

Proposed changes to funding for lunch clubs –

Comments summary

Comment	Council response
The clubs help people to avoid isolation and provides a social life.	The value of the clubs is understood and appreciated by the council. The council would like to see them continue in the future albeit without adult social care funding.
They help people with health problems by providing exercise and advice and support on keeping safe and well.	
The clubs do a lot more than provide lunch – providing both activities, and access to other sources of support such as advocacy in hospital, falls prevention, diabetes support, warm homes and also running activities such as fitness.	
Changes to lunch clubs will affect ethnic minorities more because they are culturally appropriate.	However, ASC cannot afford them in the context of cuts to Government and the rising costs of providing social care support to people with eligible / high levels of need.
Changes to lunch clubs will affect ethnic minorities more because they are culturally appropriate.	This is recognised and has been identified in the Equality Impact Assessment. However, there are also ethnic groups who are not catered for in the lunch clubs, so the status quo also represents an unfair pattern of provision.
The value of lunch clubs is reinvested in the community – because they are not businesses.	The council appreciates this point – which is about the wider value of the VCS. Ideally, the council would like to invest more in the VCS, but in the current financial climate this is very difficult, compared with the need to keep essential services going.
The wider issues that groups are facing – for example other cuts to the VCS – should be taken into account.	
Providers recognised the financial constraints facing the council and support for the proposal to phase out funding rather than remove it all at once	The council appreciates that this is recognised and that the proposed to taper funding will be helpful to the clubs and will help to develop sustainability plans.
Funding cuts are short-sighted as people will need formal care and support earlier if they are not accessing lunch clubs	The council recognises this risk, however there is a reducing amount of funding available for prevention services and these are having to be focussed on those most at risk. There are also other community-based facilities that do not receive council funding, which individuals could attend.
Clubs would need support to become	This point is understood, and it is

self-sufficient, and for some this will be difficult as they have limited capacity. Some felt that VAL does not necessarily provide the support that groups need.

intended to offer support to clubs to find alternative funding and/or remodel their activities to reduce costs.