

Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget Proposals 16/17: Relate		Andy Day - Head of Strategic Support	19 January 2016 Version 2 (Exec)
Proposal:	To cease funding Relate.		
Total budget 15/16:	£6,468	Recommended officer saving 16/17:	£0
Initial proposed saving 16/17:	£6,468 (100%)	Final recommendation to Executive 16/17:	To continue to fund this service at the current level.
Nos of responses:	Five responses were received in total. One from the Centre Manager, one from the Newbury and District Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), one from Unison and two from individual members of the public.		
Key issues raised:	<p>The concerns raised by those responding was that the absence of the services provided by Relate could impact on vulnerable individuals and families which might, in turn, mean that other Council services could come under pressure to meet these clients concerns. Particular attention was paid to the impact on young people the subject of family breakdown and the importance of early intervention to help keep families together where at all possible</p> <p>The only suggestion raised to mitigate the impact was for the Council to look at providing a triage service at its proposed new wellbeing centres acknowledging that this wouldn't cover all the clients that were currently being seen by Relate at the moment.</p> <p>Newbury and District CCG considered that any proposal which reduced support to the vulnerable, both children and adults, was a negative step to take and fully supported the work of Relate.</p>		
Equality issues:	None were drawn out from the responses.		
Suggestions for reducing the impact on service users:	Suggestion	Council response	
	The only suggestion received was whether the Council could establish a triage service for those families attending its new wellbeing centres.	The Council does not have the resources to provide the range of services currently provided by Relate.	
Alternative options for applying the saving in this area:	Suggestion	Council response	
	No alternative options were suggested as a means of meeting the costs of supporting Relate.	Relate is funded using the ring fenced Public Health grant. The Government has confirmed that the grant will be ring fenced for the next two years and it is therefore possible to continue to fund Relate should the Council agree this course of action.	

NB: This overview and recommendation paper should be read in conjunction with the Summary of Responses and Verbatim Responses received in relation to this proposal, circulated electronically to all members alongside the agenda pack and published online on our [Consultation Portal](#).

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Suggestions for how others may help contribute:	There were no other suggestions forthcoming although it was noted that clients already have to contribute to the costs of this service with subsidies available for those vulnerable families who require support.		
Officer conclusion as a result of the responses:	The consultation exercise has not highlighted any impacts that were not already anticipated.		
Officer recommendation as a result of responses:	Feedback has not uncovered any further issues which would prevent the council from proceeding with this proposal. However, given that the Public Health budget has been ring fenced for a further two years it is suggested that the Council continue to fund this service at an annual sum of £6,468.		

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