

## Budget Proposals 2014/15 and 2015/16: Equality Impact Assessment (EIA): Learning Disability Development Fund

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<b>Business Unit:</b>	<b>Adult Social Care Commissioning</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Professional Practice – Adult Social Care</b>
<b>Executive Lead(s):</b>	<b>Cllr Christine Scouler</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> February 2014</b>

The council and its partners are facing a significant challenge in the savings it needs to make over the next couple of years. This Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been developed as a tool to enable business units to fully consider the impact of their proposals on the community. As a council we need to ensure that we are able to deliver the savings that we need to make while mitigating against any negative or adverse impacts on particular groups across our communities.

This EIA will evidence that the Council have fully considered the impact of the proposed changes and has carried out appropriate consultation on those changes with the key stakeholders. This EIA and the evidence provided within it will allow Councillors to make informed decisions as part of the decision-making process regarding the council's budget.

### Executive Lead / Head Sign off:

<b>Executive Lead(s)</b>	<b>Cllr Christine Scouler</b>	<b>Executive Head:</b>	<b>Caroline Taylor/Dr Sonja Manton</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> February 2014</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> February 2014</b>

**Summary from Overall Budget Proposals:**

Proposals – Outline	Savings for 2014/15 and 2015/16		Implementation Cost <i>Include brief outline + year incurred</i>	Delivery <i>When will this proposal realise income / savings</i>	Risks / impact of proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Potential risks</i></li> <li>• <i>Impact on community</i></li> <li>• <i>Knock on impact to other agencies</i></li> </ul>	Type of decision		
	Income £	Budget reduction £				Internal	Minor	Major
<b>Learning Disability Development Fund:</b> It is proposed that this fund is reduced	0	£34,000 (£17k - 2014/15 £17k - 2015/16)	Low	2014/15 & 2015/16	This is a development fund which has been used in the past to supplement the work of voluntary sector organisations and the Learning Disabilities Partnership board.			X

## Section 1: Purpose of the proposal/strategy/decision

No	Question	Details
1.	<p><b>Clearly set out the proposal and what is the intended outcome.</b></p>	<p>The Care Trust allocates a proportion of its Adult Social Care funding, from the Council, to the Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF). This was originally ring-fenced by central Government but this ring fencing was subsequently removed. There are no reserves from this Fund. The allocation for 2013/14 is £62,100 and this is likely to be committed by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>This proposal seeks to reduce the Learning Disability Fund by £17,000 in 2014/15 and a further £17,000 in 2015/16. In 2013/14 the amount available in the fund was £62,100, this proposal will see the fund reduce to £45,100 in 2014/15 and then to £28,100 in 2015/16. In 2015/16 the total fund available will have reduced by 60% overall from an original total of £69,000 prior to 2013/14.</p> <p>In 2013/14, £37,000 of this funding was used to pay the contract with Speaking Out in Torbay (SPOT). The only other funding that SPOT receives is £500 from Torbay Council for the LINK workers through Torbay VOICE. SPOT provides the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A user-led organisation supporting people with learning disabilities to be fully involved in all aspects of service development.</li> <li>• A group advocacy service to address key issues such as keeping safe, hate crime, housing, employment, personalisation and health.</li> <li>• Supports effective consultation and decision making (including reasonable adjustments, easy read information and consultation activities).</li> <li>• Works in partnership with the statutory sector and voluntary sector partners to identify and promote best practice.</li> <li>• Engages with key stakeholders to develop innovative, cost effective services that provide positive outcomes for people with disabilities. It has a defined focus on delivery of efficiency savings alongside creative and person centred services.</li> <li>• Works in partnership with the Care Trust, Council, Clinical Commissioning Group, Healthwatch and the Community Development Trust</li> <li>• Contributes to key meetings such as the Safeguarding Adults Board</li> <li>• Has an active involvement and leadership role with the Learning Disability Partnership Board.</li> </ul> <p>Over the last 3 years SPOT have not had any uplift to their contract but are looking for an increase to their funding to £48,000 a year to allow them to employ a support worker to further support consultation and identification of best</p>

No	Question	Details
		<p>practice.</p> <p>In addition the following items have been funded in 2013/14 from the fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £3000 to fund 6 months of the Total Communications Service which enables the Speech and Language Therapy Service to provide a communication service for people with communication difficulties, one day a week out of Paignton library.</li> <li>• £1,600 for the printing of health workbooks which are used in GP surgeries to aid communications for people with learning disabilities. 90% of people with learning disabilities have communication difficulties and these workbooks are designed in easy read. The workbooks help people with learning disabilities through their annual health checks and help develop their subsequent Health Action Plans. Without these workbooks it may be difficult to meet the communication needs of people with learning disabilities in General Practices.</li> <li>• Running the Learning Disability Partnership Board and funding learning disability engagement events. For example, the consultation events that have been held to feed into the Learning Disability Self Assessment Framework. It is estimated that this could cost approximately £2,700 for the year.</li> <li>• Paying the learning disability client who chairs the Partnership Board for this role, £375 a year.</li> <li>• £300 to part fund the running of the Learning Disability Blue Light day that was held in Paignton.</li> <li>• £10,000 of the 2013/14 fund has been allocated so that providers can bid for funding to pump prime initiatives. This was the original objective of the fund and is aimed at improving the quality of life of people with learning disabilities. Bids will be considered on how they support the Learning Disability Partnership Board priorities for 2013/14. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports people with learning disabilities with daytime opportunities</li> <li>• Supports people with learning disabilities with their health</li> <li>• Supports people with learning disabilities to get a job</li> <li>• Supports people with learning disabilities to stay safe</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>In 2014/15 it is proposed that the remaining £45,100 in the fund is focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding SPOT</li> <li>• Total Communications</li> <li>• Health work books</li> <li>• LD client chairmanship of the LD Partnership Board</li> </ul> <p>The costs of running the Learning Disability Partnership Board and any engagement events would need to be funded from a corporate fund and there would be no funding to pump prime initiatives.</p>

No	Question	Details
		<p>In 2015/16 it is proposed that the remaining £28,100 is focused purely on SPOT who would still have to absorb a cut of 25% from their base figure. Reductions in 2015/16 may impact on the viability of some services including SPOT, which may lead to implications for their provision of an advocacy service for people with learning disabilities. The revised funding would mean we would have no funding to support engagement associated with the self assessment framework process, to support the running of the Learning Disability Partnership Board, to support the Total Communications service or to pump prime any initiatives.</p> <p>The Joint Health and Social Care Learning Disability Self - Assessment Framework is a single delivery and monitoring tool that supports Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), and Local Authorities (LAs), to assure NHS England, Department of Health and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services on the following:</p> <p><b>1. Key priorities in the:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winterbourne View Final Report Annex B (WBV)</li> <li>• Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework 2013-14 (ASCOF)</li> <li>• Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013-2016 (PHOF)</li> <li>• National Health Service Outcomes Framework 2013-14 (NHSOF)</li> <li>• Health Equalities Framework</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Key levers for the improvement of health &amp; social care services for people with learning disabilities;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equality Delivery System</li> <li>• Safeguarding Adults at Risks requirements</li> <li>• Health &amp; Wellbeing Boards</li> <li>• Consultation and co-production with people with learning disability and family carers</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Progress Report on Six Lives and the provision of public services for people with learning disabilities.</b></p> <p>The allocation of the Learning Disability Fund is overseen by the Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB) and the Commissioning for Independence Board. As a result any changes to the size of the fund would need to be considered by these Boards. The LDPB passed a resolution at its 16 January 2014 meeting which recommended that the LDDF funding is not reduced.</p> <p>We are in the process of determining the initiatives that will be pump primed in 2013/14 but this part of the fund (£10k) will be allocated when this decision is made.</p>

No	Question	Details
2.	Who is intended to benefit / who will be affected?	<p>This proposal will affect the following groups and stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SPOT (Speaking out Torbay) – may impact on their viability and ability to advocate.</li><li>• People with learning disabilities and their carers – may be impacted if advocacy services are not available and they are not able to receive the support they need through Total Communications / health workbooks</li><li>• Providers of services for people with learning disabilities – may see an increase in demand for their services.</li><li>• People who need assistance with communication</li><li>• People with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD)</li><li>• Learning Disability Partnership Board</li><li>• GPs</li><li>• Other parts of the Health and social care system</li></ul>

## Section 2: Equalities, Consultation and Engagement

Torbay Council has a moral obligation as well as a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, promote good relations and advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not.

The **Equalities, Consultation and Engagement** section ensures that, as a council, we take into account the Public Sector Equality Duty at an early stage and provide evidence to ensure that we fully consider the impact of our decisions/proposals on the Torbay community.

### Evidence, Consultation and Engagement

No	Question	Details
3.	<b>Have you considered the available evidence?</b>	<p>It is estimated that there are between 3275 and 5240 people with some form of learning disability in Torbay, with the majority of these being mild disabilities. 748 people in Torbay are read coded as having a learning disability. This code is used by GPs to categorise people on their IT systems. There are then 458 people who are actively accessing specialist services from the Community Learning Disability Team.</p> <p>SPOT works with at least 300 people with learning disabilities through engagement mechanisms such as focus groups, individual support and consultations. SPOT is the only organisation in Torbay that is commissioned to provide group advocacy and service development support for clients with learning disabilities.</p> <p>An evaluation was carried out of the Total Communication Service which operates one day a week in Paignton library and one day a week in the Passmore Edwards Centre in Newton Abbot. The evaluation was undertaken between November 2012 and February 2013. During this period there were 28 operational days across both sites and they saw 13 different people (at least one appointment each), alongside nine of their communication partners. In addition there were consultation appointments with staff representing 22 organisations.</p>

No	Question	Details
4.	<b>How will / have you consulted on the proposal?</b>	<p>The consultees were split into a number of stakeholder groups including clients, carers, providers/individuals who are currently funded by the LDDF and other stakeholders such as the Learning Disability Partnership Board who oversee the fund. A questionnaire was designed to obtain feedback from these stakeholders. This was available in a hardcopy format as well as electronically. An easy read questionnaire was also made available for people to complete, where required.</p> <p>A number of focus groups were held to obtain the views of clients as well as carers. Each provider/individual who was funded through the LDDF was offered a face to face meeting where the questions in the questionnaire were discussed and feedback obtained. The questionnaire was circulated widely, including to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All providers who have a contract for learning disability services;</li> <li>• the Commissioning for Independence Board;</li> <li>• Safeguarding Adults Board; and</li> <li>• The South Devon and Torbay Clinical Commissioning Group.</li> </ul> <p>The dates of the consultation activity are shown in the report that contains the consultation results – please see appendix one for a copy of this report.</p> <p>In addition to the above a question was included within the general budget consultation questionnaire to see whether people agreed with the proposed reductions – results from this are also included in appendix one.</p>
5.	<b>Outline the key findings</b>	<p>The summary results are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 110 out of 112 people (98%) disagreed with the reduction of the Learning Disabilities Development Fund</li> <li>• 23 out of 42 people (54%) agreed with the allocation of funding for 2014/15</li> <li>• 44 out of 62 people (71%) disagreed with the allocation of funding for 2015/16.</li> </ul> <p>The responses identified a number of implications of the reductions in this fund including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced advocacy support for people with learning disabilities</li> <li>• Reduced quality of life for people through reduced independence or not feeling safe</li> <li>• Loss of client leadership of the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board</li> <li>• Reduced communication support for people with communication difficulties</li> <li>• Reduced levels of information</li> <li>• Potential impact on the effectiveness of health checks</li> </ul>

No	Question	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less client involvement and engagement in change</li> <li>• Lost opportunity to support innovation that may provide a better service</li> <li>• Possible increase in safeguarding referrals as preventative work may not be undertaken</li> <li>• More people may use other health and social care services</li> </ul> <p>There were varying views on how the funds should be allocated in 2014/15 and 2015/16. This ranged from seeing SPOT as the top priority to placing the money with the other areas.</p> <p>A question was included in the general budget consultation questionnaire about the proposal for the LDDF. 367 people responded to this question and of these 53% of respondents agreed with the proposed reduction and 47% disagreed. Some of the comments made as part of the responses were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "...These are some of the most vulnerable people in society and an easy target. They are not able to cope without support."</li> <li>• "Because it will impact on some of the most vulnerable in the community and supports empowerment and self management of conditions which actually delivers cost savings in real terms."</li> <li>• "Cutting this budget would affect some of the most vulnerable people in our society. People who may not receive this support in any other way, putting a strain on families and carers."</li> <li>• "Long-term this is counter-productive as reducing support of this kind increase crisis, respite and residential service demand."</li> <li>• "...This will increase the burden on the public sector."</li> <li>• "It is important to support people with learning difficulties."</li> <li>• "Those who have disability need support and this cannot come from the family all the time."</li> <li>• "It is a comparatively small sum and accommodating the needs of individuals with learning disabilities ...benefits the individuals and the community as well."</li> <li>• "The cost saving is not worth it considering the benefits to those with learning disabilities."</li> </ul>
6.	<b>What amendments may be required as a result of the consultation?</b>	<p>From the respondents to the specific questionnaire there was overwhelming disapproval with the reduction in the fund by the people who responded to the specific questionnaire and supporting information. However, the consultation did not highlight any material and evidenced consequences of the proposals which the Council and the Trust had not already been aware of in the formulation of this proposal.</p> <p>The question that was included in the general budget questionnaire showed a small majority of people in favour of the reduction.</p>

No	Question	Details
		The Trust will continue to work with the providers to ascertain whether there are any alternative funding streams that can be accessed to mitigate against the reduction in funding from the Council/Trust.

### Positive and Negative Equality Impacts

No	Question	Details		
7.	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups			
		Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact
	Older or younger people		Yes if they have a learning disability or communication difficulties. For example through the Total Communication Service children with speech, language and communication disorders and their families can link with the relevant Paediatric speech and language therapy service. SPOT supports both older and younger people to work with Torbay Care Trust, Torbay Council, Torbay Hospital and the Clinical Commissioning Group to support service developments.	
	People with caring responsibilities		Yes if they have a learning disability or communication difficulties. For example the Total Communication service helps people with dementia by contributing to early support and good quality information for people and their carers, link in with Primary Care Nurses and Community Learning Disability Nurses.	
	People with a disability		Yes if they have a learning disability or communication difficulties	

No	Question	Details	
			SPOT supports people with disabilities to have their say about key issues. Spot is currently working with statutory sector partners to inform decision making about health and social care.
	Women or men		Yes if they have a learning disability or communication difficulties. For example the Total Communications service supports people to access community facilities such as leisure centres.
	People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME)		No differential impact
	Religion or belief (including lack of belief)		No differential impact
	People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual		No differential impact
	People who are transgendered		No differential impact
	People who are in a marriage or civil partnership		No differential impact
	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave		No differential impact
	Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)		No differential impact
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)		No differential impact
<b>8a.</b>	<b>Cumulative Impacts – Council wide</b> (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified)	Any reduction in advocacy and support available for people with learning disabilities may mean that other adult social services could see an increase in demand. For example the Disability Information Service or care staff may need to handle more queries and provide greater support.	

No	Question	Details
	above)	
8b.	<b>Cumulative Impacts – Other public services</b> (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	There is to be a review of learning disability day services. The details of this review are not yet known, but it may have an impact on people with learning disabilities. At the time of the review, the need for an advocacy service is likely, therefore, to be more significant.

### Section 3: Mitigating action

No	Action	Details
9.	<b>Summarise any negative impacts and how these will be managed?</b>	<p>Although the proposal is to reduce this fund, it is proposed to protect, as much as reasonably practicable, the advocacy service which SPOT provides.</p> <p>The consultation responses identified a number of implications of the reductions in this fund, see below. Action that is being taken to mitigate these issues is also shown below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reduced advocacy support for people with learning disabilities</i> - Advocacy will be considered as part of the Information and Advice development work that is being undertaken in the Bay and facilitated by the Community Development Trust (CDT), and linkages will be made to neighbouring authorities and their mechanisms. In addition, there is no proposed reduction in the funding for the advocacy service provided through VOCAL.</li> <li>• <i>Reduced quality of life for people through reduced independence or not feeling safe</i> – A level of advocacy support and information will continue to be provided.</li> <li>• <i>Loss of client leadership of the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board</i> – Clients will continue to be involved and part of the Board. Alternative options will be explored in the future to see if the funding of the chair can be continued.</li> <li>• <i>Reduced communication support for people with communication difficulties</i> – Alternative funding sources are being explored for the continuation of the Total Communication service.</li> <li>• <i>Reduced levels of information</i> - Information and Advice is a significant piece of development work that is being undertaken in the Bay and facilitated by the CDT. Linkages will be made to neighbouring authorities and their mechanisms</li> <li>• <i>Potential impact on the effectiveness of health checks</i> – the health checks will continue and alternative ways of</li> </ul>

		<p>printing/funding the health work books will be explored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Less client involvement and engagement in change</i> - Mechanisms such as online feedback portals and seeking to introduce rate and review systems for services, with Healthwatch support, will provide a sound overview of service delivery and need for changes.</li> <li>• <i>Lost opportunity to support innovation that may provide a better service</i> – Information on possible funding sources will be available from existing sources, e.g. the CDT.</li> <li>• <i>Possible increase in safeguarding referrals as preventative work may not be undertaken</i> – the safeguarding picture will continue to be monitored and any corrective action considered depending on the trends that emerge. Prevention is a prime concern of the Safeguarding Adults Board and this subject will be monitored by them</li> <li>• <i>More people may use other health and social care services</i> - With increased advice and information people will be able to make better choices as to how to meet their needs; advocacy is a key part to this however there is likely to be an increase in demand on other parts of the system.</li> </ul> <p>Any specific issues that arise, following the budget reductions, can be escalated to commissioners for consideration/action. The Learning Disability Partnership Board and Commissioning for Independence Board will be able to receive any issues and consider corrective action. It should be noted that the Council has already invested in the Community Development Trust and as a result third sector organisations will be signposted to this organisation for support such as help with obtaining funding.</p>
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#### Section 4: Monitoring

No	Action	Details
10.	<b>Outline plans to monitor the actual impact of your proposals</b>	It is proposed that after 6 months of any reduction in the LDDF, that the Learning Disability Partnership Board reviews the impact of the proposal. This forum has client, carer, and commissioner and provider involvement and so it will be possible to gauge the impact across a range of stakeholders. Any corrective action can then be considered.

**Section 5: Recommended course of action –**

No	Action	Outcome	Tick ✓	Reasons/justification for recommended action
11.	<b>State a recommended course of action</b>	<b>Outcome 1: No major change required - EIA</b> <i>has not identified any potential for adverse impact in relation to equalities and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken</i>		
		<b>Outcome 2: Adjustments to remove barriers –</b> <i>Action to remove the barriers identified in relation to equalities have been taken or actions identified to better promote equality</i>		
		<b>Outcome 3: Continue with proposal -</b> Despite having identified some <u>potential</u> for adverse impact / missed opportunities in relation to equalities or to promote equality. Full justification required, especially in relation to equalities, in line with the duty to have 'due regard'.	✓	<p><i>The purpose of this proposal is not to discriminate directly or indirectly, and does not amount to unlawful discrimination. The Council has to deliver significant savings, and in doing so has to prioritise its statutory responsibilities. Whilst the consultation has highlighted the benefits derived from the service together with the impact upon those who currently receive the service, this service is not statutory. The Council will endeavour, with its partners and the community, to mitigate against any adverse impacts.</i></p> <p><i>It may be possible for the areas affected to attract other sources of funding. For SPOT it may be appropriate for them to be clear on the core services they are funded for and then to charge for other services.</i></p>
		<b>Outcome 4: Stop and rethink –</b> EIA has identified actual or potential unlawful discrimination in relation to equalities or adverse impact has been identified		

# APPENDIX ONE:

## Consultation Data: Reduction in the Learning Disability Development Fund

### 1. CLIENTS

#### 1.1 Methodology

An online survey was developed in order to consult on this proposal, supported by information about the proposal. Respondents were advised of how they could make further representations in writing to Torbay Council regarding the proposal. In addition an easy read version of the questionnaire was developed and was made available. The results of the online survey are shown later in this report.

A number of client focus groups were also held with clients to obtain their views. This included clients with varying degrees of learning disabilities and consisted of:

- ROC (Robert Owen Communities) – arranging focus groups and enabling clients to complete questionnaires, 35 clients covered
- Hollacombe Community Resource Centre (CRC) – 3 focus groups involving 21 clients

This section summarises the results from the 56 clients highlighted above.

#### 1.2 Results

##### Q1. What are the main benefits, if any, for people with learning disabilities with how the fund is currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Health workbooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Makes me better</i></li><li>• <i>It helps me</i></li><li>• <i>Work books are really good</i></li></ul>
SPOT (Speaking out Torbay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>SPOT helps people speak out</i></li><li>• <i>Help people to get jobs, money and help with housing</i></li><li>• <i>Lots of meetings and events held</i></li><li>• <i>Did something about healthy eating</i></li><li>• <i>Easy to read information is helpful</i></li></ul>
Total Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Good service helped with signs</i></li><li>• <i>To talk to people and lots of writing, doing forms and reports</i></li><li>• <i>A person used it for their job at Sainsburys</i></li><li>• <i>Learnt symbols and signs</i></li></ul>
Promote Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Try something new</i></li></ul>

<p><b>Learning Disability events</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Meeting the Police at the Blue Light Day makes people comfortable</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>You can put your hands up and people can speak if they are able to</i></li> <li>• <i>Helps find jobs and money</i></li> <li>• <i>People can share their views and say what needs to be done</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Innovation</b></p>	<p><i>New projects are a good idea</i></p>
<p><b>Learning Disability Events</b></p>	<p><i>Good seeing the Police and Fire Brigade, "trying on their uniforms and it made me feel safe".</i></p>

**Q2. What are the main disadvantages, if any, for people with learning disabilities with how the fund is currently allocated?**

Theme	Examples of comments
SPOT (Speaking out Torbay)	<i>Lack of information about SPOT</i>

**Q3. Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Learning Disability Development Fund?**

	Number	Percent
No	56	100%
Yes	0	0%
No response	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Q4. Please provide further details/comments below.**

Theme	Examples of comments
Lack of information	<i>Information is important for everyone People won't know what is going on</i>
Reduced advocacy	<i>All get far less help than we really need, won't get point across and will not be part of community</i>
Loss of Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB) client chair	<i>Chair of the LDPB does a good job and explains things well</i>

**Q5. What do you think the main impacts will be on people with learning disabilities if the proposal is implemented?**

Theme	Examples of comments
Loss of Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB) client Chair	<i>Safeguarding jobs is important</i>
Reduced advocacy	<i>Don't want to lose the voice of people with learning disabilities</i>
Reduced information	<i>Easy read information is important to communicate</i>

<b>Reduced health</b>	<i>Peoples health could be detrimentally affected</i>
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**Q6 & 7. Do you agree with the proposal for how the fund is allocated for 2014/15?**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No	15	55%
Yes	12	45%
No response	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Examples of comments</b>
<b>Priorities</b>	<i>The ROC group felt that SPOT, the chair person and the Health books should be the priority</i>

**Q8 & 9. Do you agree with the proposal for how the fund is allocated for 2015/16?**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No	15	55%
Yes	12	45%
No response	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Examples of comments</b>
<b>Priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Libraries and yearly health checks are very important but at the moment SPOT is the most important</i></li> <li><i>People wanted more than one service funded</i></li> <li><i>SPOT was a favourite however the majority of people wanted to know more about what it is and what it does</i></li> </ul>

**Q10. If you answered no to Q6 and/or Q8 please tell us how you feel that the fund should be allocated/prioritised?**

Theme	Examples of comments
<b>Priorities</b>	<i>The ROC clients wanted different things funded from books, DVDs, new sports equipment, help to clean rooms, projects within ROC, learning about being healthy and active etc</i>

## 2. CARERS

### 2.1 Methodology

The Older Persons Carers Group was approached as a key carers group in Torbay for people with learning disabilities. 20 members of this group were met on 17 December 2013 and gave their views on the proposal. In addition 2 carers completed hardcopy questionnaires. This section summarises the output from the Carers group as well as these 2 questionnaires.

### 2.2 Results

#### Q1. What are the main benefits, if any, for people with learning disabilities with how the fund is currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Communication	<i>Total communications is a valuable service and needs to be retained</i>
Health workbooks	<i>Workbooks are very good and aid communication</i>
Work of Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB)	<i>The Learning Disability Partnership Board should continue and be more widely promoted.</i>
SPOT (Speaking out Torbay)	<i>SPOT can speak up for Learning Disability clients and provide a voice for vulnerable clients.</i>
Learning Disability (LD) Events	<i>Some people valued the Learning Disability Blue Light day and found this informative.</i>

#### Q2. What are the main disadvantages, if any, for people with learning disabilities with how the fund is currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Some people were unsure what outcomes, SPOT achieved, as there was a view that feedback was not provided on them.</i></li></ul>

Reduced communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPOT could communicate better with regards to what they do, what services they provide, how they can be accessed and better publicise their successes.</li> <li>• Similarly, the other services provided through the LDDF could be better publicised.</li> <li>• Some people were not aware of the Total Communication Service and what it does</li> </ul>
Cost Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are all services cost effective, e.g. cost of Total Communications service?</li> </ul>

**Q3. Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Learning Disability Development Fund?**

	Number	Percent
No	22	100%
Yes	0	0%
No response	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Q4. Please provide further details/comments below.**

Theme	Examples of comments
Reduced of advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Without support people will return to being shut away, e.g. institutionalised</li> </ul>

**Q5. What do you think the main impacts will be on people with learning disabilities if the proposal is implemented?**

Theme	Examples of comments
Reduced advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPOT trips to London to lobby on Learning Disability issues might not happen in the future (some people were not sure if they were still happening).</li> <li>• There was a fear from some people that (without SPOT) there will be no one to speak out on behalf of people with Learning Difficulties.</li> <li>• Some people felt that cuts in the fund, together with potential cuts to Day Care Services, might leave vulnerable people with nothing to do and no one to vocalise their concerns.</li> <li>• Without support people will return to being shut away, e.g. institutionalised</li> </ul>

<b>Reduced Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>It will be even harder for SPOT to communicate on what it is doing and offering</i></li> </ul>
<b>Poorer quality of life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Loss of quality of life</i></li> <li>• <i>Loss of independence</i></li> <li>• <i>Increase in mental health and physical health issues</i></li> <li>• <i>Further loss of services</i></li> </ul>

**Q6 & 7. Do you agree with the proposal for how the fund is allocated for 2014/15?**

**Mixed responses on allocation** - Some people valued retaining the Health work books, Learning Disability Partnership Board and Total Communications Service.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Examples of comments</b>
<b>Service access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Some people were unclear about the criteria, where relevant, that exists to access some of these services.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Reduced advocacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>SPOT are an organisation who speak out for people with learning disabilities</i></li> </ul>
<b>Health workbooks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Now the health workbooks are tried and tested surely these should be funded by Health, e.g. GPs</i></li> </ul>
<b>Chairmanship of Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Client chairmanship should continue</i></li> </ul>

**Q8 & 9. Do you agree with the proposal for how the fund is allocated for 2015/16?**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No	21	95%
Yes	1	5%
No response	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Examples of comments</b>
<b>N/A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>None recorded</i></li> </ul>

**Q10. If you answered no to Q6 and/or Q8 please tell us how you feel that the fund should be allocated/prioritised?**

Theme	Examples of comments
SPOT (Speaking out Torbay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Some people felt that SPOT should receive more money, in order to improve communications e.g. through a newsletter.</i></li><li>• <i>Others felt it would be better to provide more money to the Older Carers Group, rather than SPOT.</i></li><li>• <i>Some people felt that some Learning Disability clients were not getting information from SPOT.</i></li><li>• <i>One person said they could not agree to such a large reduction in funds for SPOT but said that SPOT, in turn, must progress ability to use funds effectively</i></li></ul>

### 3. Speaking Out Torbay (SPOT)

#### 3.1 Methodology

Speaking Out Torbay (SPOT) members have been able to complete the online survey or complete it in hardcopy. An easy read version of the questionnaire was also developed and was made available for people to complete. In addition SPOT were offered a face to face meeting which they took up on 5 December 2013. The outcome of this discussion is shown in this section.

#### 3.2 Results

##### Q1. What are the main benefits, if any, for people with learning disabilities with how the fund is currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
SPOT (Speaking out Torbay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Enables the community to have its say</i></li><li>• <i>Helps support people with learning disabilities</i></li><li>• <i>Feeds in the views of people with learning disabilities into key boards, groups etc</i></li><li>• <i>Plays a key role in the Learning Disability Partnership Board</i></li><li>• <i>Helps with consultation on change</i></li><li>• <i>Helps develop services and partnership working</i></li><li>• <i>Helps promote best practice</i></li><li>• <i>Provides easy read information</i></li><li>• <i>Helps engage with key stakeholders to develop, innovate and ensure cost effective services</i></li></ul>

##### Q2. What are the main disadvantages, if any, for people with learning disabilities with how the fund is currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Core funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>SPOT needs core funding and should not necessarily be funded through the LDDF</i></li></ul>

##### Q3. Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Learning Disability Development Fund?

	Number	Percent
No	3	100%
Yes	0	0%
No response	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Q4. Please provide further details/comments below.**

Theme	Examples of comments
Reduced advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>More difficult for clients to raise issues</i></li> <li>• <i>May affect SPOT viability</i></li> </ul>
Reduced communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>May affect communication with clients</i></li> <li>• <i>Will limit ability to consult people and work with them</i></li> </ul>
Reduced innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>May affect ability to develop new ideas</i></li> </ul>

**Q5. What do you think the main impacts will be on people with learning disabilities if the proposal is implemented?**

Theme	Examples of comments
Reduced information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Nowhere for people to go for information</i></li> </ul>
Reduced advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reduced voice for people with learning disabilities</i></li> </ul>
Difficult to implement change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Likely to affect how clients are involved in developing change</i></li> <li>• <i>May make it more difficult to introduce cultural change</i></li> </ul>

**Q6 & 7. Do you agree with the proposal for how the fund is allocated for 2014/15?**

	Number	Percent
No	0	0%
Yes	3	100%
No response	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>

Theme	Examples of comments
Core Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>It was felt that the production of the health workbooks should be paid for from core funding and not the LDDF</i></li> </ul>

**Q8 & 9. Do you agree with the proposal for how the fund is allocated for 2015/16?**

	Number	Percent
No	0	0%
Yes	3	100%
No response	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>

Theme	Examples of comments
Reduced advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>May affect SPOT viability</i></li> </ul>
Reduced quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Comes on top of other cuts which all have a detrimental impact on people with learning disabilities</i></li> </ul>

**Q10. If you answered no to Q6 and/or Q8 please tell us how you feel that the fund should be allocated/prioritised?**

Theme	Examples of comments
N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>None recorded</i></li> </ul>

## 4. CLIENT CHAIR OF LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

### 4.1 Methodology

The client chair of the Learning Disability Partnership Board was offered a face to face meeting which he took up and this took place on 18 December 2013. The chair also wrote in separately to give his views. The outcome of this discussion and the letter are shown in this section.

### 4.2 Results

#### Q1. What are the main benefits, if any, for people with learning disabilities with how the fund is currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
SPOT (Speaking Out Torbay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Fund helps give people a voice</i></li><li>• <i>SPOT have found it difficult to obtain funding from other sources and so the LDDF funding has been crucial</i></li></ul>
Quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The chair enjoys being employed as the chair and he feels valued</i></li></ul>
Health workbooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Health workbooks are helpful</i></li></ul>
Total Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Total Communications helps people to communicate better</i></li></ul>
Work of Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Enables SPOT to do work for LDPB</i></li></ul>

#### Q2. What are the main disadvantages, if any, for people with learning disabilities with how the fund is currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Core funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Sometimes have to refuse requests which are important</i></li></ul>

**Q3. Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Learning Disability Development Fund?**

	Number	Percent
No	1	100%
Yes	0	0%
No response	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Q4. Please provide further details/comments below.**

Theme	Examples of comments
Quality of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cuts being targeted at people with learning disabilities</i></li> <li>• <i>Cuts would have a big impact on Chair's quality of life</i></li> <li>• <i>Chair would find it difficult to find another job given his age</i></li> </ul>

**Q5. What do you think the main impacts will be on people with learning disabilities if the proposal is implemented?**

Theme	Examples of comments
Poorer communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>People will not be able to get the services they need or want, e.g. Total Communications</i></li> </ul>
Poorer advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>People will not be able to get the services they need or want, e.g. SPOT</i></li> </ul>

**Q6 & 7. Do you agree with the proposal for how the fund is allocated for 2014/15?**

	Number	Percent
No	0	0%
Yes	1	100%
No response	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Q8 & 9. Do you agree with the proposal for how the fund is allocated for 2015/16?**

All important and so difficult to determine

Theme	Examples of comments
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>All the areas are priorities</i></li></ul>
Core funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Can the GP surgeries fund the printing of the health workbooks?</i></li><li>• <i>If SPOT can attract funding from other sources it may be possible to use the remaining funds to cover other areas</i></li></ul>

**Q10. If you answered no to Q6 and/or Q8 please tell us how you feel that the fund should be allocated/prioritised?**

Theme	Examples of comments
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Too much money is being taken from disadvantaged people every year. The funding should be taken from other sources.</i></li><li>• <i>How can you improve people's lives when money is constantly being reduced – you need a break from it? We are going back to the dark ages.</i></li><li>• <i>Can the Council use its reserves to help with the cuts?</i></li></ul>

## **5. TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE**

The Joint Interim Head of Speech and Language Therapy, at South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust were contacted as the person with responsibility for the Total Communication Service. An opportunity was given for the team to complete the online survey or complete a hardcopy. In addition a face to face meeting was offered. This was felt to be unnecessary as an online questionnaire was completed instead. This response is therefore included in the online survey results which are shown in section 6.

## 6. ONLINE SURVEY

### 6.1 Methodology

An online survey was prepared and a link to the survey was sent to the following:

- Learning Disability providers who have contracts with the Care Trust (3 December 2013)
- Learning Disability Partnership Board (6 December 2013)
- Commissioning for Independence Board (13 December 201)
- South Devon and Torbay Clinical Commissioning Group (13 December 201)

The link was then made publicly available on the Council website from 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and a reminder was sent out before Christmas about the consultation. As a result 10 people submitted electronic questionnaires and the results from these questionnaires are summarised below.

### 6.2 Results

#### Q1. What are the main benefits, if any, for people with learning disabilities with how the fund is currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>People have a say about what is happening</i></li><li>• <i>People able to be represented in decisions that affect them</i></li></ul>
SPOT (Speaking out Torbay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Demonstrates service user involvement</i></li><li>• <i>SPOT is known and trusted by service users</i></li><li>• <i>SPOT uses innovative and creative ways of engaging</i></li><li>• <i>SPOT has been invaluable in the annual engagement events for the self assessment framework</i></li></ul>
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Pump priming initiatives are crucial in reducing reliance on statutory and traditional services</i></li></ul>
Health workbooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Valuable tool for identifying the primary health needs of people with learning disabilities</i></li><li>• <i>Aids service users to access healthcare, make them feel easier and understand more.</i></li></ul>
Total Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Excellent reviews on the total communications service</i></li><li>• <i>Do a fantastic job with highly trained and qualified staff</i></li></ul>
Learning Disability Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Fantastic way to network, compare information and gain knowledge</i></li><li>• <i>Blue light day was fantastic in helping the emergency services understand our service users</i></li></ul>

<b>Impact on clients</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Torbay's Safeguarding Adults Boards responsibilities for the prevention of harm are supported by the providers funded through the LDDF.</i></li> </ul>
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**Q2. What are the main disadvantages, if any, for people with learning disabilities with how the fund is currently allocated?**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Examples of comments</b>
<b>Loss of innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Has an opportunity been missed for people to apply for funding to improve the health and lives of people with learning disabilities</i></li> </ul>
<b>Advocacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>There is not enough advocacy for people that need it, e.g. to assist people to represent themselves when others are not acting in their Best interests</i></li> <li><i>SPOT may not be representative of people with a Profound and Multiple Learning Disability (PMLD)</i></li> <li><i>SPOT could become professional service users with lessened objectivity</i></li> <li><i>Hard to get hold of SPOT and not had a SPOT meeting for over a year</i></li> </ul>
<b>Work of Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The LDPB is a little disorganised and although trying to make a difference is lacking in time and effort by those with power to really make this a board that enables people to be involved in the decisions that might affect them.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Health issues for people with Learning Disability still misunderstood by professions, such as GPs and so awareness raising is important</i></li> </ul>

**Q3. Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Learning Disability Development Fund?**

	Number	Percent
No	8	80%
Yes	2	20%
No response	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Q4. Please provide further details/comments below.**

Theme	Examples of comments
Loss of innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£10k pot helps give a better service</li> </ul>
Reduced advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People will be less satisfied with a reduced voice</li> </ul>
Difficult to implement change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes that are needed could stagnate without the funding</li> </ul>
Efficient service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Money should be saved from elsewhere and the LDDF should be reduced to a more appropriate proportion</li> <li>Given the current underspend there is no evidence to suggest the existing 2013/14 budget should remain at current level</li> </ul>
Total Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved outcomes for many people not just those with a learning disability</li> </ul>
SPOT (Speaking out Torbay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding funding for SPOT is my main concern</li> </ul>
Increased Safeguarding referrals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May reduce number of low level concerns but increase number of safeguarding referrals as preventative work may not be undertaken</li> </ul>
Quality of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fund supports people to be independent and be safe</li> </ul>

**Q5. What do you think the main impacts will be on people with learning disabilities if the proposal is implemented?**

Theme	Examples of comments
Poorer advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Less advocacy available</i></li> <li>• <i>Less chance to be involved</i></li> </ul>
Impact on other services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>More people will use health and social care services</i></li> <li>• <i>Issues will not be identified early to prevent escalation</i></li> <li>• <i>Missed opportunity to improve quality of care</i></li> <li>• <i>Health workbooks enable Doctors and carers to focus on wider health issues</i></li> </ul>
Poorer communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Negative impact on people with communication difficulties</i></li> <li>• <i>Loss of total communication service would affect people's confidence, mental health, behaviour etc.</i></li> </ul>

**Q6 & 7. Do you agree with the proposal for how the fund is allocated for 2014/15 and what are your comments on this?**

	Number	Percent
No	4	40%
Yes	6	60%
No response	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

Theme	Examples of comments
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Total Communications delivers the most benefits and should be prioritised</i></li> <li>• <i>Could SPOT be used to cover the other resources that would be cut</i></li> <li>• <i>I do not think SPOT are the only people who can do this</i></li> <li>• <i>Could funding be made available from health budgets?</i></li> <li>• <i>Prefer to keep £10k pot and partnership fund events rather than SPOT</i></li> </ul>

**Q8 & 9. Do you agree with the proposal for how the fund is allocated for 2015/16?**

	Number	Percent
No	7	70%
Yes	2	20%
No response	1	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

Theme	Examples of comments
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>SPOT not representative of people with PMLD</i></li> <li>• <i>Level of SPOT funding should be maintained and consideration given to extending scope of SPOT to cover other organisations</i></li> <li>• <i>SPOT do an excellent job but we cannot afford to stop funding health work books, total communications and the Partnership Board</i></li> </ul>

**Q10. If you answered no to Q6 and/or Q8 please tell us how you feel that the fund should be allocated/prioritised?**

Theme	Examples of comments
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Money should be allocated to Total Communications</i></li> <li>• <i>See if match funding can be secured for more comprehensive user led group that would include people with MLD</i></li> <li>• <i>Varying priorities for allocation</i></li> </ul>

## 7. Other Stakeholders

### 7.1 Methodology

Reductions in the funding of the Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) could impact on the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board, the Commissioning for Independence Board and the Health service. As a result emails were sent to these two Boards as well as to the South Devon and Torbay Clinical Commissioning Group encouraging them to respond to the survey. Any electronic submissions from these organisations are shown in the online analysis in section 6.

In its role of co-ordinating the LDDF the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board (LDPB) considered the impacts of the reduction in this fund at its meeting on 16 January 2014. The LDPB were aware that at the time of the original budget proposals there was an under spend in the Learning Disabilities Development Fund (LDDF). However, it is anticipated that by the end of the financial year all the funding will have been allocated to worthwhile causes. At the meeting the LDPB passed a resolution to express its concerns about this proposal by 19 votes to 0, as follows:

***"The Learning Disability Partnership Board urges Torbay Council to reconsider the reduction in the Learning Disability Development Fund. This fund has enabled people with learning disabilities to be involved in decision making, have their say and participate in Torbay and has been used to stimulate innovation and creativity in the sector. The budget reduction would have a negative impact on vulnerable people with learning disabilities in Torbay. The LDPB recommends that funding is not reduced, in order to promote longer term savings as well as positive outcomes for people with learning disabilities."***

A hardcopy questionnaire was returned by the Hollacombe and Torquay CRC day services staff. It is not known how many staff were involved in the completion of this questionnaire. The results from this questionnaire are shown below.

### 7.2 Results

**Q1. What are the main benefits, if any, for people with learning disabilities with how the fund is currently allocated?**

Theme	Examples of comments
Health workbooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Workbooks are excellent for service users</i></li></ul>
Total Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Total Communications service is excellent and is open to everyone</i></li></ul>

**Q2. What are the main disadvantages, if any, for people with learning disabilities with how the fund is currently allocated?**

Theme	Examples of comments
SPOT (Speaking out Torbay) advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Not sure what SPOT do and so refer to VOCAL</i></li> </ul>

**Q3. Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Learning Disability Development Fund?**

No

**Q4. Please provide further details/comments below.**

Theme	Examples of comments
SPOT (Speaking out Torbay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Don't feel SPOT deserve the amount they get</i></li> </ul>

**Q5. What do you think the main impacts will be on people with learning disabilities if the proposal is implemented?**

Theme	Examples of comments
SPOT (Speaking out Torbay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>If SPOT get all the money who will oversee that they support people who need them?</i></li> </ul>

**Q6 & 7. Do you agree with the proposal for how the fund is allocated for 2014/15?**

Yes

Theme	Examples of comments
None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>None</i></li> </ul>

**Q8 & 9. Do you agree with the proposal for how the fund is allocated for 2015/16?**

No

Theme	Examples of comments
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Other advocate agencies should have a share in the funding</i></li></ul>

**Q10. If you answered no to Q6 and/or Q8 please tell us how you feel that the fund should be allocated/prioritised?**

Theme	Examples of comments
Health workbooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Continue</i></li></ul>
Total Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Continue</i></li></ul>
Client Chairmanship of Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Continue</i></li></ul>
SPOT (Speaking out Torbay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Money to be shared for people to work more closely with people who have learning disabilities.</i></li></ul>

## 9. Mayor's Budget Consultation Results:

### 9.1 Methodology

A questionnaire was produced and was distributed, in hard copy, to all Connections offices and libraries – this was open to all members of the public to complete.

An online version was made available on the Torbay Council website on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The questionnaire was advertised via posters and the local media. The survey had a closing date of 16th January 2014. A total of 409 responses have been received.

The following question was asked within this questionnaire regarding the Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) proposal:

#### **Reduce the Learning Disability Development Fund**

This is a development fund which has been used in the past to supplement the work of voluntary sector organisations and the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board. This is expected to save £34,000 over two years.

Do you support this proposal?	Number	Percent
Yes	193	47.2
No	174	42.5
No response	42	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>100.0</b>

146 respondents made comments related to the proposal. These have been summarised into themes below:

Category	Examples of comments – where respondents said 'No' above
<b>Will impact on vulnerable people</b>	<p><i>"...These are some of the most vulnerable people in society and an easy target. They are not able to cope without support."</i></p> <p><i>"Because it will impact on some of the most vulnerable in the community and supports empowerment and self management of conditions which actually delivers cost savings in real terms."</i></p> <p><i>"Cutting this budget would affect some of the most vulnerable people in our society. People who may not receive this support in any other way, putting a strain on families and carers."</i></p>
<b>May increase pressure on statutory services</b>	<p><i>"Long-term this is counter-productive as reducing support of this kind increase crisis, respite and residential service demand."</i></p> <p><i>"...This will increase the burden on the public sector."</i></p>

Category	Examples of comments – where respondents said ‘No’ above
<p><b>Vital service</b></p>	<p><i>“It is important to support people with learning difficulties.”</i></p> <p><i>“Those who have disability need support and this cannot come from the family all the time.”</i></p>
<p><b>Small cost saving</b></p>	<p><i>“It is a comparatively small sum and accommodating the needs of individuals with learning disabilities ...benefits the individuals and the community as well.”</i></p> <p><i>“The cost saving is not worth it considering the benefits to those with learning disabilities.”</i></p>