Overview of Responses and Recommendations

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Budget proposals 2026/27: To cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers</td><td colspan="2">Service Director: Melanie O’Rourke
Author: Melanie O’Rourke</td><td>20/01/2026
(Corporate Board)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Proposals:</td><td colspan="5">To close the Adult Respite in the Community (ARC) Service and offer the nine client’s alternative provision that could also meet their needs.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total budget 2025/26:</td><td>£28,300</td><td>Initial proposed saving / Anticipated additional income 2026/27:</td><td>£28,300</td><td>Recommended saving / Anticipated additional income 2026/27:</td><td>£28,300</td></tr>
<tr><td>No. of responses:</td><td colspan="5">In total,41 responses were received. The breakdown of responses is as follows:

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Number</th><th>%</th></tr>
<tr><td>A resident of West Berkshire</td><td>36</td><td>87.80%</td></tr>
<tr><td>A user of the Adult Respite in the Community Service</td><td>3</td><td>7.32%</td></tr>
<tr><td>A West Berkshire business owner</td><td>1</td><td>2.44%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Employed by a business located in West Berkshire</td><td>4</td><td>9.76%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Employed by West Berkshire Council</td><td>6</td><td>14.63%</td></tr>
<tr><td>A Parish/Town Councillor</td><td>0</td><td>0.00%</td></tr>
<tr><td>A District Councillor</td><td>0</td><td>0.00%</td></tr>
<tr><td>A West Berkshire Council partner organisation</td><td>2</td><td>0.00%</td></tr>
<tr><td>A West Berkshire Council service provider</td><td>3</td><td>4.88%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Other - please specify below:</td><td>8</td><td>7.32%</td></tr>
</table>
Other:
- Parish Council
- A user in receipt of Adult Social care in West Berkshire.
- A clinical NHS employee.</td></tr>
</table>

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<tr><td></td><td colspan="3">- Employed by a Supermarket - part time hours amount of which the ARC user can cope with
- ARC
- ARC worker
- I am an Adult Respite carer [casual]
- A worker of the ARC service

- 1 response came in after the deadline. The comments have been included in the response.

We received 0 petitions.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Key issues raised:</td><td colspan="3">55.88% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed.
7.32% of respondents were people who use the service.
61.76% of respondents felt the changes might have a negative effect on people.

Respondents praised the need for the service and the benefits to both individuals and carers.
Respondents commented on the need for a smooth transition to minimise disruption and an alternative service needs to be of the same standard.
Concerns for individuals who may not understand what is happening would have a negative impact on carers also.
Respondents said that respite services should not be lost, they are important for people’s mental health and wellbeing.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Equality issues:</td><td colspan="3">No changes to the Equalities Impact Assessment.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Suggestions for minimising any negative effects of</td><td>Suggestion</td><td colspan="2">Council response</td></tr>
<tr><td>People will need help to transition to alternative provision</td><td colspan="2">This would be managed on and individual basis.</td></tr>
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the proposed change:	There are well trained workers within the ARC service.	There is potential for them to become Shared Lives Carers	
	Alternative provision needs to be of the same standard.	A transfer would be carefully managed to ensure standards were not compromised.	
	It needs to be properly run and have regular checks with the provider.	Shared Lives in an 'in-house' service and has close oversight from Adult Social Care which would identify and remedy if any issues that arose.	
	It appears that this is only a small group that could be merged with other services.	The intention is to use the Shared Lives service which has capacity to support these individuals.	
	Respite services should not be lost they are important for people's mental health and wellbeing.	The intention is not to lose respite services but to deliver them in a different way.	
	Where there are friendship networks through ARC these should be maintained.	This can be scoped as part of a transition plan.	
Suggestions for other savings options:	**Suggestion**	**Council response**	
	Reduce the sessions to 1 per month rather than 2.	It the assessed need identifies more than 1 session per month we have a duty under the Care Act 2014 to provide this.	
	Could students be used to reduce costs?	Students would only be able to support for a short period of time and would not offer consistency.	
	Partner with other organisations such as Alzheimer's Society.	This would still incur costs to the local authority, and any partner would need to be aligned to the needs of people with Learning Disabilities.	
Suggestions for income generation:	**Suggestion**	**Council response**	
	Raise council tax	The council is limited in how much income can be raised through Council Tax. An Adult Social Care precept is factored into Council Tax to respond to the pressures.	
	Keep services open but charge more.	There are limitations as to how much we can charge for services based on individuals' financial circumstances.	

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Officer conclusion and recommendation as a result of the responses:	It is noted that the largest proportion of responses were against the proposal and valued the service provision. The service has evolved into a long-term respite service over a period of time rather than a short-term resource and currently supports 9 people. Concerns generally related to disruption to individuals and carers. However, officers are confident that alternative solutions can be found that meets individuals or group's needs.		

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