

Budget Proposals 2016-17: Healthy Eating in Children

Summary of Feedback Received and Key Findings

Why we consulted?

Over the last four years we have had to make savings of £23m because we've received less money from central government. We have done this by becoming more efficient at what we do, by reducing some of our administrative functions and increasing our income. Throughout this period we have done our best to protect front line services.

We now have to find another £20m over the next four years, with almost £11m to be found in 2016/17. Much of this will come from further efficiencies within the council, but £4.6m will have to come from services that will impact the public.

In order to inform the budget setting process for 2016/17 we published a list of those proposals which would likely have a direct impact on service users, and sought the views from those affected and interested:

- to understand the likely impact
- to identify any measures to reduce their impact
- to explore any possible alternatives

Approach

All the proposals were published on the council's website on 3 November 2015 with feedback requested by 14 December 2015. Respondents were directed to a [central index page](#), with a video message from the Chief Executive outlining the background to the exercise.

Information relating to this proposal was linked directly from this index page. This contained more detailed information on what was specifically proposed, information on what we thought the impact might be, as well as what else we had considered in developing and arriving at this proposal. Feedback was then invited through an online form, and through a dedicated email address.

Each individual budget proposal was placed on our [Consultation Portal](#) which automatically notified those registered that an exercise had been launched. Members of the West Berkshire community panel (around 800 people) and local stakeholder charities, representative groups and partner organisations were also emailed directly, notifying them of the exercise and inviting their contributions.

Heads of Service made direct contact with those organisations affected by any of the budget proposals prior to them being made publically available.

A press release was issued on the same date, as well as publicised through Facebook and Twitter.

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Background

Healthy eating in childhood is an important part of living a healthy lifestyle and preventing children from becoming overweight and obese. There is currently a provision to support healthy eating in schools via two projects. One is the provision of training and resources to primary schools on how to address healthy eating through the school curriculum using resources and training - the 'Phunky Foods' programme. In addition, a Healthy Eating in Schools co-ordinator works with local schools, running teaching sessions with year 6 pupils, giving information regarding healthy eating.

The current proposal is to discontinue funding for the 'Phunky Foods' programme, saving £5,000 and to decrease funding for the Healthy Eating co-ordinator, saving £10,000. There will be a decreased number of teaching sessions for year 6 pupils on healthy eating and no further resources for schools to use to ensure healthy eating messages are part of the curriculum.

Summary of Key Points

There were no individual responses to this consultation. There were responses from Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust and Newbury and District Clinical Commissioning Group, both via detailed letter. Both organisations raised concerns regarding the proposed cuts to preventative services including healthy eating.

1. Are you, or anyone you care for, a user of this service?

There were no individual responses to this consultation.

2. What do you think we should be aware of in terms of how this proposal might impact people?

The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust stated that programmes for healthy eating are vital to ensure the maintenance of children's health. It was felt that a reduction may have an impact for children and for their services in having to provide care for the ill health effects of obesity. The Newbury and District Clinical Commissioning Group were concerned about proposed cuts to preventative services such as healthy eating, particularly as prevention is one of the main priorities in the NHS Five Year Forward View and the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

3. Do you feel that this proposal will affect particular individuals more than others, and if so, how do you think we might help with this?

There were no responses to this question.

4. Do you have any suggestions as to how this service might be delivered in a different way? If so, please provide details.

There were no responses to this question.

5. Is there any way that you, or your organisation, can contribute in helping to alleviate the impact of this proposal? If so, please provide details of how you can help.

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The Newbury and District Clinical Commissioning Group are keen to work with Council partners to ensure the best services are available to maintain the local population health and wellbeing. Individuals from the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust are also happy to be part of any further consultation exercise.

6. Do you know of any alternative places or resources where you can obtain this service? If so, please provide details.

There were no responses to this question.

7. Any further comments?

There were no responses to this question.

Conclusion

There were no individual responses to this consultation. However, the Newbury and District Clinical Commissioning Group did state that the proposed cuts to preventative services, including healthy eating, would be of concern given that prevention is one of main priorities both for the NHS Five Year Forward View and the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing strategy. In addition, the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust raised concerns regarding the impact on their service provision in view of the potential for having to provide care for the ill effects of obesity.

Please note: *In order to allow everyone who wished the opportunity to contribute, feedback was not sampled. Therefore this wasn't a quantitative, statistically valid exercise. It was neither the premise, purpose, nor within the capability of the exercise, to determine the overall community's level of support, or views on the proposals, with any degree of confidence.*

The feedback captured therefore should be seen in the context of 'those who responded', rather than reflective of the wider community.

All the responses have been provided verbatim as an appendix to this report. Whilst this summary seeks to distil the key, substantive points made, it should also be read in conjunction with the more detailed verbatim comments to ensure a full, rounded perspective of the views and comments are considered.

Sarah Rayfield
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