of increasing the amount of payment from Housing Benefit for Intensive Management costs for Supported Accommodation, effectively to counteract some of their support funding cuts. In these cases, the cost to district councils could be significant, as only 60% of the increase would be met by central government (unless the support provider is a Registered Provider). However, with significant increases requested from many providers, and close auditing, Housing Benefit teams are becoming more critical of claims, and may judge that some services are not eligible for these higher costs: due to e.g. definitions of supported accommodation; unjustified management costs.

It has also been argued that central government are unlikely to continue to pay millions of pounds of Supporting People funding which is not being spent on support services, whilst at the same time paying for an increasing housing benefit bill.

The other danger of support projects continuing, without DCC funding, is that the support services being given would be entirely unregulated. Housing Benefit Teams would have no powers to regulate the quality or level of support; district councils could only intervene with regard to licensing of premises or health and safety issues.

Floating support services cannot receive any funding via housing benefit. People in receipt of floating support may be in private owned or privately rented accommodation. DCC may consider that those in social housing could and should be supported by their housing provider. However, indications are already that due to pressures on social housing provider budgets – they equally are looking only at the services they are obliged to provide as a landlord. They would normally only provide support to mitigate e.g. anti-social behaviour problems or rent arrears. Many social housing providers and private landlords have said that they would be unwilling to allocate a property to a vulnerable tenant unless they had a commitment of floating support.

The staff at DCC and at District Councils have done a great deal over the past 10 years, to promote the effectiveness of providing housing-related support – in terms of the impact on individuals, communities and the cost to public organisations. The decision makers with regard to any cuts which DCC will make to housing related support services, do need to be fully aware, and accept responsibility for the likely devastating consequences of the withdrawal of funding, and closure of these services.

Enable Carers Forum Response:

.....In 2012/13 the Derbyshire Housing related support programme demonstrated extremely good value for money and achieved cost benefit savings well above the National average.....'we can expect that for every £1 spent in the HRS programme it will save £7 on what would be needed to support service users in other ways.'

'This cost benefit analysis shows the intrinsic value of the Derbyshire Accommodation and Support Housing Related Support Programme to service users that access the services and benefit from the support they receive as well as partners across the public sector and beyond.'

'This would suggest that the £9 million of savings the Council proposes to make to housing-related support will come at a cost of £63million in terms of other support that will be required instead. The report also gives numerous examples of other efficiencies and savings brought about by the Council's investment and commitment to these services.....Are we to believe these arguments are no longer relevant and the Council wants to see a seven fold increase in spending on the people that it is currently successfully supporting? We want to know how these changes to both service eligibility and to HRS will benefit the County's financial position if we take into account the future demands on services and funding they will generate.....'

DCC staff response:

A member of the DCC workforce, who also had worked in the HRS provider sector, sent in a letter response to the proposed cuts to housing-related services. They documented ideas of how the service could be improved and made more efficient. These included:

1. Have a shorter timeframe when offering support to clients and monitor providers to ensure they do this: 'Evidence had to be gathered for this support and after a couple of visits some clients didn't want support and some didn't need it so why was 'support' in there for much longer? A very short check on their situation with good advice was all they needed.'
2. Use social media more and other IT solutions: 'With social media we have the tools today to give good support from a distance and we are not using it and I never saw a provision in the Supporting People set-up to have us produce evidence that was from this new technology. In floating support services they always wanted hard evidence. It became a joke, gathering

evidence was and is wastage. My 'running notes' are evidence of my support and these can be seen now in my DCC role on the Frameworki system.'

3. Use our in-house support service more efficiently: 'Housing support structures will be decimated (it cannot be avoided) and the effectiveness of those people (including ours) and services left will be impaired and overwhelmed. There is an argument to grasp the current situation to build an in-house support service using what is already in place.

Summary of the Consultation

The number of questionnaires returned and the numbers who attended meetings is considered to be sufficiently high for the responses to be considered representative.

The following summarises each question and the percentages agreeing or disagreeing to the proposal:

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to end funding of the Housing Options for people with learning disabilities?

	%
Strongly agree or agree	15.7
Neither agree nor disagree	10.2
Strongly disagree or disagree	74.1

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to end funding of the Accommodation and floating support services for people aged between 25 and 65 years?

	%
Strongly agree or agree	6.6
Neither agree nor disagree	6.7
Strongly disagree or disagree	86.6

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to end funding of the Accommodation linked support for offenders and people at risk of offending?

	%
Strongly agree or agree	15.8
Neither agree nor disagree	11.7
Strongly disagree or disagree	72.5

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to end funding of the Service to support people who are leaseholders?

	%
Strongly agree or agree	14.3
Neither agree nor disagree	17.9
Strongly disagree or disagree	67.8

The only data which has been analysed in this summary is the quantitative data provided above from the questionnaires. It is not possible to offer any statistical analysis of the responses that were received in by email or letter or those views expressed at meetings. However, the quotes included throughout this report are representative of the views expressed by respondents both through meetings, written correspondence and via the questionnaire itself.

None of the proposals were agreed to by the majority of the respondents.

However, the proposals to stop funding the housing options service for people with learning disabilities and the proposal to stop funding services for people who offend or people who are at risk of offending, both received the greatest proportion of agreement when compared against the other proposals (around 16%).

The proposal that received the least proportion of agreement was the proposal to stop the floating and accommodation support service (7%).

The proposal to stop funding leaseholders received the least proportion of disagreement when compared with the other proposals (68%).

In summary, all 4 proposals were opposed by the majority of respondents.

Conclusion

The consultation process has been comprehensive and has allowed just under 200 people to contribute their views through the questionnaires and over 1200 people to attend meetings to listen and then air their views about the proposed changes including housing related support. Just under 100 people attended meetings to air their views specifically about the housing-related support proposals.

It is clear that the proposals are not broadly welcomed by respondents. They are concerned about the consequences and impact that the withdrawal of services may have on already vulnerable people and their lives. Many examples were given as to how the services had positively changed the lives of many vulnerable people and gave shared their fears as to what might happen to homelessness, crime rates and suicides if the services no longer existed.

Appendix A						
Meetings Held as Part of Consultation						
Date of Meeting	Meeting	Client Group	number of Clients	number of Carers	number of staff	number of public
16 th Jan	HP and DD LD Partnership Board	LD				
23 rd Jan	LD County Partnership Board	LD	8	10	13	
29 th Jan	Nth Derbyshire MIH Carers Forum	MH				
30 th Jan	Derbyshire Stakeholder Engagement Board	ALL	3	1	3	1
30th Jan	Reps on Board	LD	20	0	4	0

Date of Meeting	Meeting	Client Group	number of Clients	number of Carers	number of staff	number of public
5 th Feb	NDVA Belper Football Ground	ALL	0	0	60	0
11 th Feb	BME Forum	ALL	0	20	2	0
11 th Feb	North Derbyshire CCG Dronfield Stakeholder Forum	ALL	0	20	0	0
19 th Feb	Sth Derbyshire carers and clients workshops at Newhall (2 sessions)	LD	31	10	7	0
19 th Feb	Shirebrook Day Service Carter Lane	OA	0	6	2	0
20 th Feb	Task Force	LD	37	4	3	0
26 th Feb	Nth Derbyshire MIH Carers Forum	MH	8	35	10	2
26 th Feb	Whitwell Day Service	LD	2	5	0	0
27 th Feb	Alderbrook Day Service	LD	12	31	4	0
30 th Feb	Reps on Board	LD	40	0	4	0
1 st March	Amber Valley LDPB	LD	3	20	4	?
3 rd March	Erewash LD Partnership Board	LD	9	8	8	1
6 th March	DOPAG (Cllr Botham to attend)	OA	0	0	0	20
6 th March	High Peak and Dales LD Partnership Board	LD	6	2	18	0
6th March	BWE (4.00-6.00)	LD	0	15	6	0
6 th March	Ilkeston Over-50s Forum	OA	0	0	0	67
6 th March	Renishaw Day Centre	LD	8	0	3	0
10 th March	Markham Vale (10.30 – 1)	LD	30	12	10	0
11 th March	Chesterfield LD Partnership Board	LD	19	4	30	0
11 th March	Coal Aston Day Services meeting with clients	LD	10	0	4	0
12 th March	NEDDC Disabled Peoples' Joint Consultative Group	PD	2	0	4	0
17 th March	Matlock 50+ Forum	OA	0	0	0	50
17 th March	Alzheimers Society Carers Support Group Glossop	OA	1	14	2	0
19 th March	BME Forum (look at EIA)	ALL	0	20	2	0
20 th March	Medway Centre	LD	22	0	9	0
20 th March	Special County Board	LD	8	10	13	0
21 st March	Sth Derbyshire and Derby City MIH Carers Forum	MH	0	26	4	0
21 st March	NE and Bolsover LD Partnership Board	LD	4	1	9	0
26 th March	Alzheimer's Society Carers Support Group Swadlincote	OA	0	0	0	9

Date of Meeting	Meeting	Client Group	number of Clients	number of Carers	number of staff	number of public
27 th March	Derbyshire Stakeholder Engagement Board	ALL	8	4	3	2
27 th March	Pensioners action group	OA	0	0	0	9
27 th March	Visual Impairment Group meeting held at Doveholes	VIP	12	2	4	0
28 th March	Enable at the Matlock Football Ground	LD	5	3	3	0
3rd April	Older People's Housing Options Stakeholder Board	OA	6		2	8
4 th April	Hasland Resource Centre	OA	0	4	0	0
4th April	Derbyshire Directions, Ilkeston	ALL	10	1	6	17
7 th April	Alzheimer's Society Carers Support Group Matlock	OA	3	5	3	0
8 th April	Fairplay	Transition	0	17	3	0
8 th April	Shirevale day centre	OA	17	6	4	0
9 th April	Valley View day centre	OA	12	4	2	0
9 th April	Chesterfield Equality and Diversity Forum	ALL				35
10 th April	joint Carers Meeting Postmill	ALL	1	10	2	0
11 th April	Alzheimer's Society Carers Meeting Chesterfield	OA	0	5	1	0
16 th April	SDVA	ALL	0	0	45	0
16 th April	Parkwood Workshop	LD	43	14	8	0
			384	348	316	187

NB: Those highlighted in bold were meetings held to specifically consider housing-related support proposals

Derbyshire County Council

Equality Impact Analysis Record Form 2014



Department	Adult Care
Service Area	Housing Related Support
Changes or proposals	Phase One: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Options service for people with learning disabilities • Adults' Accommodation and Floating HRS services • Accommodation based support for High Risk Serious Offenders • Funding for Leaseholders.
Chair of Analysis Team	Ram Paul
Date of Analysis	12/02/14
Version	0.2

1. Prioritising what is being analysed

a. Description of current service arrangements

Provider	Service	Maximum Capacity	Actual Client Numbers	Primary Client Group
Notts Community HA	Countywide LD Housing Options	91	74	Learning Disability
Action Housing	Adults Housing Related Support (Bols, Ches, NED)	183	177	Adults
Action Housing	Adults Housing Related Support (HP, NDD)	89	64	Adults
Notts Community HA	Adults Housing Related Support (Ere, SD)	138	142	Adults
Notts Community HA	Adults Housing Related Support (AV, SDD)	120	143	Adults
Action Housing	High Risk Serious Offender's - Arbor Project	15	13	Offenders
Leaseholders	Leaseholders	21	21	Older People

b. Details of proposals or changes

All services above are proposed to be decommissioned, Cabinet will make a decision in relation to this in July 2014

C. Rationale for proposed changes

Due to reductions in funding from Central Government, the Council must reduce its expenditure by £157 million by 2017/18.

In order to achieve this saving, the Council is reviewing all aspects of its services. On January 21st 2014 The Council's Cabinet was asked to consider a number of reports including Consultation and Engagement on the proposed changes to the Housing Related Support (HRS) programme.

The Cabinet report of 21 January 2014 stated that the provision of Housing Related Support (HRS) is not in itself a statutory requirement for the Council, but these services do provide cost effective preventive support to vulnerable people. There is strong evidence that many partner agencies as well as the Council benefit from the provision of HRS services and national research indicates that it has a positive financial return on investment for these agencies. The report also outlined a range of measures including efficiencies, service re-design, service reduction and de-commissioning of some services in order to deliver £9m of saving phased over a two year period 2014-16. The proposed changes for Phase One saving of £2m for 2014-15 would affect the following services:

- Housing Options service for people with learning disabilities
- Adults' Accommodation and Floating HRS services
- Accommodation based support for High Risk Serious Offenders
- Funding for Leaseholders.

Following Cabinet approval for consultation to commence on the proposals contained within the report, Adult Care embarked on a 12 week period of consultation, which commenced on January 28th 2014 and finished on April 21st 2014. Appendix 1 provides a breakdown of the responses to the consultation as well as a detailed summary of how the consultation was carried out.

2. The team carrying out the analysis

Name	Area of expertise/ role
Ram Paul (Chair)	Group Manager, Derbyshire Accommodation and Support Team, Adult Care
Alice Sanghera	Service manager, Derbyshire Accommodation and Support Tea, Adult Care
Graham Bell	Project Officer, Derbyshire Accommodation and Support Team, Adult Care

Name	Area of expertise/ role
Richard Milner	Project Officer, Derbyshire Accommodation and Support Team, Adult Care
Louise Shaw	Project Officer, Derbyshire Accommodation and Support Team, Adult Care
Helen Greig (Critical Friend)	Director, Action Housing and Support
Rob Cogings (Critical Friend)	Strategic Manager, High Peak and Derbyshire Dales District Council
Louise Swain	Service Manager, Stakeholder Engagement Team, Adult Care
Members of focus group	
Debbie Race	Elected carer from the Learning Disability (LD) Partnership Board
John Milton	Elected carer from the LD Partnership Board
Kay Milton	Elected carer from the LD Partnership Board
Vera Mcilroy	Elected carer from the LD Partnership Board
Peter Frakes	Chair of DOPAG (Derbyshire Older People's Advisory Group) and member of the Stakeholder Engagement Board
Nell Stockton	Member of the DCC staff Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Trans-gender (LGBT) Employee Network
Gillian Thompson	Manager of Derbyshire Directions provider of HRS
Sally-Anne Robinson	Quality Assurance Manager of Enable Group; provider of HRS
Steven Bramley	Disabled service user and ex-carer and member of the Stakeholder Engagement Board
Separate focus group held with BME Forum reps	Chinese community, Malaysian community, Black and African Caribbean, Muslim community, Asian community, Eastern European community, Gypsy and Traveller community.
Separate meeting held with people with mental ill health	People with mental ill health affected by these proposals.

3. Existing information and consultation based feedback

a. Sources of data and consultation used

Source	Reason for using
Derbyshire Accommodation and Support Team (DAST) Performance Indicator Workbooks	Identify Derbyshire Need and Service Performance
Client Consultation Feedback	To identify impact.
Learning Disability Market Position Statement	Understand needs of people with a Learning Disability and DCC approach
National Census Data	Comparison data.

4. Known impact on different protected characteristic groups

a. From existing data and information – who is likely to be adversely affected, how, and to what degree? Will anyone gain or benefit from the proposals?

New clients 2013/14 – Adults (526), Learning Disability Housing Options (74), Leaseholders (no new clients – existing 21), HRSO (13)

Protected Group	Findings
Age including children and families, older people	<p><u>Adults (over the age of 25 and under 65) accommodation and floating support services</u></p> <p>A total of 526 new clients accessed the service in 2013/14 and 73% were aged 25-54. Adults aged over 25 are the most adversely affected by proposal to stop funding the service.</p> <p>The negative impacts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased drugs and alcohol misuse and harm so Public Health outcomes impacted negatively (including alcohol and drug related hospital admissions) Increased Anti-Social Behaviour reported (ASB) to the Police and Housing Providers therefore increased loss of tenancies and victims of ASB, increased homelessness therefore there would be impact on District and Borough Councils and an increase in offending behaviour <p><u>High Risk Serious Offenders service (HRSO)</u></p> <p>Of the 13 new clients in 2013/14, 12 were aged 18-44.</p> <p>The negative impacts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely increase in number of victims Probation will have no designated housing to move HRSO on to from their registered premises in Derby City. Increased presentation of homelessness as evictions are not prevented and tenancies not sustained. Unsettled accommodation leads to crisis and offending behaviours.

	<p><u>Leaseholders</u></p> <p>There are 21 leaseholders who are all older people. The age range is as follows: 55 to 64: 1 65 to 74: 2 75 to 84: 3 85+: 10 Not known: 5</p> <p>There may be a negative financial impact in terms of paying their service charge if this service is removed and then individuals do not qualify for financial support from the Department of Work and Pensions</p> <p><u>The Learning Disability Housing Options Service</u></p> <p>In 2013/14, 43 of the 74 people who used the service were aged 16-24.</p>
<p>Disabled people including mobility, sensory, learning, mental health, HIV, and also include carers and relatives</p>	<p><u>The Learning Disability Housing Options Service</u></p> <p>People with a learning disability may be affected as there will be less specialist assistance available to gain supported living tenancies for those identified by their Social Worker as needing housing. The maximum number of people in this service at any time is 91; however the service ended on 31st May 2014 due to notice being given by the provider. The individuals affected will continue to be supported with their housing choices by their Social Worker so the impact is mitigated.</p> <p>There may be a cumulative impact of the proposed changes to HRS services, and the introduction of new changes to adult care eligibility, co-funding and transport policy, on people with a learning disability. All clients who currently receive learning disability housing options advice regarding group living, meet the FACS criteria.</p> <p><u>Adults (over the age of 25 and under 65) accommodation and floating support services</u></p> <p>In 2013/14, 120 of the 526 people who used the adults HRS services stated they have a mental health problem (22%), therefore the proposals to reduce preventative support to gain and maintain independence could increase crises and potentially homelessness and self harm. The service also helped 29 people with a learning disability, 3 people with autism, and 70 with a physical disability or long term health condition.</p> <p>It is possible there may be a small number of people who experience cumulative impact as a result of proposed cuts to</p>

	<p>this service as well as proposals to raise the eligibility threshold to adult care services, increase client contribution to non-residential care services and the introduction of a transport policy.</p> <p><u>High Risk Serious Offenders service (HRSO)</u> In the HRSO service 2 of the 13 clients in 2013/14 stated they had a learning disability and 2 had a physical disability or long term health condition.</p> <p>It is not envisaged that any clients in this service will experience cumulative impact as a result of proposed cuts to this service as well as proposals to raise the eligibility threshold to adult care services, increase client contribution to non-residential care services and the introduction of a transport policy.</p> <p><u>Leaseholders</u> Data is not available regarding leaseholders.</p>
Gender (Sex) including men and women, boys and girls	<p>In the adults services in 2013/14 348 of the new clients were men, and 177 women.</p> <p>In the Learning Disability Housing Options 48 new clients were male and 19 female.</p> <p>In the HRSO service there were 13 men and no women.</p> <p>Therefore the proposals will have a disproportionate impact on men in increased homelessness.</p>
Gender reassignment – including impact if any on Transgender people	It is not believed to impact people in this category adversely.
Marriage and civil partnership – also include impacts on lone parents and unmarried couples	It is not believed to impact people in this category adversely.
Pregnancy and maternity – including new mothers/ parents	It is not believed to impact people in this category adversely.
Race – including all racial groups, including impact if any on Gypsies and Travellers	<p>There is no reason to believe that people from different BME groups will be disproportionately affected. The services affected are accessed by people from BME communities but they are not specifically commissioned for any specific group, and the numbers who access services from BME groups reflect the Derbyshire population trends. In 2013/14 613 people accessed Phase One services (excluding leaseholders) and 583 stated they are white British (95%), and another 14 were white, other or Irish (2%). According to the 2001 Census, 2.8% of residents in Derbyshire describe themselves as coming from a black or ethnic minority background.</p>

	The likely impact on the 3% who would not have access to the services are likely to experience homelessness and not be adequately supported to sustain their tenancies.
Religion and belief including non-belief, including religious minority communities, Humanists	There is no reason to believe that people from different faith groups will be disproportionately affected. 75% of new clients into Phase One (excluding leaseholders) services in 2013 either stated they had no religion, or did not disclose.
Sexual orientation – including the impact if any on (LGBT)people	There is no reason to believe that people who are LGBT will be disproportionately affected.

Non-statutory

Poorer and disadvantaged communities and groups, including people who experience financial exclusion	These proposals are likely to directly impact on a number of homeless people or could potentially lead to repeat homelessness if service users are not adequately supported to sustain their tenancies.
Rural communities	The situation for those in rural areas may deteriorate because whereas the services funded by DCC are encouraged to disperse provision wherever possible, we will not know if alternatives are so well spread. The proposals could compound rural isolation.

Feedback from the EIA Focus Groups

In total 3 EIA focus groups were run by the Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Team. One was attended by a mixed range of stakeholders, another attended by representatives from the BME community forum and a small group of clients with mental ill health.

- 1. There may be a cumulative impact of the proposed changes to HRS services, proposed changes to adult care eligibility, co-funding and transport as well as the impact of the welfare reforms on already vulnerable clients.**

‘Lots of people we work with are drug users etc and it has to be asked if this is colouring some of the proposals as these people are often seen as less worthy. Added to the introduction of universal credits and a lot of people are going to fall through the net, it will lead on to people being forced into even more vulnerability and vulnerable situation’s for example homelessness, crime and becoming a target for dangerous practices such as loan sharks.’ *(Provider)*

- 2. Also highlighted was the negative impact that these proposals would have on those people who do not have any other informal/formal support mechanisms. Many participants raised the point that without low level HRS then many people would be put at risk and put others safety at risk too.**

'If housing related support goes clients are in a grey area, there will be an impact on people who have no one else to turn to e.g. isolation, suicide, or could end up in prison. *(EIA Focus group)*

'Crisis events will increase but may go undetected as people are outside the system.' *(EIA Focus group)*

'If floating support is lost then so will be the protection plan and safeguarding will be missed Added to the changes in benefits and the bedroom tax plus people are already having to deal with changes from DLA to PIP the pressure is tremendous people are already on the bread line and community care is diminishing.' *(Mental Health Forum)*

'If this proposal goes ahead it will have a knock on effect for children and families and will lead to child protection issues through stress.' *(Mental ill Health Focus group)*

'The impact will also affect carers who will be expected to pick up the pieces and will add pressure on them and care services. *(Mental ill Health Focus group)*

Without the support for accommodation for mental health ex-offenders there will be nowhere for people to live. Other housing providers will assess these as too high a risk and these people will just end up back in prison. *(Mental ill Health Focus group)*

'Offenders need support too, HRS service to be cut is not good, particularly when you consider proportionally how many people from BME groups are arrested / at risk of offending/ offend.' *(BME EIA Forum)*

3. Comments were made about the impact to the voluntary sector if services were decommissioned.

'The NHS & County Council are placing a huge reliance on the voluntary sector to pick up the work. Funding to the voluntary sector is also being cut. Also reliance on Signposting being a silver bullet but can't happen if funding to services is cut.' *(EIA Focus group)*

4. All the focus groups commented on the impact to vulnerable people.

'Housing support helps people to rebuild their lives and they may go back into crisis as there doesn't seem to be an alternative for specialist services.'.....'All of these proposals impact on the most vulnerable'..... 'So many other things are also being aimed at the vulnerable at this time' *(EIA Focus group).*

Impact on employees of Derbyshire County Council or prospective employees

DAST employees will work with partners and manage the decommissioning process and implement exit strategies for the service if agreed. No negative effects on employees of DCC are anticipated at this stage.

- b. From existing customer and other feedback – who is likely to be adversely affected, how and to what degree? Will anyone gain or benefit?

Protected Group	Findings
Age	<p>“As there will continue to be housing related support for under 25s this is discriminatory to people over the age of 25 years who are no less vulnerable, and in some cases are more vulnerable due to a longer period of entrenched behaviour” – provider statement</p> <p>“People are no less vulnerable due to age” – Critical friend</p>
Disability	<p>“The Adults HRS services work with a disproportionate amount of people with a disability including mental ill health, addictions and long term sickness due to the impact of substance misuse” – provider statement</p> <p>“People with learning disabilities may find it increasingly more difficult to access secure accommodation and this may result in increased homelessness presentations at district/borough authorities” – district council statement</p>
Gender (Sex)	<p>“According to the data from Derbyshire Directions males are disproportionately affected by homelessness, particularly within accommodation services” – provider statement</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>“With this protected characteristic people may find themselves having to cope with combined stress brought about by the lack of support. People can easily fall off the radar”. Louise Swain</p>
Marriage and civil partnership	No specific comments received
Pregnancy and maternity	No specific comments received
Race	<p>‘Offenders need support too, HRS service to be cut is not good, particularly when you consider proportionally how many people from BME groups are arrested / at risk of offending/ offend.’ (BME EIA Forum)</p>
Religion and belief including non-belief	No specific comments received
Sexual orientation	No specific comments received

Non-statutory

Poorer and disadvantaged communities	<p>“Service users are more likely to be people who live within the poorer and disadvantaged communities of Derbyshire. Removal of all housing related support for over 25s will have a significant detrimental impact upon these communities” - provider statement</p>
Rural	No specific comments received

Employees or prospective employees

Reducing the support could lead to providers having to reduce staff workloads or make employees redundant.

c. Are there any **other** groups of people who may experience an adverse impact because of the proposals?

1. People with drug problems – rehabilitation would be less successful as community based housing related support would not be available; the majority of substance users participate in community detoxification or reduction schemes, increase in anti-social behaviour and offending.
2. Alcohol misuse - rehabilitation would be less successful as community based housing related support would not be available, impact on health issues through continued drinking, greater potential for getting / increasing criminal record due to alcohol related crime, increased family break up and homelessness as cannot live in a mainstream tenancy unsupported
3. Offenders/Ex-offenders – including a public protection issue in terms of increased re-offending as a result of services ending, therefore crime could increase; also there would be a reduction in opportunity for offenders to rehabilitate in the community, they will be more likely to return to offending networks
4. Homeless people – increased homelessness and rough sleeping causing additional negative health impacts due to physical health needs not being met and greater risk of abusing drugs or alcohol, as well as domestic abuse due to violent family members having no access to alternative accommodation
5. Carers and family members – additional caring responsibilities and carer stress/anxiety.

The main reason for accessing adults Phase One services can be shown by the reasons for new referrals into services in 2013/14. Reasons for referral included:

- Drug problems
- Alcohol
- Mental Health
- Complex needs
- Offenders

d. Gaps in data

What are your main gaps in information and understanding of the impact of your policy and services? Please indicate whether you have identified ways of filling these gaps.

Gaps in data	Action to deal with this
Client specific data is not collected for the adults, LD Housing Options or HRSO services.	Quarterly workbook returns inform DCC of the total numbers of clients accessing and leaving services with aggregated information but this does not give client specific data.

6. From the consultation you have carried out specifically in relation to proposed changes, what views or issues have been raised by those who have responded?
(Include both their views and any issues they have raised which alludes to the likely impact)

a) Please summarise the consultation which has been carried out

400 information packs were sent out at the start of the process to individuals who currently receive HRS. Local statutory organisations and voluntary sector groups and 70 HRS providers were also sent the leaflets and were invited to comment.

Adult Care recognises that the complexity of the proposals might result in some clients needing assistance in either understanding the proposals or formulating a response. A helpline was set up staffed by Call Derbyshire to deal with queries with members of the Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Team available to handle the more complex questions. In some instances a member of the Engagement and Consultation Team visited clients to help them construct a reply.

In addition to existing clients the consultation was made available to those who may have a legitimate expectation of accessing Adult Care services. The consultation was therefore publicised widely through local media and all the documentation was made available on the Council website.

During the course of the consultation, 48 meetings were attended by the Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Team as a further means of gathering feedback. Some of these meetings were for clients and carers, others were attended by members of the public. In addition 2 meetings for clients and carers were held where the only proposals considered were the HRS proposals.

A full summary of the consultation process is set out in the report on consultation which is provided as an appendix to the Cabinet report.

b) Please summarise the feedback received. This should make clear where those who have responded have highlighted any potential adverse impact as well as their opinions on the proposals.

Appendix 1 provides a full summary of the consultation feedback.

Quotes from one of the meetings held:

Derbyshire Directions, Ilkeston – Consultation meeting 4th April 2014

Attendees: 6 Staff, 1 Family Carers, 10 Client

HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT

- 'If I don't get help from HRS I would be in prison – and so I would cost the state more – it costs more to keep me in prison'
- 'My friend goes pinching – it makes them feel safer, his family has given up on them, no-one will help'
- 'I would have topped myself if I hadn't been for NACRO (HRS) – they helped me to go

back to college, to learn how to read and write, to develop a positive approach, build my confidence'

- 'I self-harmed – without P3 I would still be doing it'
- 'I was harassed by my neighbours, caused me to cry for help in form of doing a crime, of which I went to prison but Nottingham Community Housing helped me to move home, and I'm getting my life back together'
- 'Since being with P3 it's the longest time that I've been out of prison – I'm 56 and I've been out of prison for 1.5 years – they fill me with confidence, they don't look down on you, they get the ball running, they route out problems, if they don't think you are strong enough they help, without them I'd be homeless.'
- When clients asked where they would be without HRS, 4 said they'd be dead or homeless, 2 would be dead or in prison.
- 'They build your strength up. Riverside helped me to get ready to go out, before I was homeless and suicidal.'
- 'They aren't pushovers – they make you take responsibility'
- 'Karen has been my rock and rainbow – my pot of gold, she's helped me to find purpose, sort out the way I take my tablets, helped me to find a photography course, Karen treated me like a normal person, given me confidence. The service is worth fighting for'
- 'If HRS goes then crime, homelessness and suicides will increase' It will cost more
- 'We do want to get jobs but with a criminal record it isn't easy, P3 help you set up your benefits and food banks.'
- 'Some people are scared to go out and leave their home so having floating support allows people to be supported to get out'
- 'The service is in demand – we have waiting lists, referrals keep going up – where will people go if we aren't there?' We should be given more money!
- 'I think the LA debts should be written off in the same way that banks were, bail out social services, we need to write petitions we need to lobby our MP's.
- 'I have a problem with trusting the wrong people – P3 have helped me to understand who I should be trusting and who I shouldn't.
- 'Without support the consequence are dire – it is as serious as death, prison serious mih'
- 'The floating support means staff go into their homes – that way we find out hidden issues, uncovers severe mih particularly when GP hasn't picked it up.
- Clearly HRS is a preventative service, wellbeing service i.e. knitting groups
- 'If I hadn't had the support from HRS I wouldn't have had the confidence to speak out today – when benefits are being stopped and we are deemed fit for work it's a real struggle to do what we are expected to do.'
- 'Where am I going to go, what am I going to do, if I don't have any support, all I need to do is text her with my problems.
- 'Without HRS I would be put at risk, I have epilepsy, I used to live with my mum but she has problems too. I was trying to run away – Karen understood and helped me to move away from my mum and helped me to build, put my life back together. She has taught me right from wrong as this is not my native country – I behaved differently which sometimes got me in to trouble, Southcroft have helped too.
- 'Karen made me feel like a real person – the support workers become like family and friends – they are that good!' 'Nothing is too big a trouble.'

7. Are there any ways of avoiding or reducing likely possible adverse impact on any groups of people, what are those actions, and how will they assist?

The Council has a large scale investment in preventative services funded by Adult Care and Public Health. The Council has made additional investment comprising of recurring £450K from the business rates and £512K non-recurring from Public Health funding allocated to the services affected by the proposed changes to the phase one plan for 2014/15 as set out below. The council is also involved in lengthy discussion with providers and other funding agencies to seeking further funding where possible. This additional investment delayed the proposed cuts to Adults and HRSO services until 31 March 2015 and the implementation of exit plans.

Housing Options Service for people with a learning disability. The proposal is to not re-procure this service at an annual cost of £35,000, supporting a maximum of 91 people. This service is currently delivered by Nottingham Community Housing Association who do not wish to continue to deliver this service beyond its contract end date of 31st May 2014. We will mitigate the impact of not continuing to fund this scheme by ensuring that people with a learning disability wishing to access group living are supported by Adult Care and potentially supported by a local housing provider to access housing options and suitable accommodation. All potential clients with this housing need will be assisted by these alternative arrangements. This will be co-ordinated through the Supported Living Forums in the North and South of the County led by Adult Care. The District and Borough Councils also provide housing advice and will be invited to the forums. The Council will seek to formalise an agreement with these councils setting out our respective roles in this process.

Adults (over 25) Accommodation and Floating Support Services delivered by Derbyshire Directions consortium and Action Housing and Support Ltd. The proposal is to decommission/ not re-contract this service at an annual cost of £1,775,000, currently supporting a maximum of 530 people. We have worked with existing service providers to put in place mitigating strategies including proposals which will result in continued delivery into 2016. The mitigation plans developed with our providers are:

- a) Derbyshire Directions consortium of providers (led by Nottingham Community Housing Association, with Amber Trust, YMCA, NACRO, P3 and Riverside) propose to reduce the client numbers receiving a service from July 2014 to achieve a 29% reduction in unit numbers from 258 to 183. They will retain a mix of accommodation and floating support provision. With the additional short term investment and the in-year efficiencies this will mean that this service will continue up until to 30th Sept 2015
- b) Action Housing and Support Ltd propose to start reducing the client numbers from July 2014 to achieve a 39% reduction in unit numbers from 272 to 105, which will primarily be floating support service. With the additional short term investment and in-year efficiencies this will mean that this service would continue up until to 31st March 2016. If funding is not secured when these services end, DCC and partner agencies will develop and implement an alternative plan.

These limited mitigations proposals delay the end date for the services but offer no long-term solutions to those vulnerable people affected..

Leaseholder Scheme. The proposal is to not continue the annual individual payments at a total cost of £5,545 supporting 21 people with their leaseholders charges from 1 January

2015. Our mitigation plan includes sign posting Leaseholders to appropriate services such as Adult Care's Universal Offer and the Department for Work and Pensions.

These limited mitigations proposals offer no long-term solutions to those affected..

High Risk Offenders Accommodation based Service. Derbyshire County Council (the Council) will continue to invest a quarter of the total funding (of £109,424) with the remaining sum to be secured from partner agencies comprising of District and Borough Councils, Probation and the Police Crime Commissioner, to fund the service from 2015/16 onwards. Action Housing and Support Ltd deliver this service, currently supporting 15 high risk offenders. This scheme also delivers a shared strategic objective of Derbyshire's Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) to "support the safest achievable offender housing resettlement into communities". The Strategic Management Board (SMB) of MAPPA acts on behalf of the statutory agencies including Police, Probation, Prison and local authorities which have a responsibility for managing High Risk Offenders in the community. The High Risk Offenders Accommodation based Service is commissioned by the HRS programmes in both the County and Derby City to deliver on the stated strategic objective. It is a service operating across city and county providing supervised accommodation and managing offenders in the community.

The limited mitigation plan is that after 1st April 2015, the Council will continue to invest a quarter (£27,356) of the total funding and the Council will seek to establish a multi-agency funding partnership comprising of District and Borough Councils, NOMS and the Police and Crime Commissioner to fund the remainder.

8. Main conclusions and Recommendations

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analysis the following is believed to be of importance and should be noted by decision-makers if these services are to be de-commissioned:

- Increased drugs and alcohol misuse and harm so Public Health outcomes impacted negatively (including alcohol and drug related hospital admissions)
- Increased Anti-Social Behaviour reported (ASB) to the Police and Housing Providers therefore increased loss of tenancies and victims of ASB, increased homelessness therefore there would be impact on District and Borough Councils and an increase in offending behaviour.
- Increased presentation of homelessness as evictions are not prevented and tenancies not sustained will impact on District and Borough Councils statutory duty
- Increase in rough sleeping
- Homeless clients (not only rough sleepers but people with no tenancy of their own) struggle to access statutory services such as mental health services therefore leading to chaotic lifestyles
- The FACS eligibility change will mean people with lower needs are unable to access statutory Adult Care provision and they will also lose their HRS;

impacting on health, wellbeing and homelessness

- Many providers report an increase in clients with more complex or multiple needs, particularly alcohol or drug use, mental health problems and involvement in the criminal justice system. Without HRS or ability to access statutory provision these needs will continue or escalate and hit crisis
- Impact of welfare reform has caused an increase in debts, rent arrears, benefit sanctions and crime. Unsupported these clients are at increased risk of homelessness
- Increased hospital admissions and presentations to primary care
- Probation will have no designated housing to move HRSO on to from their registered premises in Derby City
- Likely to result in an increased rate of re-offending
- Likely increase in number of victims.
- Increased presentation of homelessness as evictions are not prevented and tenancies not sustained

RECOMMENDATIONS (if any)

It is recommended to:

- Note the adverse effect on vulnerable people aged 25+ who need housing related support
- Note the adverse effect on high risk offenders and victims if funding cannot be secured for the full contract cost of this service
- Partnership working with statutory stakeholders is critical to minimise the impacts; DCC could approach District and Borough Councils to work collaboratively to support vulnerable people and offer joined up working between Social Work teams and Homelessness / Housing professionals to better support service users (attendance at team meetings, surgeries for staff and protocols to support individuals with housing matters)
- Robust exit strategies to be developed which cover activity across statutory and voluntary agencies to provide a local offer of support, including listing services which will exist to support individuals when HRS services end (e.g. CAB, Housing Options etc.)

9. Action planning in response to the completed analysis

Objective	Planned action	Who	When	How will this be monitored?
Understand the impact of housing related support reductions in phase 1	Monitor data detailed in this action plan and present agenda item at the Commissioning Group for Accommodation and Support (CGAS) and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Board	Ram Paul	Quarterly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commissioning Group for Accommodation and Support (CGAS) members – Derbyshire County Council, 8 District and Borough Council's, Clinical Commissioning Group Representative, Probation, Provider Representative 2. Strategic Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Board
Monitor impact of housing related support adults 25+ accommodation and floating support service reductions	Monitor the outcomes of the annual rough sleeper count and homelessness statistics	8 District and Borough Councils collect this data	Annual	Reports and analysis to CGAS with appropriate action taken by partner agencies
Monitor impact of housing related support adults 25+ accommodation and floating support service_reductions	Monitor drug and alcohol related hospital admissions and rehab demand	Derbyshire Substance Misuse Strategic Commissioning Group (DSMSCG) receive reports on this data, Adult Care to link with this Group	Bi annual	Reports to CGAS from the DSMSCG

Monitor impact of housing related support adults 25+ accommodation and floating support service reductions	Mental health hospital admissions and self harm statistics will be monitored and trends identified.	Hardwick Clinical Commissioning Group and Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (DHFT)	Annual	Reports to Mental Health Joint Commissioning Group and CGAS
Monitor impact of change to delivery of housing options support for people with a learning disability to access group supported living	<p>Monitor waiting list and voids for supported living</p> <p>Establish an agreement to facilitate partnership working with statutory stakeholders; for example DCC could approach District and Borough Councils to work collaboratively to support vulnerable people and offer joined up working between Social Work teams and Homelessness / Housing professionals to better support service users (attendance at team meetings, surgeries for staff and protocols to support individuals with housing matters)</p>	DAST Team and District/ Borough Council representatives	June 2014	CGAS
Monitor impact of proposal to establish multi agency funding partnership to continue the high risk serious offenders service beyond 31 st March 2015	Should the joint funding request be refused by partners, monitoring will be established to understand the impact of the service being removed.	Probation Service Police DAST	By December 2014	CGAS and MAPPA Board

Ensure leaseholders are signposted to appropriate services	Write to affected 21 individual leaseholders to inform them that DCC will no longer continue to fund the service, and signpost them to appropriate agencies for advice and assistance with relevant costs.	DAST	November 2014	CGAS
Adult Care to work jointly to identify people with mental ill health who will be affected by the HRS budget cuts, assess risk and put in place risk mitigation measures.	Identify those clients known to DHCFT and/or to Adult Care and the HRS providers.	DHFT DAST	By December 2014	Report to DHCFT Board

10. Monitoring and review arrangements

Please outline what steps will be taken to monitor and review the implementation of proposals if they are agreed here:

The implementation of the Cabinet recommendations will be monitored through the Adult Care Portfolio Board.

11. Conformation that equality impact analysis (EAI) completed and read

Name of officer signing off EIA as completed: Ram Paul

Date: 29.05.14

This Equality Impact Analysis has been read by

Name	Date	Position
Adult Care Directorate	21.05.14	

Where and when published e.g. with Cabinet Report, on DCC website

The report will be published with the Cabinet report on the DCC website.

Decision-making processes

Attached to report (title):

Date of report:

Author of report:

Audience for report e.g. Cabinet:

Web location of report:

Decision in relation to report

Details of follow-up action or links to further EIAs

EIA for FACS etc

Updated by:

Date: