

DECISION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	23 FEBRUARY 2016	5

PROPOSED CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (LCC) PROPOSAL TO CEASE SUPPORTING PEOPLE FUNDING OF NON STATUTORY SERVICES

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

A report was considered by committee, on the 5th January 2015 detailing the proposals announced on the 5th November 2015 by Lancashire County Council (LCC), to cease the non-statutory element of the Supporting People Funding from the 1st April 2015 as part of measures to deliver further savings of £65m over the next 2 years.

The Committee expressed concerns in the strongest possible terms regarding the removal of the proposed funding. Fylde BC held an event on the 22nd January that brought together Service Providers, Fylde BC Housing Benefit and Homelessness and Housing Advice teams and Supported People Team at Lancashire County Council to consider the implications on services within Fylde and direct impact on service providers.

This report contains the consultation response based on feedback from the event.

The response is to inform the consultation process regarding implementation of the decision to cease Supporting People funding for non-statutory services, running from 1st January to the 31st March 2016.

Part 1 considers the wider implications on service provision for vulnerable adults within Fylde and transitional arrangements prior to the funding being withdrawn completely in March 2017 and alternative options available to provide the service and support required.

Part 2 gives information on the direct impact on service providers as a result of the funding being withdrawn for non-statutory services.

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee is requested to:

1. Approve the consultation response contained in Appendix 2 on the decision to cease Supported People funding on non-statutory services within Fylde on behalf of Fylde BC and Service Providers in Fylde.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES			
To Promote the Enhancement of The Natural & Built Environment (Place)		To Encourage Cohesive Communities (People)	√
To Promote a Thriving Economy (Prosperity)		To Meet Expectations of our Customers (Performance)	√

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Environment, Health and Housing Committee on 5TH January 2016 expressed concerns in the strongest possible terms regarding the removal of the proposed funding.

After a debate it was RESOLVED

1. Note the contents of the report and proposals to cease Supported People funding for non-statutory services
2. Note the consultation process to implement the cessation of funding for support services across Lancashire
3. That the Committee recommends the Housing Team facilitate a consultation process to inform a formal response to the consultation, with;
 - LCC Supported People Programme
 - Service Providers
 - Landlords
 - Fylde BC Housing Benefits
4. That a holding response be sent to Lancashire County Council to inform them of the intent to respond formally following a consultation with stakeholders and providers; and
5. That the draft formal response on behalf of Fylde BC is brought to Environment, Health and Housing Committee on the 23rd February 2016 for approval

REPORT

1 Background

1.1 Supported People Funding

The Supporting People programme was introduced by central government in April 2003 to promote and improve the quality of housing support services. It provides housing related support to help vulnerable groups to live as independently as possible in the community whether in their own homes or in hostels, sheltered housing or other specialised supported housing.

The programme was designed to help;

- older people
- people with learning difficulties
- people with mental health problems
- people with physical disabilities
- women fleeing domestic violence
- homeless people
- people struggling to meet their tenancy conditions
- people leaving institutional care
- young care leavers

Housing support services can be provided by a landlord, for example a housing association, a voluntary organisation which manages accommodation, for example a young person's Foyer and, agencies that provide support in the home.

1.2 Budget proposals at Lancashire County Council (LCC)

Over the past 5 years LCC has had to manage resources effectively and make financial savings, as a result of reduced amounts of Central Government funding and to account for significant cost pressures, brought about by high demand for many of their services.

On the 16th November 2015 the LCC published proposals to deliver further savings of £65m over the next 2 years and on the 11th February 2016 LCC full Council made its decision to approve budget proposals to deliver further savings.

The consultation process regarding implementation of the decision to cease Supporting People funding for non-statutory services will run from 1st January to the 31st March 2016.

During this time LCC Supporting People Team will work with providers and other stakeholders to explore the options and implications of the cuts, consult on how LCC can implement these and then feed this back into planning with partners, providers etc.

1.3 The Proposals to cease non-statutory element of Supporting People funding

- Cease the non-statutory element of the Supporting People service from 1st April 2016
- Revenue funding to be provided to support homeless 16 and 17 year olds (current proposal approx. half of current SP funding for young people's services)
- Use £10.15m reserves in 16/17 to fund the 12 month 'transition period' to enable appropriate cessation of Supporting People contracts/arrangements
- Apply waivers, as appropriate, to Supporting People contracts during the transition period
- Where contracts are in place until March 2017 or beyond, contracts will cease on 31st March 2017
- Appropriate notice will be given for services/contracts which expire on a date after March 2017 to bring them to an end on 31st March 2017
- Contracts for services which have been tendered and cease in January and February 2017 will be brought to an end on expiry date (will not be extended to 31st March 2017)
- Provision of 16 and 17 year olds will need to be reconfigured within the available resources by April 2017

2.1 Definition of Statutory and non-statutory services

- Statutory is defined as duty of the County Council and not the Districts
- LCC have no statutory duty to provide supported accommodation
- There is a statutory duty to meet the accommodation needs of 16 and 17 year olds who are homeless.

3 The Consultation Process

3.1 Holding response sent 13th January 2016

Appendix 1 contains the holding response sent to Lancashire County Council as part of the consultation process on the proposed savings discussed at full Council on the 11th February 2015. This response highlighted concerns Fylde BC had regarding the removal of the proposed funding and that an event would be held to pull a submission to be sent from Fylde BC on the impact of ending SP funding on essential support services in Fylde and options for the future.

Initial responses from Providers express concern that the withdrawal of the SP funding will have a major impact on the most vulnerable groups who require a safe and secure place to live and support to gain the skills to live independently; the elderly, young people and people suffering with mental illness. The funding pays for support staff that provide the services and the impact of the cuts will be a loss of staff roles and the services and accommodation available will not be able to continue as is currently modelled. The withdrawal of the SP funding from non-statutory services will have a direct impact on the homelessness and housing advice services delivered by Local Authorities.

3.2 Impact on ceasing Supported People funding for non-statutory services in Fylde

On Friday 22nd January Fylde BC facilitated an event with Service Providers in receipt of Supported People funding in Fylde, Fylde BC Housing Benefit and Homelessness and Housing Advice Teams and Supported People Team.

Appendix 2 contains the proposed consultation response to be sent from Fylde BC regarding the decision to cease Supporting People funding for non-statutory services that runs from 1st January to the 31st March 2016. The response is split into two parts. Part 1 looks at the direct wider impact of the withdrawal of funding and support LCC are putting in place to minimise the impact on local authorities. Appendix 2 contains responses received from Providers in receipt of Supporting People funding.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any future financial implications will be the subject of further reports to Members.
Legal	None
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	TEL	DATE	DOC ID
Kirstine Riding	01253658569	08/02/2016	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Environment, Health & Housing Agenda & Minutes	5 Jan 2016	Council Website

Appendix 1

13th February 2016, Submission to budget proposals announced on the 5th November 2015

A report was taken to Environmental Health and Housing Committee, Fylde BC on the 5th January 2015 that detailed the proposals announced on the 5th November 2015 by Lancashire County Council, to cease the non-statutory element of the Supporting People Funding from the 1st April 2015, and the consultation process on the proposals. The Committee expressed concerns in the strongest possible terms regarding the removal of the proposed funding and after a debate it was resolved that Fylde BC would facilitate an event with Fylde BC, Providers and Landlords to pull a response together, to inform a submission to be sent from Fylde BC on the impact of ending SP funding on essential support services in Fylde and options for the future. Full details of the report and minutes are available on our website.

<https://fylde.cmis.uk.com/fylde/MeetingsCalendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/107/Committee/19/Default.aspx>

Initial responses from Providers express concern that the withdrawal of the SP funding will have a major impact on the most vulnerable groups who require a safe and secure place to live⁴ and support to gain the skills to live independently; the elderly, young people and people suffering with mental illness.

The Supported People funding was introduced in April 2003, therefore within Fylde and wider Lancashire, these services have been available for vulnerable people for a number of years and organisations established to provide the services. The funding pays for support staff that provide the services and the impact of the cuts will be a loss of staff roles and the services and accommodation available will not be able to continue as is currently modelled.

The withdrawal of the SP funding from non-statutory services will have a direct impact on the homelessness and housing advice services delivered by Local Authorities.

Examples of support services for vulnerable groups that are at risk include:

- YMCA, Richmond Fellowship, progress Housing and Fylde Coast Women's Aid provide accommodation based services to vulnerable groups.
- The YMCA support young people at risk and in 14/15 they supported 34 young people, of which 17 were 16/17 year old and in 15/16 they have supported 22 young people.
- Richmond Fellowship supports people with mental health problems, in 15/16 they have supported 22 young people.
- Calico and DISC provide 'floating' housing support. Vulnerable people are referred into the Calico support service by a wide range of agencies including Fylde BC. From Fylde BC prospective these are people who are accessing homelessness and housing advice support. The floating support helps them to set up their tenancies with more likelihood of the tenancies being sustainable in the longer term. The North Contract employs 12 member of staff, 3 of which are based in Fylde and customers receiving support fall into several client groups with the highest proportion being homeless families with support needs (19) and mental health needs (22).

Appendix 2

Submission to Supported People Team, Lancashire County Council on the implementation of the decision to cease Supported People funding for non-statutory services

Supported People Programme April 2003 to March 2016

The Supporting People programme was introduced by central government in April 2003 to promote and improve the quality of housing support services. It provides housing related support to help vulnerable groups to live as independently as possible in the community whether in their own homes or in hostels, sheltered housing or other specialised supported housing.

The programme was designed to help;

- older people
- people with learning difficulties
- people with mental health problems
- people with physical disabilities
- women fleeing domestic violence
- homeless people
- people struggling to meet their tenancy conditions
- people leaving institutional care
- young care leavers

Within Fylde and wider Lancashire there are a range of organisations that provide Supported People funded projects to help vulnerable groups. These services have been available for a number of years and organisations have developed their services under the Supporting People banner. The funding pays for support staff that provide the services. Within Fylde there are:

- Three accommodation based projects that help young people at risk, women at risk of domestic violence and people with mental health problems
- One Supported Lodging service that supports young people at risk
- Two floating support projects that assist vulnerable individuals and ex-offenders to settle into new tenancies
- One sheltered housing provider and a community alarm service for older people with support needs.

Table 1 Supported People funded projects in Fylde

Organisation Name	District Name	Client type	Service Type	Annual Contract Value with LCC (From Written Contract)	Landlord of Property within Service
Fylde Coast YMCA	Fylde	Young People at Risk	Accommodation Based Service	£111,451.00	Harbour House - Places for People
Fylde Coast Women's Aid	Fylde & Wyre	Women at Risk of Domestic Violence	Accommodation Based Service	£89,835.00	Fylde & Wyre Refuges - Soroptomist
Your Housing Group	Burnley, Fylde, Hyndburn, Pendle, Preston, Ribble Valley, Rossendale, South Ribble, West Lancashire	Older People with Support Needs	Sheltered Housing	£130,154.28	
Progress Housing Group	Fylde	Older People with Support Needs	Sheltered Housing	£92,647.98	
Places for People Homes - North Lancs & Cumbria	Fylde, Lancaster, Preston, South Ribble, Wyre	Older People with Support Needs	Community Alarms	£15,408.21	
Barnardos	North	Young People at Risk	Supported Lodgings	£89,462.00	
Richmond Fellowship	Fylde	People with Mental Health Problems	Accommodation Based Service	£150,673.00	
Calico Enterprise Ltd	County Wide	Generic	Floating Support	£1,300,000.00	
DISC	County Wide	Offenders	Floating Support	£219,166.00	

On the 22nd January 2016 Fylde BC held an event that brought together Service Providers, Fylde BC Housing Benefit and Homelessness and Housing Advice teams and Supported People Team at Lancashire County Council.

Part 1 considers the wider implications on service provision for vulnerable adults within Fylde and transitional arrangements prior to the funding being withdrawn completely in March 2017 and alternative options available to provide the service and support required.

Part 2 gives information on the direct impact on service providers as a result of the funding being withdrawn for non-statutory services.

PART 1: IMPLICATIONS ON SERVICES

The following issues were raised at the event regarding the direct wider impact on the withdrawal of Supported People funding on support services available in Fylde.

ACTION LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1. Fylde BC would request LCC note and consider the implications listed below and advise on measures they are putting into place to assist local authorities to minimise the impact of these risks within their Authorities.***

1.4 Housing Benefit unable to fund service charges

Housing Benefit will not be able to fund any element of the service. Housing Benefits are audited annually and any variances in Housing Benefit costs for service charges previously covered by Supported People will be subject to scrutiny.

1.5 Increase in homelessness within Fylde

We are likely to see more vulnerable clients in housing crisis and facing homelessness as the withdrawal of support for tenancies will impact on them being unable to sustain tenancies in the longer term. This could within Fylde lead to a greater loss of private sector tenancies for individuals who are unlikely to be offered social rented housing stock and unable purchase their own accommodation.

The first place households will turn to for advice and assistance will be the local authority. Homelessness legislation, Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996, provides the statutory under-pinning for action to tackle homelessness. The legislation places a general duty on housing authorities to ensure that advice and information about homelessness, and preventing homelessness, is available to everyone in their district free of charge. The legislation also requires authorities to assist individuals and families who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and apply for help.

1.6 More vulnerable clients in crisis

With the withdrawal of housing related support services more individuals are likely to be forced into crisis situations. Support required will be more difficult to deliver as it will need to pick up a range of issues and support will be more time consuming.

Issues the support may need cover include;

- Budgeting skills to enable households to manage their tenancies. Ensuring they are receiving the right benefits they are entitled to, managing their income to pay for their outgoings, rent, utilities and food
- Increase in anti-social behaviour as households are not supported to manage tenancies with regard to the communities they live within
- Health and wellbeing support for vulnerable individuals and could result in low level health concerns become more severe without structured support to make arrangements for earlier professional intervention.

1.7 Joint working between service providers

As services become over stretched organisations from a resource planning perspective will need to consider what they can realistically provide with the funding and paid or voluntary resources available to them. Withdrawal or reduction of any support service will have an impact on other services: Health services, Hospitals, Local Authorities, Social Services, Police, Probation and the Third Sector.

- Charities such as the CAB, mental health charities and welfare rights rely on volunteers with limited numbers of paid staff.
- Wider health implications of vulnerable individuals could lead to safe guarding concerns with increased hospitalisation and bed blocking as vulnerable individuals are unable to leave hospital care without access to either support or supported accommodation.
- Social services will see an impact on referrals and support required for young people and vulnerable adults
- Multi agency groups that work to settle vulnerable individuals within communities such as the Early Action Forum and MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Agency) rely on Agencies working together.

1.8 Accommodation based services

It will be difficult to change accommodation based services as they are set up to provide support with accommodation. Services are currently run as economically as is practically possible having regard for health and safety policies and procedures.

1.9 Purpose built single use buildings

Accommodation based service provision is provided in purpose built or re-designed buildings for the support services that accommodate vulnerable individuals. If the service is no longer to be provided the future possible uses of the buildings are limited.

1.10 Difficulties resource planning and spot purchasing

The shift from long term funding to short term annual funding will impact on resource planning. Spot purchasing of support services based on funding packages designed round an individual are unworkable as the organisational structure needs to be in place to be able to bid for the support package of an individual. A spot purchasing approach will destabilize any organisations even charitable organisations.

The external funding environment at the moment is very competitive and stretched as many organisations are bidding for the same resources with funding criteria strictly defined. Funding bids are time consuming and work can be futile.

1.11 Staff redundancies and restructuring of service

In the current climate there will need to be a restructuring of all organisations that receive Supported People funding which lead to a loss of trained and experienced staff.

1.12 Prevention and Early Help Fund

A Prevention and Early Help Fund will be set up to focus on individual support. This fund has emerged from the Care and Urgent needs service funding. The fund is intended to provide help for those most in need and will be aimed at supporting both individuals and families. Taking on board the implications raised in 2.6 regarding resource planning on spot based individual service provision and 2.7 staff redundancies and restructuring of services, the reality of having Organisations available to offer support for individuals in receipt of the Prevention and Early Help Fund is questionable.

2 Transitional arrangements March 2016 to March 2017

ACTION – LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

- 2. It is requested LCC provide formal notification to service providers in Fylde, in receipt of Supporting People funding, that transitional funding arrangements will be in place till March 2017 at rates agreed when the contracts were first tendered and offered in 2015.***
- 3. It is requested that LCC confirm the process in place to reconfigure provision for 16/17 year olds.***

After March 17 there will be no Supporting People funding for non-statutory services. Although the intention is that the funding will remain in place till March 17 there has been no formal notification that this is the case and all service providers have a six month break clause in their contract. Providers need reassurance transitional arrangements will give them some guarantee of funding till March 17 in order to plan services over the next 12 months from March 2016.

Lancashire County Council have a statutory duty to provide support for 16/17 year olds and funding, at a much reduced rate, has been confirmed. LCC have advised that provision will need to be reconfigured within the available resources and clarity is needed on the processes that will be followed to achieve this.

3 Alternative options available to provide the service and support required

Service providers considered a number of alternative options available to provide services.

3.1 Prevention and Early Help Fund

This model needs to reflect the fact that there will be no core funding available to sustain support services that the individual's fund is set up to access.

3.2 Well-being Prevention and Early Help Service Workers

There will be opportunities to explore joint working with the Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Help Service (WPEHS). The service is part of Lancashire County Council and is focussed on supporting the vulnerable, family life, promoting well-being, enabling learning and preparing for work.

3.3 Specialist on site services and sharing on call services

It may be possible to provide specialist services across organisations. Options could include group work that brings several clients together.

Options to share out of hours and weekend contact arrangements are already being explored. However weekend admittance to supported accommodation has to be managed properly.

Reducing hours and support available will affect the client group as the initial contact is vitally important for the individual's success in accessing support services.

3.4 Role of Third sector voluntary agencies

There is a need to explore support services the voluntary sector can offer, for example budgeting skills, liaison with utility companies, health and well-being support. However there will be capacity issues within the sector and it cannot be wholly relied on to replace Supported People funded services for vulnerable client groups.

PART 2: IMPACT ON SERVICE PROVIDERS

1. FYLDE COAST YMCA

Impact of withdrawal of Supporting People funding from Harbour House

Harbour House is 12 unit supported housing scheme accommodating young people between the ages of 16 and 25 and is situated on Dock Road in Lytham. The service operates 24 hours a day 7 days a week and requires waking staff on site at all times.

The service is predominantly funded through Supporting People funding and the current Supporting People contract has an annual value of £111,451 to support the work we undertake at Harbour House.

In March 2017 this contract will cease which will have a major impact for the vulnerable young people of Fylde who require a safe and secure place to live and support to gain the skills to live independently.

The bulk of the funding pays for the staff of the service and the impact of these cuts will be the loss of the staff roles below and the ability to manage the service and provide accommodation to young people.

Position	Hours for Harbour House
Senior Manager	7.5
Support Manager	20
Support Officer	50.5
Engagement Officer	15
Support Worker	59

In April 2015 following the retendering of supporting people contract and the reduction of the value of this contract by £29,344, we were able to negotiate with the Housing Benefit department who agreed to fund the provision of housing management at service, this equates to 89 hours across various posts, including 70 hours for night concierge worker.

With the loss of the SP funding the service would not be able to continue as it is currently modelled. The staffing structure and level of support could not continue.

Summary of impact over Q1 and Q2 2015-16 on clients to the service:

(Number of clients who identified a support need & % who achieved)

2015-2016 Harbour House	Q1	Q2
Participating in training	3/ 100%	5/ 100%
Achieving qualifications	3/ 100%	3/ 100%
Participating in work life, volunteering, social action	1/ 100%	1/ 25%
Move on training	3/ 100%	5/ 83.3%
Maximising income	3/ 100%	5/ 83.3%
Managed debt	2/ 66.67%	1/ 20%
Maintaining accommodation/avoiding eviction	3/ 100%	6/ 100%
Receiving move on support	3/ 100%	6/ 100%
Y active clients	3/ 100%	4/ 80%
Number of agreed support plans	3/ 100%	6/ 100%
Managing self-harm	0/ 0%	2/ 100%
Avoiding harm to others	1/ 100%	2/ 50%
Avoiding harm from others	2/ 100%	1/ 20%
Avoiding substance misuse	1/ 50%	0/ 0%
Addressing mental health issues	2/ 100%	2/ 50%
Establishing contact with friends and family.	1/ 100%	1/ 100%

Referrals and outcomes

2014/15

34 young people were referred to Harbour House for accommodation, of these **17** were aged **16/17**.

17 Young people were accommodated

2 young people were rejected

15 withdrew or no longer required the accommodation.

15 young people moved on from service of these

Returned to parental home	6
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Housing Association property	0
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Private rented property	5
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Living with family/partner/friends	2
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Supported Housing	2
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Custodial	0
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2015/2016 April to December

22 young people have been referred to Harbour House for accommodation, of these **6** were aged **16/17**.

9 young people have been accommodated

3 young people were rejected

8 withdrew or no longer required the accommodation

1 moved into the Foyer as no accommodation was available in Harbour House.

1 currently on the waiting list

2. Fylde Coast Women's Aid

Plans to remove Supporting People funding will have a devastating impact on victims of domestic abuse seeking support locally. Supporting People contracts currently fund refuge provision across the area, and as a consequence of the proposed cuts, Fylde Coast Women's Aid will lose funding for 2 refuges in Fylde and Wyre.

The need for refuge already outstrips current capacity. Women's Aid 2014 census indicated that 100 women and 84 children were turned away from the 110 services that took part. The Council of Europe minimum standard for refuge provision is one family place per 10,000 of the population (Kelly and Dubois 2008). Current provision in Fylde and Wyre is 39% below this target, with 7 places against a minimum standard of 18.

Without Supporting People funding, FCWA will struggle to keep the refuges open. The service is also under threat from the proposed withdrawal of supported housing benefit, which allows the provision of a holistic service and covers the steep maintenance costs incurred in running a refuge with a high turnover of residents. FCWA monitoring shows that just 4% of residents remain in refuge longer than 6 months and 85% stay for under 3 months.

In 2014/15, Fylde refuge accommodated 34 women and their children. 18 women and their families were housed in the Wyre refuge. At the point of leaving clients are at the highest level of risk, the risk of serious harm or murder.

It seems inevitable that the withdrawal of Supporting People funding will lead to the closure of both refuges.

Refuge provision allows victims of domestic abuse to access safe accommodation and holistic support to rebuild their lives. Denying victims of domestic abuse the option of a safe, supported route to safety is denying a basic human right.

Without refuge provision, the council needs to consider what may happen to victims of domestic abuse. Some women may choose to stay in a violent relationship resulting in further assaults and possible death: 2 women a week are killed by a former or current partner.

3. Progress Housing Group

The only supported people funded services that Progress Housing Group provide in Fylde is for sheltered housing. Across the whole of PHG, support services are already subsidised as SP doesn't cover the full costs to provide the service. PHG are currently reviewing the role of scheme managers and the independent living service as a whole, to identify how to continue to deliver this support in the future.

As a registered provider, they refer tenants to non-statutory Supported People funded services such as NCompass (previously DISC).

In the current economic climate, and following the July budget and November Comprehensive Spending Review they are increasing under pressure to deliver their services with less income (ie 1% rent cut) and new tenants on Local Housing Allowance rate. It is very unlikely they will be able to fund or pick up any additional support requirements which may or may not be the statutory requirement of the districts.

It is also worth noting that through Healthier Lancashire commissioned work, (aligning of the plans) that mental health services show the biggest area of concern across every local authority in Lancashire.

4. Calico Enterprise Ltd

The Calico Floating Support service delivers housing related support to vulnerable customers throughout the 12 districts of Lancashire. Following reductions to the Council budget the service was re-commissioned in May 2015 with a new emphasis on providing short term support delivered flexibly as opposed to the previous model of weekly face to face visits over a longer period of time.

The North contract (Lancaster, Wyre and Fylde) employs 12 members of staff, 3 of which are based in Fylde. Since May the service has received 88 referrals for customers in the area, with referrals being made by a wide range of services including the district council, children's centres and the Wellbeing service. Customers receiving support fall into several client groups with the highest proportion being homeless families with support needs (19) and mental health needs (22).

The service is actively supporting 57 customers at this current time with 12 placed in the Floating Support stream. The remaining customers are all in short term streams. Support needs commonly being identified include the need to source more affordable accommodation, re-housing due to family breakdown, multiple debts impacting on their ability to sustain a tenancy. With an emphasis on prevention the number of customers facing eviction at point of referral appears to be decreasing since September.

In terms of the impact on Calico as a provider the Lancashire Floating Support service is currently fully funded by Supporting People and is one of two services we deliver in Fylde, the other being the Complex Needs Floating Support contract funded via the Lancashire Single Homeless Initiative.

The recent meeting held at the County Council provided clarity on what the proposals mean for us and the variety of services we provide, however we are conscious that there is still a lot of work to do internally and we don't have all the answers yet. We strongly believe that there will be opportunities for us to fund some services in different ways, think outside of the box and find creative solutions to the challenges we face. As an organisation Calico has previously seen reductions made to funding and we have adapted and continued to deliver our services. Our priority as always through out this time will be to continue to deliver high quality services.

5.DISC

DISC manage an Intensive Resettlement Service for Offenders in Fylde. This is entirely funded by the Lancashire SP team and as such, as it stands, funding will end in March 2017 at the latest. They will pursue alternative funding from sources such as Lancashire Probation Trust, Lancashire and Cumbria CRC, grant funding, etc. However, if unsuccessful the service will end when the SP funding ends.

6. RICHMOND FELLOWSHIP

The supported housing scheme based in two properties in St Anne's joint funded by Clinical Commissioning Group – 65% and Supporting People – 35% and provides crucial support to adults with a severe and enduring mental illness. One property provides 24 hour supported accommodation to 5 individuals, and the other offers 12 hour supported accommodation to 6 individuals. Both services operate 7 days a week.

There is no other specialist supported housing service for people with a mental illness in the Fylde and Wyre area.

People generally stay in our service for approximately 2 years. In this time they learn to manage their mental health better, reduce admissions to hospital, develop daily living skills, and develop budgeting and financial skills. People are then supported to move onto further independence by gaining a tenancy in the local community where they can then live fully independently. Move on from supported housing can be slow at times due to a lack of suitable move on accommodation in the community.

The referrals we get come from the Complex Care Treatment Teams – The Woodlands in St Anne's and Mountcroft in Fleetwood, The Early Intervention Service, Probation service, Wyre and Fylde Councils, Nursing Homes, The Harbour Psychiatric Hospital, people can also self refer. All people applying to our service must have a severe and enduring mental illness and have a care co-ordinator from CCTT and they must also have a local connection to Fylde or Wyre.

The people we offer support to usually have chaotic lives, poor social networks, low self esteem and confidence, poor financial and budgeting skills, unable to manage their mental health, they can also have complex needs due to alcohol or drug use, at risk of abuse from others or at risk to themselves due to self neglect, some people have a history of multiple suicide attempts or suicidal ideation or self harm.

If the 35% of our funding provided by SP discontinues it will greatly compromise the type of service we currently offer. The staffing will be significantly reduced; we will have to remodel our service – potentially losing 50% of our current caseload. We may no longer be able to offer such specialist support to people experiencing such complex needs. With these cuts our service will not be able to operate as we currently do. Very vulnerable people would be left without support. People have stated time and time again that they would not be here if it was not for the expert skills, knowledge and support we have given them. People's mental health would most definitely decline and an increase in hospital admissions would be inevitable – however there aren't the hospital beds available to manage the increased decline in mental health. The CCTT struggle to adequately manage their case loads – this is also due to reduced funding to their own services which has resulted in a decline in their own staffing levels. A reduced service would have a definite impact on the individuals, their families and on the local community.