

Proposed changes to visual and dual-sensory support consultation –

Comments summary

Comment	Council response
The service helps avoid isolation and enables individuals to live a healthy life, and promotes independence.	The council agrees that this is one of the benefits of the service, and this benefit will continue under the new contract.
The proposal to replace 1-1 support for group work caused some concern for some service users who felt they would lose a personalised service.	The council has noted this point, however replacing some 1-1 support with group work is seen as one way of continuing to deliver appropriate support whilst using resources in a more efficient way.
Some feel the cuts to the service are too severe and will have an impact on the deafblind community.	It is now recommended that as a result of the consultation the model will now include this service [specialist reablement for deafblind people].
Reducing the spend on the service will have an impact on waiting lists and referral times.	The proposed new model and funding levels have been calculated using demand information.
Users suggest continuing to fund Vista as they are the only Visual and Dual Sensory Impairment service specialist in Leicester.	The council has to open the service up to competitive procurement because of legal requirements. Although Vista is likely to be the only local provider, there are other national providers who may bid.