

## DRAFT - Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

Proposal:	<b>Reduction in the funding given to seAp Advocacy</b>
Executive Lead:	Cllr Julien Parrott, Lead for Adults and Children
Director / Assistant Director:	Caroline Taylor, Director Adult Services

Version:	1.0	Date:	October 2016	Author:	Fran Mason/Chris Lethbridge
----------	-----	-------	--------------	---------	-----------------------------

<b>Section 1: Background Information</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>What is the proposal/issue?</b></p> <p>The proposal is to reduce the funding we provide to seAp (support, empower, Advocate, promote) Advocacy. seAp undertake independent Health Complaints Advocacy in Torbay. The proposals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• no change in funding for 2017/18; and</li><li>• £3k reduction in funding for 2018/19.</li></ul> <p>As the current budget is £26k, this equates to a budget reduction of approximately 10%.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>What is the current situation?</b></p> <p>seAp is an independent charity that provides free independent and confidential advocacy services to members of the public in Torbay. The current contract is focused around Health Complaints Advocacy. Independent Health Complaints Advocacy helps members of the public make a complaint about any aspect of their NHS care or treatment. This includes treatment in a private hospital or care home that is funded by the NHS. In 2015/16 the complaints advocacy that seAp undertook covered the two trusts that have joined to form the new Integrated Care Organisation (51%), Devon Partnership Trust (26%) and the South Devon and Torbay CCG (17% - of which 75% related to GPs). The contract does not currently cover non-statutory advocacy services.</p> <p>The council has a statutory duty to ensure that people in Torbay have access to an Independent Health Complaints Advocacy service, though we could procure/commission the service differently.</p> <p>Due to significant budget pressures faced by Torbay Council we are proposing to reduce the level of funding provided by the authority, whilst still providing financial assistance to support an Independent Health Complaints Advocacy service for the residents of the Bay.</p>

	<p>No significant implementation costs are associated with this proposal, though potential costs to the wider community are reflected in section 2. of this Impact Assessment.</p>
3.	<p><b>What options have been considered?</b></p> <p>Provision of an Independent Health Complaints Advocacy service is a statutory requirement for the council. Within the constraints of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, there is flexibility for local authorities to develop NHS complaints advocacy models to suit local circumstances.</p> <p>In parallel to this proposal, future options will be developed with regards to how we commission and procure information, advice and advocacy services and encourage providers to build on their partnerships with each other, to achieve a more integrated offer to the public.</p>
4.	<p><b>How does this proposal support the ambitions, principles and delivery of the Corporate Plan 2015-19?</b></p> <p>Ambitions: Prosperous and Healthy Torbay</p> <p>Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use reducing resources to best effect</li> <li>• Integrated and joined up approach</li> </ul> <p>Targeted actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting and supporting vulnerable adults</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with?</b></p> <p>There is the potential for the following to be potentially affected by this proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SeAP</li> <li>• The general public</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>How will you propose to consult?</b></p> <p>Consultation will take place as part of the general consultation on the budget proposals and via the service provider.</p>

## Section 2: Expected Implications and Impact Assessment

(These sections will be updated and expanded following the consultation period.)

7.	<p><b>What are the <u>expected</u> financial and legal implications?</b></p> <p>The proposal would achieve a financial saving of £3k over the next two years.</p> <p>There are limited direct cost implications to the council. However, there may be indirect financial and legal costs to the wider health and care system if the provider has to reduce their service e.g. possible increases in litigation or missed opportunities to learn from service failure to improve how we support the public.</p>
8.	<p><b>What are the <u>expected</u> risks?</b></p> <p>As we are not proposing to discontinue funding to seAp and the proposed budget reductions are relatively small, the expected risks are minimised. However, the impact on the service provider might require them to reduce their service and case-load. A reduced level of advocacy might therefore risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NHS service user's views may not being heard, with people (including vulnerable adults with learning disabilities or mental health conditions) not feeling as involved in decision making;</li><li>• Potentially reduced emotional support to service users, with fewer people able to take advantage of the benefits of advocacy in terms of increasing their confidence and self-esteem, to become more self-sufficient;</li><li>• There may be fewer opportunities to have a positive impact on the behaviour and knowledge of health and care professionals;</li><li>• Could mean the quality of service provision not improving, due to lost opportunities to learn from service user's experiences (good and bad) of the health and care system; and</li><li>• If the proposal is not accepted, savings will need to be found elsewhere.</li></ul>