

2013/14 Budget - Savings Proposal

Service: Adult Social Care

Proposal Number:

Description of Proposal
<p>Community-driven local area co-ordination, not officer driven.</p> <p>We believe that voluntary , community sector and faith groups are in the best place to deliver the ambitions of the Local Area Co-ordinator program, and would therefore seek to use the money to pay for the as of yet unapproved Local Area Co-ordination project to fund incentives for these groups to undertake the same duties. This should be a trial arrangement for one year, so that a full and proper assessment can be completed on the benefits of the program.</p>

Proposed Saving

Proposed Saving in 2013/14	Proposed Saving in 2013/14 FTE Staff	Proposed Saving in full year	Proposed Saving in full year FTE Staff -
Unknown	To be Evaluated		

	2013/14 £'000s	Full Year £'000s
People	N/A	
Property	N/A	
Third Party	N/A	
Infrastructure/Kit	N/A	

Base Budget 2012/13

	£'000s
Expenditure	
Employees	
Other Direct Running Costs (Premises, Transport and Supplies)	
Third Party Payments	
Transfer Payments	
Capital Financing Costs	
Support Services Costs	
Gross Expenditure	
Income	
Sales, Fees and Charges	
Grant and External Contributions	
Support Services Income	
Gross Income	
Net Expenditure	
Base Budget 2012/13 Full time Equivalent Staff	

Recent Changes to Base Budget

	£'000s
Growth approved in the 2012/13 Base Budget	n/a
Savings approved in the 2012/13 Base Budget	n/a

Impact of Proposal on public / services	The Local Area Coordination (LAC) programme, which was originally used in Australia around 25 years ago, has a proven track record of improving outcomes for individuals and families and reducing demand for Statutory services. LAC is currently being implemented in a number of Local Authorities and initial findings are positive.
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Impact of Proposal on performance	Reducing demand for our services and improving outcomes for vulnerable people are both key performance targets for Adult Social Care. Therefore it is predicted that the introduction of LAC will show significant improvements to performance. In order to evaluate success the one year pilot being implemented in 13/14 will be closely performance managed on a quarterly basis to ensure anticipated benefits are being achieved; and to inform any decision to extend and make permanent once the pilot is complete.
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Impact of Proposal on staff	Three new LAC posts are being funded on a fixed term basis from within existing resources. If the pilot is successful then a decision will be taken to extend coverage across Thurrock which will involve more recruitment. The aim of LAC is to reduce demand on crisis intervention and therefore new posts will be funded by restructuring the current staffing establishment. The year long pilot should allow for any losses in the current staffing establishment to be managed within natural wastage wherever possible.
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Practical requirements regarding implementation and timetable	We are currently recruiting to three posts to staff a year long pilot in three areas; Purfleet, Corringham and Grays Riverside. These areas have been chosen in collaboration with colleagues in the local Voluntary sector and within Community Engagement. Recruitment is being managed in close co-operation with community/faith leaders within each of the pilot areas, who have been fully engaged with and supportive of the entire process to date. We are also working with Inclusive Neighbourhoods, a national organisation with a proven track record in implementing LAC. All current best
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	<p>practice and evaluation of LAC suggests clearly that the Local Authority should drive the implementation if the programme is to have the maximum impact in reducing demand and improving outcomes. This because the coordinator whilst working in a different relationship with those in the community must also be able to successfully navigate the systems that impact upon the citizens in need of support. However, part of the one year evaluation associated with this pilot will be a consideration of whether or not the long term delivery of LAC needs to be facilitated by the Council or by communities themselves.</p> <p>Therefore to address the specific of the alternative suggestion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is difficult to see how local groups could be incentivised to undertake the same duties as a LAC's. The duties are not an add on to existing community work but a new way of building relationships that enables a solution focused approach to often complex issues to be developed between the citizen and The LAC. 2. It is not correct to say that the pilot is unapproved, as already stated we are currently recruiting to three posts to enable a one year pilot to be rolled out. 3. For reason already discussed all available evidence suggests that the LAC's must be employed by the local authority (especially in the first instance) if the required impact is to be achieved.
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Equalities Impact	<p>LAC is a community based resource that will work across a wide variety of groups regardless of any particular characteristic, to provide support to improve outcomes. Therefore any equalities impact will be beneficial. In addition recruitment to the LAC posts will be undertaken in accordance with the Councils fair recruitment process..</p>
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