

Adult Prevention Services Consultation Response



Healthwatch Leicestershire's Response to the Leicestershire County Council consultation to review Adult Prevention Services

Summary

Introduction

1. Healthwatch Leicestershire is committed to bringing the voice of the public and of service users to the forefront of all conversations around health and social care services in Leicestershire.
2. The Prevention Consultation proposals discuss a new and more targeted approach to the delivery of services. If health services can prevent people early on from needing in depth health and social care support, it can help to improve the quality of their lives. This is the aim of preventative services and is one reason why they are so important to individuals and communities.
3. With reduced funding and increased demand for services, the public through consultations like this are asked to prioritise where finance's and services are directed.
4. To provide a more focused service, Leicestershire County Council (LCC) is proposing to:
 - Provide more targeted support for those who most need it
 - Work more closely with other organisations to prevent the need for support
 - Provide limited, shorter term support
5. This report shares the views and comments (quotes) of those that responded to our survey.

Methodology

6. Healthwatch Leicestershire sought the views of its members and those of the public via a short online survey. The survey was available for respondents to complete online from 24 April 2014 to 30 June 2014. Information was shared via targeted emails, social media, websites, network meetings and forums.
7. Overall 70 responses were received. Appendix 1 provides a summary of the responses.

Headlines and Key Findings

8. Almost two thirds of respondents agreed with the elements of the prevention model
 - Over two thirds of respondents agreed with the elements of the prevention model
 - When respondents were asked what elements of the model they felt would most benefit them or their communities:
 - Three quarters chose supporting independence for older people
 - 70% chose maximising community resources
 - Over half chose safe places and support for domestic violence
 - 55% of respondents agreed with the allocation of money to supporting independence



- One in three respondents thought that the allocation of money for community development was too low
 - A third of respondents were neutral when asked about the allocation of money for safe places and support for domestic violence
9. Healthwatch Leicestershire has spoken to its members and members of the public, which has helped to form the basis of this consultation response. What was evident when conducting this consultation is that the areas of support that fall within prevention services are very important to the welfare of residents. A respondent to our survey has said that,
 10. “Voluntary services, especially social groups and befriending, provide great support for people and can help greatly in preventing dependence on social care services and help improve both mental and physical health”.
 11. Respondents talked about the need for more education around domestic violence to be held especially throughout local schools, to help prevent the cycle of abuse continuing within the community. More and more younger people are developing relationships earlier and often forming a distorted image of what a healthy relationship should be. One of the ways this can be tackled is through education, and would mean that victims of abuse would better recognise the signs of danger quicker and seek help and support earlier.
 12. Support for the independence of older people has much support from respondents but is suggested that it can only work in conjunction with maximising the community; For example there needs to be somewhere for the older people of the community to go once they have been supported in being more independent.
 13. One respondent commented, “LCC and NHS expect the community to provide many of the caring and supportive roles particularly to the elderly, however there is no financial support for this. Volunteers do sterling work already in the community but it cannot be done without a cost and charities need financial support to continue. LCC is in danger of losing these existing charities and it will cost more in the future to put them back in place than supporting them now”.
 14. When speaking to a homeless hostel, members were concerned about the future of their service and the funding allocated for their service. One respondent to our survey commented, “More clarity is required as to what homeless support actually entails - funding not including hostels/accommodation based support is not realistic”.
 15. “Preventative services cut long term costs. Building supportive community structures, that are meaningful to local people give them a stake in their community....”. Said another respondent.
 16. In a wider context, emotional support services in its many forms and help to accessing various services came through on the responses.
 17. A common concern that spans many services and that has been captured in various conversations is that many people are caught on the boundaries of Leicestershire and do not know where to apply for help as it comes from diverse regions which often don't communicate with each other regarding the end user. The decision as to which services are used may also be decided by the travel time and distance to relevant services.



Additional comments from respondents:

18. “Domestic violence is on the increase - so please do not cut any services in this area, it has such a huge impact on women and children if they are not supported adequately”.
19. “More liaison with GP surgery as this is the first point of contact for many people who are in distress - More information available there”.
20. “More should be spent on community development which in turn could lead to people caring for others in the community more and would also offer opportunities for older people and specialist groups to get involved”.
21. In addition, a focus group that was held with the voluntary sector earlier in the year discussed the local area coordination (LAC) in some detail. Some of the discussions suggested that the LAC would need to be supported by commissioned services - i.e. a wide range of services to refer to, either statutory or voluntary commissioned services. There was a question on how long the LAC initiative would be in place as previously similar initiatives have been short term. It was said that the LAC would need people with excellent communication skills, combined with compassion and empathy. The group also noted that there is the potential for increased demand on current services and that the County Council would need to ensure that any issues around capacity are addressed.

Conclusion

22. To better understand the impact of the consultation proposals and the decommissioning of all services within this framework. Leicestershire County Council must also consider previous consultations and decisions regarding allocation of funding. Many organisations including a large number of voluntary and community groups who have already experienced funding reductions in other cost saving measures by the local authority also deliver preventative services. There is a real danger that groups who support some of the most vulnerable service users will also have to consider how or if they can afford to deliver services that they currently provide.

Recommendations

23. Healthwatch Leicestershire asks Leicestershire County Council to consider:
 1. The results of this survey when making decisions that affect communities;
 2. A one year review of the programme to be built in to the planning of the LAC;
 3. Sharing the detailed project plans and remit of the LAC as they are completed.



Adult Prevention Services

Summary of Results



70

Respondants to the Survey



2

Events organised or attended

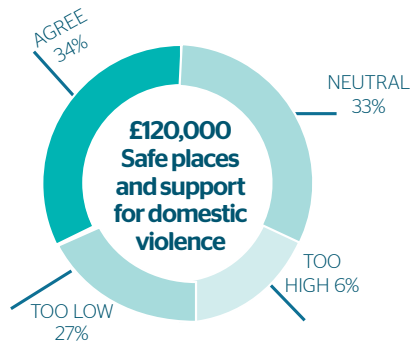
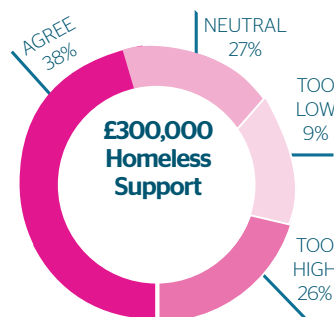
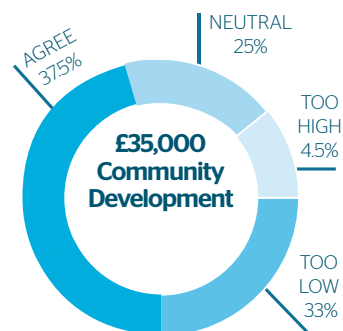
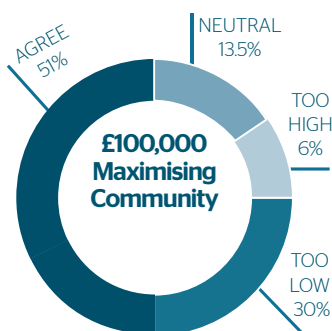
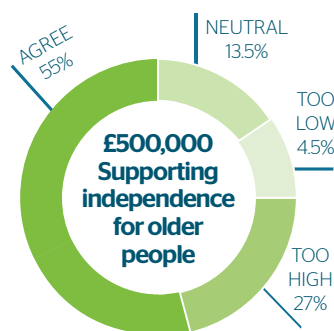


A wide online distribution ie: to members networks and forums

Which is the highest priority to you or your community



These are the results when respondents were asked if the allocation of money was correct



71%

Agree with the Elements of The prevention model



7%

Disagree with the Elements of The prevention model

