



*Have your say on*

## **Changes to adult social care prevention services commissioned from the voluntary sector**

### **Why are we consulting?**

The council wants to do as much as it can to prevent people in Leicester from developing social care needs.

This means trying to help people stay independent and in good health, both physically and mentally.

For most of the time, people stay healthy and independent by helping themselves and by getting support from family, friends and the community. In addition, the council helps people by providing universal services such as leisure facilities and neighbourhood services.

However, some people have specific needs, but these needs are not high enough to meet the eligibility criteria for social care support that is set by the government. For these people the council funds social care prevention services to help them reduce, avoid or delay the development of higher levels of need.

The council buys many prevention services from the voluntary and community sector. The voluntary sector has unique strengths in that it is close to communities, often it consists of communities working for themselves. The sector can be very flexible and innovative in understanding people's needs and responding to them effectively.

We want to make more of the ability of the voluntary sector in prevention.

This consultation is about how we do that in the future.

## About the consultation

This consultation is intended to find out what people think about our proposals. No decisions have been made at this stage: it is important to us to hear what people think in order to shape the council's way forward in these areas.

The consultation is in two related parts:

- Changes to the way we commission existing prevention services (**this survey**)
- Setting up a new Prevention and Wellbeing Grant Fund (go to **consultations.leicester.gov.uk/communications/ascgrantfund**)

You are welcome to respond to one or both of the consultations.

## Surveys

You can complete either or both of the surveys:

- online at **consultations.leicester.gov.uk** or
- by filling in a paper version and sending it back to us.

If you would like to complete a paper version of either survey you can pick a copy up from a city library, council community centre or customer service centre, or contact us:

- **by email** [asconsultations@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:asconsultations@leicester.gov.uk)
- **by phone** 0116 454 2300

**Responses to the surveys must reach us by Friday 28 July 2017.**

## Meetings with current providers

Council officers will be meeting with each of the voluntary sector organisations that currently provide prevention services to discuss the proposals and get their views.

## People who use preventative services

We will ask voluntary sector organisations, including current providers, to tell people who access care or preventative services about the consultation and to support them to take part and/or to feed back views on their behalf. We are happy to attend meetings with people who use preventative services if invited.

## What happens after the consultation?

Both parts of the consultation end on Friday 28 July 2017 and we will provide feedback on the findings on the consultation webpages.

## Why change?

The council currently commissions a range of services from the voluntary sector to prevent people from needing higher levels of social care support.

However:

- we are now having to make difficult decisions about future funding arrangements because of the rising cost of providing adult social care, the fact that needs are rising, and the wider financial pressures on the council;
- the current commissioning model is dominated by procurement rules which do not always help small voluntary and community groups to tender for contracts; and
- we want to empower the voluntary sector to provide flexible, innovative and tailored solutions to support diverse needs and communities in the city.

# Proposed changes

## Current services

The council has identified that savings will have to be made. The proposals range from decommissioning some services, reducing funding for others and remodelling services or maintaining as at present.

We will still need to be prescriptive about some of the services we buy for people who are at most at risk of developing higher social care needs and becoming 'eligible' as defined in the Care Act. In addition there are statutory elements to some of the services that we propose to keep, such as some advocacy services and some services for people with sight loss.

These services will continue to be procured by the council or given a direct grant contract. In some cases new service models will be used. If agreed, the new proposals would take effect from April 2018.

## Prevention and Wellbeing Grant Fund

At the same time we will put funding into the proposed new Prevention and Wellbeing Grant Fund. This will not be funded from the savings we will make from services. It will be funded from some one-off underspends over the next few years.

Many voluntary organisations have said that if they had more freedom to identify issues and develop solutions themselves, it would be more effective than the current system. This is why we want to set up the grant fund.

This will mean that voluntary and community sector organisations can bid to provide support for people based on their own ideas and evidence about what is needed and what works, without having to base their proposals on services specified by the council.

Any voluntary sector organisation will be able to bid into the new grant fund, including those who may lose out as a result of the service changes that are proposed in this survey.

We believe that this will:

- allow the council to focus its more prescriptive service on those who are most at risk of developing social care needs; and
- give the voluntary and community sector more flexibility to meet needs differently.

The grant fund would be launched in 2017, with successful projects starting from April 2018.

## Which services are we proposing to change?

The services that are the subject of this consultation are detailed in the survey.

For each service we have set out the current situation, our proposed changes and then a question asking for your views. The proposals range from decommissioning, reducing funding and remodelling, or maintaining as at present.

You may not wish to respond to questions about all of the services. If so please just fill in your responses to the service or services you are interested in.

You can complete the survey online at [consultations.leicester.gov.uk/communications/ascpreventionservices](https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/communications/ascpreventionservices)