

County Councillor's report to Polegate Town Council

East Sussex County Council Service cuts update

This year saw a bigger increase in Council tax and bigger cuts to the Council's services. Council staff worked very hard under the council policies set to them, and we would like to offer our thanks to them for undertaking such difficult tasks with the level of professionalism they have displayed.

Below are some of the highlights of those £17 million cuts approved by East Sussex County Council Cabinet ('Cabinet') on 26th June.

Cabinet agreed to introduce disposal charges for rubble, soil, plasterboard, asbestos and tyres and to close the two part time Household Waste and Recycling Sites at Forest Row and Wadhurst with effect from 30 September 2018. They will also reduce opening times at Lewes and Mountfield to 9am - 4pm daily.

OLDER PEOPLE'S INTERMEDIATE CARE BEDS AND DIRECTLY PROVIDED DAY SERVICES

Cabinet agreed to the reconfiguration of all intermediate care beds and day services into Milton Grange as set out in their meeting report and to the closure of the 19 intermediate care beds at Firwood House and the 25 places Warwick House Day Service.

OLDER PEOPLE'S COMMISSIONED DAY SERVICES

Cabinet agreed to continue the model of service at the Phoenix Centre and to re-tender: to close the services delivered through the Charter Centre and Isabel Blackman Centre and re-commission this care in the Independent Sector.

STROKE RECOVERY SERVICE

Despite our efforts for the funding to be increased this year, Cabinet decided to give notice to vary the agreement, withdrawing the Adult Social Care funding but maintaining the contract with Clinical Commissioning Group funding; and to delegate to the Director of Adult Social Care and Health authority to take all necessary actions to give effect to the implementation of the above funding reductions and is no longer in a position to fund condition specific services.

It is sad that our council cannot even afford £35 per head for this very important service which impact not just the stroke sufferer, it is impact to the family, friends and carers.

CARERS' SERVICES

Cabinet agreed to the remodelling of the Carers Services to comprise of four key elements:

- **Early identification:** the priority will be to reach carers at an early stage of their caring journey as evidence indicates this helps prevent the escalation of need
- **Single Access Point:** Information, advice and signposting for all carers in one place which reflects the priority identified by carers
- **Universal Services:** focusing on lower level support through groups, peer support, enhancing wellbeing and training
- **Targeted Services:** where eligible need is identified and this will include respite care and end of life support

The impact of reducing the budget by £422,000 will be significant and is likely to result in a reduction of carer specific support services. The remodelling of services is in line with the strategic priorities of East Sussex County Council but will be delivered with less resource. The Council is no longer in a position to continue providing or commissioning the same level of Carers Services. Over time, the reduction in service provision may increase pressure on other social care services.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE ACCOMMODATION BASED HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

Cabinet agreed to use £404,000 of the additional 2018-2019 Government funding allocation of £1,616,000 to fund Accommodation Based Housing Support Services; and to commission services within the available resource ensuring that priority is given to those with the highest level of need. The use of the £404,000 will be able to provide support to a range of vulnerable adults and younger people with multiple support needs.

AFTER SCHOOL AND HOLIDAY CLUB PROVISION

East Sussex County Council's lead member for education and inclusion recently approved the closure of the authority's After School Clubs and Holiday Play Schemes in Special Schools. It was also agreed that there should be 24 months transitional funding to assist the schools in setting up replacement schemes.

East Sussex County Councillor Daniel Shing
Polegate and Watermill Division