

Analysis of feedback from consultation exercise on savings proposals

Savings proposal	Adult care 6 Cost ceilings for care homes and home care Saving: £50,000
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Detail of invitations to comment sent out – e.g. nos of letters to service users, list of organisations / representative groups etc	<p>Consultation launched on website and with press announcements, 24th Nov.</p> <p>Details of proposal was posted on West Berkshire Consultation Finder. This automatically notifies registered consultees (currently around over 340 people registered on the database).</p> <p>Press release issued outlining proposals and directing people to further information and feedback forms. Stimulated significant coverage in the local press</p> <p>Letter sent to 2,500 users of services. Open public meeting arranged by WBILN 6th Jan, plus meetings with LD service users and carers, Neurological Alliance, DES Scrutiny Board.</p>
Nos responses received	<p>3 Phone calls from concerned relatives of people currently in residential homes</p> <p>11 Completed feedback forms</p> <p>1 written response</p> <p>Plus comments on this saving within several responses covering all proposals</p>
Breakdown of responses: individual vs. organisations / representative groups	Mainly relatives of people currently in care homes, and also people currently receiving Home Care
Please list organisations / representative groups responded.	West Berkshire Disability Alliance & Neurological Alliance, West Berkshire Local Involvement Network, Princess Royal Trust for Carers
Synthesis of overall themes emerging from the comments received.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition to the idea that this may lead to moving people out of residential homes which are too expensive • Concern over the possibility that people’s choice of a local home may be restricted • Strong opposition to the principle of not continuing to support people to live in their own home, even if this costs more than a residential place 	
Q1: Please distil and provide an analyse of alternatives suggestions to the savings proposals put forward	
Several people commented that the family would be willing to top up the cost, if necessary to keep an individual in their current residential place. Others pointed out that they did not have the finances to be able to do this.	

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Some individuals accepted that it was unrealistic to expect the Council to pay significantly more to keep people in their own home, if they would be happy to take a place in residential care.

Q1b: Please provide your response to these suggestions – either accepting, or setting out reasons why this is not achievable.

If a family was able to top up the cost of a residential place, then this would be possible.

Q2: Please distil responses for further evidence of the impact of any proposals – either in isolation or as a result of other proposals.

“Most people strive to stay independent for as long as is feasible and would only go into nursing care as a real last resort. It is proven that people live longer in their own environment if they are given support with which to do so.”

“the changes you are proposing will accelerate the move of the elderly from their own homes into nursing care and this is a real worry to me and to most of the old people I have spoken to”

“It doesn’t make sense to pay significantly more for home care than provision of a nursing home”

“The proposed ceiling on home care, together with lowering the fees paid to local care home providers, is likely to result in more people having to move into care. This is inhumane and possibly would be in breach of someone’s human rights.”

Q3: Please provide an analysis of what could be done to mitigate the impact of the proposed changes on individuals.

Ensure that the cost ceiling for a residential care home place is set at an amount which can still purchase an appropriate bed in a home within the area.

Ensure that every effort is made to accommodate people’s wish to stay in their own home, and look at the possibility of releasing equity from property, family contributions, and other ways to meet additional costs.