

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

1. Details of all proposed or confirmed reductions to social care services or support provided to adults and children either directly by the Council or by reducing the funding made available to voluntary or community groups, including but not limited to:

a. Full details of the reductions in funding to all charities and voluntary organizations providing social care, and the percentage reduction of this reduction compared to reductions being made to the Council's own budget

For the Adult Social Care Voluntary Sector there are budgeted savings of £0.8m by 2014/15. The total spending on the voluntary sector in Adult Care is £5.4m, and this represents a cut of 15.7% by 2014/15 (lower than the percentage reduction in the adult care budget as a whole). The figures shown above are purely indicative as full reviews of voluntary and independent sector providers are at a very early stage. While the council sets the overall financial envelope for adult social care and will continue to contract with the voluntary sector for some services (particularly around prevention), the future of the voluntary sector and other providers will be very much determined by service users through the choices they make around their personal budgets. There is demographic growth of £2.3m built into the budget. Much of this will be allocated to service users through the resource allocation system in the form of personal budgets. This will be spent in the voluntary sector and elsewhere according to service user choice.

b. Full details of any proposed or confirmed closures of day care services, reduction of transport to/from care services or residential respite services

Day services and transport are under review and as above the outcome will be led by service users. There is no intention to reduce respite care.

As indicated above day services in the voluntary sector are due to be reviewed based on service user needs and future commissioning priorities for Leicester. The design of day services is likely to change and will in the large be determined by service users' personal budget purchasing choices.

c. Full details of any proposed or confirmed changes in eligibility criteria for social care services

There are no proposals to change eligibility criteria.

d. Full details of any proposed or confirmed changes to financial eligibility criteria for social care services;

There are no proposals to change financial eligibility criteria.

e. Full details of any proposed or confirmed changes to school and college travel assistance for children and young learners with special educational needs and/or disabilities;

Education & Children's Services commissions a wide range of services, activities and interventions for vulnerable children and their families. These services, activities and interventions are delivered both directly and through a range of contracted services. To date Education and Children's Services has not reduced funding to charities and voluntary organizations providing children's social care services, activities and interventions. These services, activities and interventions are however currently subject to a thorough Commissioning Review. The Council is just about to invite Representations upon its proposed future service offer. This offer will include social care provision that is within scope of this enquiry. It is envisaged that the review will result in significant changes to delivery models for both direct delivered services and those provider by external providers. Although overall savings targets of £1.273 m in 2012/13 rising to £2.868m in 2013/14 have been set, no decisions have yet been taken with regard to the final nature of the services that will ultimately be commissioned or indeed who will provide these. Activities interventions and services within scope of this Review total £20m. The projected savings equate therefore to a reduction of 14%. This compares with reductions in associated income streams of around 22%.

The response to 1 (E) follows:

In summary the City Council will be consulting upon proposed changes to two areas of its Home to School Transport Policy that will affect children and young people with special education needs and disabilities. These relate to:

- Provision of home to school transport for pupils with special educational where no transport is identified on statement of educational need; a target saving of £195k has been identified in 2012/13 rising to £390k in 2013/14;
- The introduction of new eligibility criteria for home to school transport for all SEN pupils, a target saving of £102k in 2012/13 rising to £204k in 2013/14;
- Provision of transport assistance to post 16 students. The Council propose to only provide a subsidy to SEN post 16 students who meet agreed low income tests - a savings target of £167k

The Council is actively seeking to mitigate the potential impact of change through the provision of continued assistance to the children of families who meet a low income test. Implementation of the above proposals will however first require the Council to undertake further public consultation upon its home to school transport policy.

f. Full details of the numbers and types of service users who will or may be affected by these cuts (for example elderly, learning disabled or child service users);

Clearly many service users will be affected through service re-design but at this stage the question cannot be answered. The Council does not hold this information. Therefore this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

g. Full details of any proposals to hold back a percentage of the personal social care budget for individuals (or direct payment for social care) either through the Resource Allocation Scheme or any other method;

There is no proposal to 'hold back a percentage of the personal social care budget'.

h. All dates relating to the proposed or confirmed cuts or efficiencies including but not limited to:

i. Dates of any proposed or confirmed closures, termination or reduction of social care services

At this stage no decisions have been made. The Council does not hold this information. Therefore this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

ii. Dates of any proposed or confirmed consultation periods relating to reductions in social care services

Public consultation was undertaken on the future direction of Elderly Persons Homes in 2011 from 14th March to 14th June. An extended period of consultation was then held from 4th July – 5th September 2011.

Cabinet considered the full consultation findings, equalities impact assessment and report on the future direction of the homes on 8th February 2012. As a result it was agreed that soft market testing would be carried out to ascertain the likely market interest in selling the homes as going concerns, consultation proposal 2. This exercise is currently underway. Further information and reports can be found on.

<http://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/feedback.aspx?Con1=383>

Public consultation was also carried out on proposed changes to charging for non- residential charging. This took place from 8th August to 7th November. The consultation findings are available on.

<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/social-care-health/older-people/non-residential-care-charging/>

Cabinet is likely to consider a full report and equalities impact assessment, and decide a way forward on this issue in the next 8 weeks.

The voluntary sector consultations are due to be scheduled. There have been a number of engagement and information session for the on the following topics:-

Topic	Date
Resource Allocations System	3/11/11
Directors Q&A Session on Transformation	21/11/11
New Care Pathways	23/11/11
Advocacy Group Meeting s to discuss appropriate user engagement methods per user category	2,9,12/12/11
Provider Focus Groups to discuss draft commissioning intentions, identity good practice & understand what services users need	23,24,25,30/1/12 &1/3/2/12
Safeguarding Information session	29/2/12
Right to Control information session	29/2/12

iii. Dates of any Cabinet meetings to discuss specific reductions in social care services

Social Services budgets were considered by the Cabinet with the budget as a whole. On 9th January, the Cabinet formally announced that its draft budget proposals had been launched for public consultation. On 22nd February, the mayor and Cabinet formally considered the budget and made its recommendations to the Council.

2. Copies of Equality Impact Assessments completed in relation to any proposed or confirmed reductions or efficiencies in social care services

See attached zipped folder of EIAs.

3. Copies of cabinet minutes and reports to cabinet relating to any proposed or confirmed reductions or efficiencies in social care services

Copies of minutes can be found at
<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=647&MId=4696&Ver=4>

4. Copies of any other documents relating to proposed or confirmed reductions or efficiencies in social care services.

The Council does not hold this information. Therefore this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG
e-mail: FOIA@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

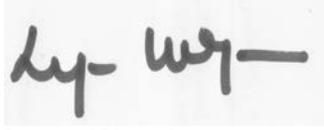
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints

processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Wyeth', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Lynn Wyeth
Information Governance Manager