

Budget Proposals 2014/15 and 2015/16: Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Voluntary Sector Block Contracts

Officer Name:	Julie Foster	Position:	Associate Director Adult Social Services
Business Unit:	Professional Practice – TSDHCT	Directorate:	Adult Social Care
Executive Lead(s):	Cllr Christine Scouler	Date:	6th February 2014

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:

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

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"> • <i>Potential risks</i> • <i>Impact on community</i> • <i>Knock on impact to other agencies</i> • <i>If statutory service please state relevant legislation section and Act together with any statutory guidance issued.</i> 	Type of decision		
	Income £	Budget reduction £				Internal	Minor	Major
Voluntary Sector Block Contracts: Negotiation with voluntary sector organisations to improve efficiency or reduce costs. The current value of all contracts with voluntary sector managed by the Trust is £256k.		£76,000 (£38k 2014/15 £38k 2015/16)	Nil	2014/15 & 2015/16	This proposal will achieve the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% reduction to 3 contracts (Devon County Council, Age UK and Brixham Does Care) • No reduction to 4 contracts (Vocal, Parkview Society & 2 Bipolar self management & rent of premises) • Withdrawal of funding (some over two years) to 3 contracts – Relate, ACE and Rethink This will generate a saving of £62,400 The additional £13,600 will be found as part of the ASC budget reduction total via efficiency savings.			X

Section 1: Purpose of the proposal/strategy/decision

No	Question	Details
1.	Clearly set out the proposal and what is the intended outcome.	<p>Original Proposal:</p> <p>The proposal is in 3 parts with total savings of £53,000 that have been consulted upon. The balance is with internal cross-organisational contracts which were not consulted upon as 10% reduction in current contract prices were specified as part of a tender process.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Terminate seven contracts/grants with voluntary sector (save £38,000). These cover a variety of schemes provided by the third sector (several funded originally by the Mental Health Grant) aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing, promoting self help and inclusion and reducing pressure on statutory services. All services could be terminated on 31 March 2014 if the necessary notice is given in time to give a full year saving in 14/15. 2. Reduce cost of Information and Advice Provision contracts by 10%. (Brixham does Care and Age UK) (save £15,000) 3. Require 5% increase on activity for the statutory services funded (Devon County Council recharge for Independent Mental Health Advocacy and Parkview Society Appropriate Adult.) <p>Amended proposal (February 2014):</p> <p>This proposal will achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% reduction to 3 contracts (Devon County Council, Age UK and Brixham Does Care) • No reduction to 4 contracts (Vocal, Parkview Society & 2 Bipolar self management & rent of premises) • Withdrawal of funding (some over two years) to 3 contracts – Relate, ACE and Rethink <p>This will generate a saving of £66,000</p> <p>The additional £10,000 will be found as part of the ASC budget reduction total via efficiency savings.</p>

No	Question	Details
2.	Who is intended to benefit / who will be affected?	The withdrawal of this funding is likely to end services provided as the organisations are dependent on this financial support. This will remove several services providing self help support, advice and information and advocacy. The loss of services could potentially result in higher referrals to statutory services.

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.	Have you considered the available evidence?	<p>Torbay's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and strategic documents evidence the growth in the older population and mental health issues. The Learning Disabilities self-assessment, whilst in draft identifies areas for development.</p> <p>Through consultation with the organisations affected, evidence has been collated regarding the number of service users who are accessing each service.</p>
4.	Have you consulted on the proposal?	<p>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.</p> <p>Further to this, each organisation affected was contacted individually to offer the opportunity of a face to face meeting with the organisations affected to discuss the impact of the proposal, explore the potential for them to continue to provide a reduced level of service and consider where there may be opportunity for them to reshape the services they provide. All organisations were asked to inform their members, service users, stakeholders and members of the public of the consultation and to invite them to participate in the process.</p> <p>6 Meetings were held, attended by 25 people.</p> <p>The online survey relating to Voluntary Sector budgets proposals was completed by 11 people, indicating their lack of support for the proposals.</p>

The section in the general on line survey on this proposal was completed by 409 people, of which 49.4% supported the proposal and 40.6% did not, with 10% making no responses.

65 letters were received (all for ACE and Bipolar Self Help group). These all expressed great concern about the potential loss of services on which individuals rely for support with serious physical disability and mental Health problems. It is estimated that over 1100 people will lose services they view are essential to their wellbeing if the proposals go ahead.

Please see appendix one for a full report on the consultation results.

Organisations	Function	Consultation
Vocal	Advocacy for communication issues (Learning Disability)	Meeting (local manager and chair of trustees), correspondence, survey. (Service users supported to use survey.)
Access to Community Education (ACE)	Social activity, access to adult education and support to combat social isolation	Meeting, correspondence, survey
Brixham does Care	Advice and information, benefits attainment, range of social activities, befriending etc aimed to tackle social isolation	Meeting, correspondence, survey
Age UK	Advice and information, benefit claim support, range of services to support older people at home.	Meeting, correspondence, survey
Parkview Society	Statutory Appropriate Adult Service	Survey, correspondence
Rethink (DCC)	Statutory Independent Mental Health Advocacy contract let in partnership with Devon.	Meeting not offered as tendered process in progress on 3 year basis for 2014/15 with 10% reduction built in.
Rethink (DCC)	Mental Health Advocacy	survey
Relate	Relationship Counselling	Meeting with local manager, survey
Bipolar Self Management	Support in managing mental health condition	(Meeting held with service users, correspondence, survey)
Bipolar Self Management	Rent of premises	(Meeting held with service users, correspondence, survey)

5. Outline the key findings

The main themes arising from the consultation were as follows:

- Effective Use of funding (Provision of relatively small amounts of funding to the voluntary sector go a long way.)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of voluntary sector capacity at a time when we need to build on it and have stated objectives to do so, evidenced by the commitment to the Community Development Trust (CDT) • Loss of immeasurable value of benefits to individuals and families, especially in tackling social isolation and promoting self reliance • Severe impact on statutory services if reduced or removed, increasing costs and pressures far in excess of the savings being made, and exacerbating the deterioration of health and wellbeing for individuals • User-led organisations have a key role to play in representing hard to reach groups and supporting Equality and Diversity within Torbay • There was great concern expressed about the loss of ACE and the Bipolar Self Management Group, two of the services likely to end if the proposal continues. It was expressed that many people would access statutory services more frequently, they would become socially isolated and, in extreme cases, an increase in suicide could be an outcome. • Regarding the Parkview Society, any decrease in this statutory Appropriate Adult service will result in referrals to health and social care teams. As these teams are not trained in this role and do not have capacity to take on additional roles, the proposal to reduce the service is not cost effective.
6.	<p>What amendments may be required as a result of the consultation?</p>	<p>The consultation has provided feedback that the Voluntary Sector is able to provide a range of valuable services to the community in a very cost effective way.</p> <p>Our health and social care community will need to rely on these organisations to build networks of support in order to achieve its stated aims and objectives. Each organisation provides a well known, well used service to our population.</p> <p>Changes are suggested, based on the following rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision of Torbay’s Health and Wellbeing Board is: A Healthier Torbay: Where we work together to enable everyone to enjoy a healthy, safe and fulfilling life. One of the underlying principles contained in the Joint Health and

Wellbeing Strategy is Early Intervention: improving overall outcomes and ultimately reducing cost with a focus on prevention rather than treatment. Priorities include: Support independent living; Support people with long-term conditions and support people with mental health needs.

- An aim of the future Integrated Care Organisation is that ‘Services should enable people to take more responsibility for their own health and wellbeing ‘
- Outcomes based working is a national policy and Torbay could lead on this with a committed voluntary sector and the development of an integrated system for which it is known. To move to outcomes based way of working that recognises the value of the services, and seeks to engage other parts of the system in paying for the provision of the services which remove pressures and costs from other areas – e.g. police (Parkview), Information and Advice (GPs) Time needs to be given to enable this to happen.
- The statutory services will not be able to cope with increasing demand for services given proposed reductions in funding and there will be more signposting to the voluntary sector to enable people to organise their own care, with or without public funding depending on their eligibility. Once gone, such organisations will be hard to rebuild. They rely on the commitment and input of volunteers and the spirit of partnership with the Council, which may be damaged.

In order to mitigate the impact of the proposed reductions on these services, it is suggested that the proposal is changed with regard to the Parkview Society and Bipolar Self Management Group, so that no reductions should be made to these groups. The reduction in savings will be made up through the overall saving required of the Trust:

Specific Concerns : User Led Groups

- **Bipolar Self Management.** This small user led organisation reaches 1000 people with this disorder in Torbay, avoiding contact with statutory services. As the group provides support in managing a long term condition, other avenues of funding (i.e. NHS) should be explored. Removing the funding for this group will end it, which will have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of many very vulnerable people who want to remain as independent of the statutory services as possible – ***Due to the specific concerns raised this proposal is withdrawn. (Reduction in saving: £8,500).***
- **Parkview Society:** There is a sound case for not making the proposed 10% (£1,400) reduction to this statutory service as it will result in referrals for attendance at the Police Custody Centre being passed on to social care staff during the day and out of hours. It will cost a significant sum to release and provide training to staff to provide a back up service to Parkview, much more than the proposed reduction. – ***Due to the specific concerns raised the proposal to reduce the budget to the Parkview Society group is withdrawn***

- **ACE** is a valuable user led group which provides a wide range of support services to people with physical and mental ill health. Removing the funding for this group will end it, which may have a significant impact on the health and well-being of the vulnerable people who want to remain as independent of the statutory services as possible. However, the group could be supported to provide services which could be accessed via Personal Budgets. In light of the views expressed in the consultation that if given additional time there may be opportunities to access different funding streams to enable the service to continue, the Council is now proposing the establishment of a one off transitional fund in the value of £5,000, which will be provided to the service over 2014/15 & 2015/16. This transitional fund is designed to provide the service with sufficient time to explore opportunities to enable the service to continue for a future without Council funding.

Contract	Current Yr 1 reduction	Current Yr 2 reduction	Current Proposal	Proposed Changes
1. Vocal	0	0	Meeting to discuss the services/support they provide and how this might be utilised in the future	No Change
2. Access to Community Education (ACE)	3,000	22,000	Proposal to reduce funding by £3k from 1 April 2014 and cease funding from 1 April 2015	No Change
3. Brixham Does Care	6,300	No further reduction	Proposal to reduce contract by 10% from April 2014 but work with them to refocus/reinvest in Community Hubs/Community Support networks during 20/15	No Change
4. AGE UK Torbay	8,700	No further reduction	Proposal to reduce contract by 10% from April 2014 but work with them to refocus/reinvest in Community Hubs/Community Support networks during 20/15	No Change
5. Park View Society	1,400	No further reduction	Proposal to reduce contract by 10% from April 2014	Change proposed – no reduction to budget
6. Devon County Council (IMCA/IMHA)	4,700	4,700	Proposal to reduce contract by 10% from April 2014	No Change
7. RELATE South Devon	5,000	N/A	Proposal to cease funding from 1 April 2014	No Change

		8. Bipolar Self Management (<i>Rent of premises</i>)	2,500	N/A	Proposal to cease funding from 1 April 2014	Change proposed – no reduction to budget
		9. MDF The Bipolar Organisation	6,000	N/A	Proposal to cease funding from 1 April 2014	Change proposed – no reduction to budget
		10. Rethink (DCC BALANCE)	4,000	4,000	Proposal to cease funding from 1 April 2014	No Change

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		Older people especially those with a physical or learning disability or mental health problem may be affected by these proposals, especially where contracts will cease as they may no longer receive a service.	
	People with caring responsibilities		People caring for older or younger people with a physical or learning disability or mental health problem may be affected by these proposals, especially where contracts will cease as they may no longer receive a service.	
	People with a disability		Disabled people who need support with communication and education may be affected by the proposals especially where contracts will cease as they may no longer receive a service.	
	Women or men			No Differential impact
	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

No	Question	Details		
	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)		There will be reduced access to relationship and mental health support and advocacy which will impact most on those in poverty who cannot access services for which payment is required.	
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)		There is the potential for reduced access to relationship and mental health support and advocacy which may impact on clients' mental health.	
8a.	Cumulative Impacts – Council wide (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	This proposal together with further reductions being proposed across Supporting People services may mean that there is a greater demand placed on higher cost adult social care services if clients are not able to receive the support they require.		
8b.	Cumulative Impacts – Other public services (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	There are no known wider public service proposals which will impact upon these services.		

Section 3: Mitigating action

No	Action	Details
9.	Summarise any negative impacts and how these will be managed?	<p>The withdrawal of this funding is likely to end services provided as the organisations are dependent on this financial support. This will remove several services providing self help support, advice and information and advocacy. The loss of services could potentially result in higher referrals to statutory services.</p> <p>The impact will be mitigated by the changes suggested to the proposal. This will leave the funding to Parkview and for the Bipolar Self Help Group in place and avoid the loss of these services. ACE will also receive £5k transitional funding over 2014/15 & 2015/16. This transitional fund is designed to provide the service with sufficient time to explore opportunities to enable the service to continue for a future without Council funding.</p>

Section 4: Monitoring

No	Action	Details
10.	Outline plans to monitor the actual impact of your proposals	<p>Ensure quarterly monitoring is in place for each service</p> <p>Monitor the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usage• waiting lists• Feedback from users• Unmet need• Identify areas of concern.

Section 5: Recommended course of action –

No	Action	Outcome	Tick	Reasons/justification for recommended action
11.	State a recommended course of action	<p>Outcome 1: No major change required - EIA <i>has not identified any potential for adverse impact in relation to equalities and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken</i></p>	✓	
		<p>Outcome 2: Adjustments to remove barriers – <i>Action to remove the barriers identified in relation to equalities have been taken or actions identified to better promote equality</i></p>		
		<p>Outcome 3: Continue with proposal - 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>	✓	<p><i>Continue as proposed for Age UK, Brixham does Care, Vocal, Relate and Rethink (non statutory) and ACE.</i></p> <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 responsibilities. Whilst the consultation has highlighted the benefits derived from these services together with the impact upon those who currently receive the service, these services are not statutory. The Council will endeavour, with its partners and the community, to mitigate against any adverse impacts. If any individual affected by the decision meets the FACS criteria, they will receive a service to meet their needs from Torbay & Southern Devon Health & Care Trust.</i></p>

		Outcome 4: Stop and rethink – EIA has identified actual or potential unlawful discrimination in relation to equalities or adverse impact has been identified	✓	<i>Revised proposals for Parkview and Bipolar.</i> <i>Adverse impact on statutory services and vulnerable people identified by reduction in Appropriate Adult Service.</i>
--	--	---	---	---

APPENDIX ONE:

Consultation Data: Voluntary and Third Sector Contracts Budget Proposals

1. ACE

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.

The online survey opened on the Council website on 18th December 2013 with a closing date of 16th January 2014 - A total of 11 responses were received. The online survey was also sent to ACE on the 4th December Reminders and encouragement to complete was sent 11th & 18th December 2013.

Please see section 8 for results of the online consultation.

Further to this, each organisation affected was contacted individually to offer the opportunity of a face to face meeting. For ACE, this was held on 6th January 2014. This was facilitated by Lindsey Jeffrey and Chris Lethbridge, Commissioning Officers with Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust and attended by the Board of Trustees and the Head of Adult and Community Learning at South Devon College. In addition the Board ensured that service users were supported to understand the proposal and to complete their responses either in writing or on-line.

A total of **51** responses relating to ACE were received as paper copies.

1.2 Results

The following shows the consultation results to a standard set of questions. The results from the group meetings and paper copy submissions and letters are collated together.

The responses have been grouped into themes with examples of any comments made.

Q1. What are the main benefits, if any, for people who use the services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p style="text-align: center;">ACE - SERVICE USER-LED</p>	<p><i>ACE receives currently £25,000 of funding a year from Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Social Care Trust.</i></p> <p><i>Ace is a registered charity run by and for disabled adult people. Its purpose is to enable disabled people in Torbay to access educational and social activity through Adult & Community Learning (ACL) at its Brixham College Centre. It currently has approximately 100 members (60 physically disabled students, 20 carers of physically disabled students, 20 volunteers working with physically disabled students).</i></p> <p><i>"Ace members are elected as Trustees and they manage their own charity."</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ACE - PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES</p>	<p><i>"Education specially adapted to people with varied disability."</i></p> <p><i>"The learning activities are designed for disabled people and delivered by skilled tutors who are trained in disability awareness. They are assisted by trained care workers, who help with personal care".</i></p> <p><i>"Ace spends its money excellently by making available adult education courses in a safe and welcoming environment for disabled people who otherwise would not have such access for physical and financial reasons"</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ACE - BENEFITS TO SERVICE USERS HEALTH</p>	<p><i>"ACE enables disabled people to keep themselves healthy through mental and physical activities."</i></p> <p><i>"ACE Allows the disabled client the opportunity to be included and involved in society and partake in normal things that able bodied take for granted, i.e. Swimming, drama, sports, gardening, pottery and crafts – all of which increase their physical strength and help improve mental health."</i></p> <p><i>"People can manage their condition more effectively"</i></p> <p><i>"People with newly diagnosed conditions have the knowledge and support from others with similar conditions."</i></p> <p><i>"People increase their fitness through appropriate exercise."</i></p> <p><i>"As an organisation, it produces solid and continuing health benefits for many ages."</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ACE - BENEFITS TO SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL- BEING</p>	<p><i>"Ace is a lifeline for people like me who would otherwise vegetate at home."</i></p> <p><i>"People gain self-esteem and confidence."</i></p> <p><i>"Most people using these groups are vulnerable, often lonely. This is where they find friendship, help, support and sociability, for some it is the only contact with the world outside their home."</i></p>

	<p><i>"It has bought me ... a reason to go out and get back into the community after being virtually housebound for three years."</i></p> <p><i>"Allows the disabled client the opportunity to be included and involved in society and partake in 'normal things' that able-bodied take for granted i.e. Swimming, drama, sports, gardening, pottery and crafts, all of which increase physical strength and help improve mental health. Improves confidence and independence."</i></p>
<p>ACE - BENEFITS TO CARERS</p>	<p><i>"...get some respite while members are at ACE."</i></p> <p><i>"Ace supports and provides respite time for Carers who have to deal with depressed and demanding family members."</i></p>
<p>ACE - PART OF THE COMMUNITY</p>	<p><i>"Gardening at ACE 'gives me back my independence and the chance to work equally with my able bodied friends. The Ace garden has won many awards in the Torbay Bay in Bloom competition."</i></p>
<p>ACE - PREVENTATIVE SERVICE</p>	<p><i>"All these services are used by disabled, distressed and needy people, living in the community. The organisations fill gaps in council/ government provided services."</i></p>
<p>ACE – PROPOSED FUNDING CUTS</p>	<p><i>"It will be very difficult for ACE members to replace all the funds withdrawn by these cuts. The membership could well wither and in time the group could become untenable."</i></p>

Q2. What are the main disadvantages, if any, for people who use these services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>ACE - Disadvantages of current funding allocation to ACE</p>	<p><i>"None."</i></p> <p><i>"The only disadvantage would be if Ace was to end."</i></p> <p><i>"I'm not sure of any disadvantages, these people and groups simply need sufficient funding to be able to continue what they are doing."</i></p> <p><i>"As far as ACE is concerned, I don't see any disadvantages with how the funds are currently allocated."</i></p>

Q3. Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Voluntary and Third Sector budget?

Theme	Examples of comments
NO	"No."
YES	"Yes, I think we must all help our country recover, but I think that the cuts should be fairly shared by all groups. I don't think ACE deserves to be stripped of all its funding."

	Number	Per cent
No	48	94%
Yes	1	2%
No response	2	4%
Total	51	100%

Q4. Please provide further details/comments below and which, if any, specific service you wish to highlight.

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>ACE</p> <p>-</p> <p>MEETING THE NEEDS OF DISABLED ADULTS</p> <p>PREVENTING ISOLATION</p> <p>AND</p> <p>ENHANCING PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING</p>	<p>"ACE group provides a balanced user friendly service which is tailored to the needs of less able bodied adults."</p> <p>"ACE is a unique, inclusive family of vulnerable people supported by dedicated volunteers. We work hard together, as a democratic group, for the health, happiness and advancement of all disabled people."</p> <p>"ACE provides a meeting place for vulnerable/disabled adults to meet in a safe and welcoming environment where they can interact socially and pursue hobbies sports etc. with staff and volunteers. This enables them to remain active both physically and mentally."</p> <p>"I wish to highlight ACE ... the funding currently received provides a 'life outside' for people who otherwise have little to distract them from the confines of their homes, preventing solitude."</p> <p>"I love the gardening classes making things grow. It gets me out – once a week a bit of fresh air and friends."</p> <p>"I find the art class helps me relax and I go home feeling quite different."</p> <p>"As well as the educational benefits, members also learn better ways of coping with their disability."</p>

<p>ACE - IMPACT OF PROPOSED FUNDING CUT</p>	<p><i>“As a Trustee of the charity Access to Community Education (ACE), I see the proposed cuts in funding to these services as a devastating blow. The outcome would eventually lead to the death of our charity and the service we currently provide. That is if an alternative source of funding cannot be obtained and at present that appears most unlikely. However we would be willing to accept a cut in our funding but a total withdrawal would mean the end of ACE.”</i></p>
<p>ACE - UNIQUE SERVICE</p>	<p><i>“ACE is unique and irreplaceable with a host of beneficial side-effects.”</i></p> <p><i>“ACE members have sustained a disability due to illness or a life changing accident e.g. Car accident, strokes, MS. The service that ACE provides is unique as it enables members to partake in activities in a supportive and safe environment which otherwise they would not be given the opportunity to do. ... ACE is their lifeline and enhances every aspect of their life, social, physical and psychological.”</i></p> <p><i>“Ace is unique in that it offers much more than an education. It encourages a community spirit where all, regardless of their disabilities, are given an opportunity to grow physically, mentally and spiritually, to gain confidence in their abilities in a safe and sensitive environment and in interaction with each other.”</i></p>

Q5. What do you think the main impacts will be on people who use these services?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>ACE - LOSS OF THIS SERVICE WILL BRING:</p> <p>Increased isolation Depression Loneliness Loss of independence Decline in physical and emotional health</p>	<p><i>“If the funding ceases in 2015 then that may lead to ACE ceasing resulting in many of its members experiencing solitude, isolation, ill health and their carers suffering similarly.”</i></p> <p><i>“It would have a huge impact on their life, causing isolation, loneliness and depression. An absence of the social interaction Could have a knock on effect with a decreased ability to be independent and decrease the ability to cope with their disability.”</i></p> <p><i>“If these proposals are fully implemented then many disabled people will be stranded and unable to help themselves as they do now.”</i></p> <p><i>“If the funding ceases in 2015 then that may lead to ACE ceasing, resulting in many of its members experiencing solitude, isolation, ill health and their carers suffering similarly.”</i></p> <p><i>“Solitude, loneliness, isolation, not being able to keep active mentally/mix socially/ enjoy a debate, a quiz to test their grey matter, a variety of classes & physical enrichment taken for granted by people unhampered by disability.”</i></p> <p><i>“I will end up indoors, alone looking at TV like I used to – horrible to think of it.”</i></p> <p><i>“People will get depressed because they will have nowhere to go.”</i></p> <p><i>“It will inevitably impact on people who won’t be able to get out and</i></p>

	<p><i>about. It will impact on their health and that of their carers.”</i></p> <p><i>“The impact on ACE members would be isolation, depression, lack of confidence, leading to more ill health.”</i></p> <p><i>“Members of ACE will revert back into themselves and lose confidence. Many will spend all their days in their homes or care homes alone without stimulation.”</i></p> <p><i>“The main impact would be that ACE would cease functioning, many who currently use the facility would lose their only day-out.”</i></p>
<p>ACE - IMPACT ON OTHER PARTS OF THE HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEM</p>	<p><i>“It will lead to more people in Doctor’s waiting Rooms, seeking Anti-Depressants, thus placing a further burden upon the NHS and the community at large.”</i></p> <p><i>“...carers who currently have respite whilst their carer is at ACE would be seeking respite elsewhere.”</i></p>

Q6. What do you think will be the impacts on other services or parts of the community if these proposals are adopted?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>ACE - INCREASED PRESSURE ON HEALTH AND CARE SERVICES</p>	<p><i>“For the wider community there would be more pressure on the health service as mental and physical health goes hand in hand.”</i></p> <p><i>“I see more and more members of the community suffering from depression through isolation. More care workers will be required to cover the services being cut, unless these vulnerable members of the community are left to fend for themselves.”</i></p> <p><i>“The health service will need to cope with the consequences of cutting the funding to ACE. ACE is a positive experience for all concerned.”</i></p> <p><i>“More pressure on Social Services and Doctors.”</i></p> <p><i>“More strain on other types of health provision – often almost inaccessible to the disabled because of energy levels, cost and poor transport.”</i></p> <p><i>“This will impact greatly on other services i.e. Medical services, mental health services and social services.”</i></p> <p><i>“Other services will be impacted e.g. Health Authority, it is widely thought that lack of social interactions, physical and mental stimulation leads to ill health.”</i></p> <p><i>“I am sure there will be an increase in disabled adults using medical services, e.g. GPs and hospitals. There could well be an increase in mental health issues.”</i></p> <p><i>“Social services, care workers and doctors will be required to provide additional services at a far greater cost.”</i></p>

	<p><i>“As ACE is unique in its holistic approach to disability, if it has to close the members would not be able to find comparable assistance and would increasingly become dependent on statutory bodies such as NHS and council run bodies.”</i></p>
<p>ACE - WIDER IMPACT ON COMMUNITY AND ON VOLUNTEERS</p>	<p><i>“ACE employs several members of the local community, plus support from a large number of volunteers, who incidentally gain quite a lot from working with ACE.”</i></p> <p><i>“Tutors, care workers, taxi drivers and suppliers will be out of work.”</i></p> <p><i>“It would also impact on our numerous volunteers – older people who because of ACE feel valued and worthwhile and younger people who have gone on to get jobs through the confidence building properties of ACE.”</i></p> <p><i>“Loss of work to taxis, local suppliers for various projects, classes and equipment.”</i></p> <p><i>“Ace is supported by local volunteers and employees from the local community. Therefore the charity provides both employment and promotes positive involvement within the voluntary sector.”</i></p>
<p>ACE - IMPACT ON CARERS</p>	<p><i>“A massive impact on carers, who presently get some respite while members are at ACE.”</i></p> <p><i>“There is also the question of the Carers of these individuals who will have no respite, should these services disappear.”</i></p> <p><i>“For those nursed at home there would be respite time requested by their family carers, which ACE currently provides.”</i></p> <p><i>“It would impact on the members’ carers as ACE provides an opportunity for them to have a break from what is an extremely stressful role, their health would suffer and it could lead to relationship break down.”</i></p>

Q7. Do you have any other comments or insight in respect of these proposals that you would ask to have considered?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>ACE - LOSS OF TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT</p>	<p><i>“As ACE provides education, e.g. Computer studies, young members will be less employable without these specifically adapted courses.”</i></p>
<p>ACE - LOSS OF A UNIQUE SERVICE</p>	<p><i>“The service we at ACE provide is unique throughout Britain as far as we are aware.”</i></p> <p><i>“Ace, I believe, is unique in its conception. Its value is immeasurable for disabled people who are often widows, pensioners and elderly.”</i></p> <p><i>“Please consider this scenario: if you or a family member were</i></p>

	<p><i>rendered disabled tomorrow and the ACE group no longer existed, where would you go to receive the facilities presently provided by the ACE charity? Where, at the end of your hospitalisation, would you go to further your rehabilitation? All ACE members are fortunate that ACE does exist.”</i></p> <p><i>“Ace is one of the few organisations that fill this void in social and community care.”</i></p> <p><i>“ACE is pioneering! There is very little else like it in the country. Why have the very real possibility of it closing when in fact Torbay should be holding it up as a jewel in our community’s’ crown.”</i></p>
<p>ACE - HEALTH AND WELL- BEING</p>	<p><i>“The company of others who struggle daily with physical/ mental disability – the laughter and comradeship – provides a lifeline. This ‘family’ gives members a reason to get up and out. We see changes in people as they become more confident.”</i></p> <p><i>“Through being ACE members’ disabled people have improved both physically in bodily mobility and emotionally.”</i></p> <p><i>“I can only speak from a personal point of view. As a disabled and partially sighted person totally housebound, I can only state ACE has kept me sane and where I can see other people. The classes too have given me back my self-confidence.”</i></p> <p><i>“I enjoy being part of a group and it makes me feel valued when I am able to contribute.”</i></p>
<p>ACE - EQUAL ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE</p>	<p><i>“Disabled people ... have many obstacles such as no wheelchair access, toilets upstairs etc. and to remove their one opportunity [to] feeling just a little more normal is cruel and inhuman.”</i></p> <p><i>“People need to be aware that disabled people are the same as everybody else.”</i></p>
<p>ACE - VALUE FOR MONEY</p>	<p><i>“The Trustees of ACE also feel that the cost of our service is dirt cheap, in comparison to Local Authority Day Care charges. Less than one third the cost per head.”</i></p> <p><i>“It works and it is very, very good value for money.”</i></p>
<p>ACE - THE FUTURE</p>	<p><i>“The Trust must plan for an ageing population and a long-term need for charities like ACE.”</i></p> <p><i>“It would be a crying shame, if after 25 years of dedicated work by volunteers, all that ACE has accrued should be cast aside and the hopes of its members present and future should be dashed.”</i></p> <p><i>“Health and well-being must be the top of your agenda as it is ours. If people are well they do not rely on more services so in turn cost to the NHS and to councils is less in the long run. We need to ensure that the health impact to our members is discussed as members who feel vulnerable or more vulnerable will isolate themselves to feel safe and become housebound. They may well have reduced self-esteem, feel increasingly lonely and may even suffer from depression... Cost: Doctors visits, medication, mental health appointments, it all mounts up. I feel if our funding is ceased our members will be disadvantaged and their lives will be changed dramatically.”</i></p>

ACE
-
SAVE OUR SERVICE

"To review the current proposal of ceasing funding from April 2015 and give similar status to ACE that is proposed for Brixham Does Care and Age UK."

"I wish that the impacts of the cuts could be considered and that it could be done in a much fairer way."

"Please don't take it away from us."

"I consider these proposals very short sighted. The small amount saved will have to be spent many times over to care for people using these extremely good services."

"ACE has benefited the lives of so many people over the years; it would be such a shame if this facility was lost."

"We will miss the service very much."

2. Age UK

2.1 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.

The online survey opened on the Council website on 18th December 2013 with a closing date of 16th January 2014 - A total of 11 responses were received. The online survey was also sent to Age UK on the 4th December

Further to this, each organisation affected was contacted individually to offer the opportunity of a face to face meeting. For **Age UK** this was held on 6th January 2014. This was facilitated by Lindsey Jeffrey and attended by Richard Brett, and four Age Concern members. Discussion and general comments were captured rather than verbatim quotes. Richard advised that the group did not want to go through the actual form being presented/offered for feedback and that it was their choice to provide general feedback. This has been utilised to populate the following.

The following responses incorporate all response mechanisms, online, face to face and written.

Please also see section 8 for results of the online consultation.

2.2 Results

The following shows the consultation results to a standard set of questions. The responses have been grouped into themes with examples of any comments made. It should be noted that all areas were sought to be covered but that the provider did not wish to use the form in this exact format and their responses have been used to populate the appropriate topic areas.

Q1. What are the main benefits, if any, for people who use the services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Advice, signposting and direction	<i>"We give very wide amount of advice, info advice and pointing people at practical help"</i> <i>"We give 'value for money', in terms of services we provide a 5 day a week service, covering a lot of topics and reaching a wide range of people for next to nothing"</i>
Support for Social inclusion	<i>"Older people in Torbay who need help with living have nowhere else to go, we're it"</i>

Q2. What are the main disadvantages, if any, for people who use these services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>Budget continue to reduce</p>	<p><i>"In 2011/12 the service absorbed a 24% budget cut from council funding and restructured to continue to deliver an efficient and sustainable service"</i></p> <p><i>"Further cuts may break the service and mean that people have nowhere else to get these services"</i></p>

Q3. Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Voluntary and Third Sector budget?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>Combined cuts</p>	<p><i>"Whilst the direct cuts to the organisation are painful and bring into question the staff/volunteer ratio the combination of cuts will mean that the business will not be able to cope with the demand arising from the loss of SP and further reductions in CAB for which they are not trained or able to offer expert advice"</i></p>
<p>Volunteer development will be halted</p>	<p><i>"Without paid staff to be able to recruit, support and coordinate volunteers, the development of the sector which is increasingly cited as being relied upon to deliver future services will be undermined."</i></p> <p><i>"Volunteers do not appear or just organise themselves. An adequate and funded infrastructure is required."</i></p>
<p>Prevention</p>	<p><i>"The work that we do is significant in the preventative agenda. Without adequate resources this will not be possible and people will be adversely affected."</i></p>
<p>Value for money</p>	<p><i>"...Be mindful of the fact that this is not necessarily a good deal therefore [saving 10%] because once lost {services, volunteers etc} it is not that easy to reverse, its like a train running at full speed, if it stops it doesn't start again, people lose the momentum".</i></p> <p><i>"The impact is so much greater therefore than just the percentage saving."</i></p>

Q4. Please provide further details/comments below and which, if any, specific service you wish to highlight.

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>Information and Advice</p>	<p><i>“Clients tend to walk in, sit down in front of us and with impact of cuts they will not be able to achieve this because they would not be able to sit down face to face – this is a person centred process”</i></p> <p><i>“Integrated Care, concern around impact for integrated if one aspect of this is broken – can’t be sure of impact on rest.”</i></p>

Q5. What do you think the main impacts will be on people who use these services?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>They will have no where else to go</p>	<p><i>“Older people in Torbay who need help with living have nowhere else to go, we’re it.”</i></p> <p>Of particular note referencing other budget cuts</p>
<p>Deterioration and great demand on the system</p>	<p><i>“Addressing lower to medium levels, if not addressed when they need to they become higher. Isolation and loneliness, prevention, get support in early. Prevention, cuts could impact on ability to meet people at the right stage, if don’t reach the right stage it becomes more of a serious issue.”</i></p> <p>More cost to other parts of the system and reduced well-being</p>

Q6. What do you think will be the impacts on other services or parts of the community if these proposals are adopted?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>Costs</p>	<p><i>“Costs will be transferred and increased for other parts of the system The service is good value for money and others will not be as good value”</i></p> <p><i>“Once stopped it will cost a lot to get going again”</i></p>
<p>Voluntary Sector Development</p>	<p><i>“Social care and health are looking to the voluntary sector to do more and more and get more volunteers involved. Cutting Age UK funding will undermine this – needs an infrastructure to manage and develop a volunteer workforce”</i></p>

Q7. Do you have any other comments or insight in respect of these proposals that you would ask to have considered?

Theme	Examples of comments
N/A	<i>No Responses</i>

3. **BIPOLAR Self Help Group**

3.1 **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.

The online survey opened on the Council website on 18th December 2013 with a closing date of 16th January 2014 - A total of 11 responses were received. The online survey was also sent to the Bipolar Organisation on the 4th December

Please see section 8 for results of the online consultation.

Further to this, each organisation affected was contacted individually to offer the opportunity of a face to face meeting. For the Bipolar Self Help Group, this was held on 9 January 2014. This was facilitated by Julie Foster and attended by two service users. A telephone consultation was held on 10 January 2014 with the Chief Executive of Bipolar UK, the national charity. Discussion and general comments were captured rather than verbatim quotes.

Feedback from Correspondence

This group and its supporters have been very active in its correspondence. In addition to the response letter from the organisation, we have received 13 letters/emails from individual service users, 2 from family members, 2 from MPs, 5 letters from professional staff (3 psychologists, 1 community psychiatric nurse, and 2 carers' workers)

It should also be noted that the volume of correspondence was higher than detailed here as duplicate letters were sent to numerous organisations and forwarded on. The comments contained within the correspondence receives is included in this feedback.

3.2 **Results**

The following shows the consultation results to a standard set of questions. The responses have been grouped into themes with examples of any comments made.

Q1. What are the main benefits, if any, for people who use the services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Avoids costs to wider system	<i>"above, all the group enables people to reduce the impact of the condition in severity and frequency of episodes of illness"</i>

<p>Purpose and benefits of group, offers service and tackles stigma and social isolation.</p>	<p><i>“A group run by people with Bipolar for people with Bipolar Disorder and their carers....has run for over 19 years in Torbay. This is unique to Torbay, it offers members understanding and acceptance that is not available elsewhere.”</i></p> <p><i>“Open 2.5 days per week. Easily accessible and no referral required. Helps ‘hard to reach, vulnerable people to reduce their social isolation and stigma by phone, emails, individual sessions, group meetings and workshops to develop self- management strategies and recovery”</i></p>
<p>Small core funding enables group to function</p>	<p><i>“Torbay is a ‘beacon’ amongst other areas of the UK in that it has invested in mental health services in the community and redressed some of the disparity between services for physical frailty and mental health. In the voluntary sector a small amount of money can go a long way and ‘make such a difference to people”.</i></p> <p><i>“Hours and hours of really valuable work is given for free by highly motivated and... Very experienced and knowledgeable volunteers. But without a minimum of funding for an office base and meeting room hire they simply couldn’t function”</i></p>
<p>Funding pays for training to enable volunteers to support others</p>	<p><i>“96 % volunteers all experience bipolar disorder. The rest are affected by the condition as family and friends. The national charity support the local group to operate a service which includes one to one counselling advice and information and a self help group, which meets monthly. Funding is minimal. Volunteers highly motivated and experienced.”</i></p>
<p>Wider focus than just individual service user – supports family and friends</p>	<p><i>“offers support for people to try to avoid conditions spiralling into other conditions such as alcoholism”</i></p> <p><i>“Loss of immeasurable benefits”</i></p>
<p>The funding includes £2500 for rent of facilities in ‘Cool House’ which supports users and carers with mental illness</p>	<p><i>“The loss of this income will impact on Cool House”</i></p>

Q2. What are the main disadvantages, if any, for people who use these services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>No disadvantages - funds used effectively</p>	<p><i>“Funds are’ monitored by the Management and Finance Team (8 volunteers involved. The team ensures that monies are carefully allocated”</i></p>
<p>Volume of activity represents excellent value for money.</p>	<p><i>“2012/13 – 2972 contacts 1532 if newsletter circulation excluded Reaching 33 people per week, excluding email contact at 32-40 per month.”</i></p>

Promotes involvement in monitoring, planning and recruitment in DPT	<i>'we also promote opportunities for involvement in monitoring, planning and appointments in our local Mental Health service'</i>
--	--

Q3. Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Voluntary and Third Sector budget?

No

Theme	Examples of comments
Removing funding goes against 'Big society' and David Cameron's plans to enable communities and individuals to help themselves.	<i>"Robbing Peter to pay Paul"</i>
Brixham does Care, Age UK, Rethink and Leonard Stocks centre are all essential in forming a network of support to people.	<i>No suitable quote</i>

Q4. Please provide further details/comments below and which, if any, specific service you wish to highlight.

Theme	Examples of comments
Bipolar Self help group reputation	<p><i>"offers extremely good value for money...long waiting list for our own 5 day Recovery and Self Management course"</i></p> <p><i>"highly regarded locally"</i></p> <p><i>"Provides support in a way statutory services cannot"</i></p>
Removal of funds will mean group will fold	<p><i>"Our service people will be left isolated, vulnerable, ill informed and less educated about self management which could increase the probability of relapse"</i></p> <p><i>"Health economics case for support. Bipolar affects 1% of population therefore 6500 in Torbay. Annual cost nationally is £2m"</i></p> <p><i>"Resources, once lost, are not easy to replace."</i></p>
Loss of service could be a threat to life for some people	<i>"At times it has been reported to us as life-saving"</i>

Q5. What do you think the main impacts will be on people who use these services?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>1000 people will lose their support</p>	<p><i>"There were nearly 3000 contacts with this group last year, estimated as providing 1000 service users and their families with much needed support in understanding and learning to manage their condition."</i></p> <p><i>"One of the meeting attendees values the service so much that she has been attending for eight years, and has not needed the support of the statutory services for several years."</i></p>
<p>Potential increased suicide risk</p>	<p><i>"Torbay has 'an unacceptable high suicide rate ...especially among young men."</i></p> <p><i>"..their self help courses, in my opinion, has saved my life"</i></p> <p><i>"I was having daily thoughts of suicide"</i></p> <p><i>"DO YOU WANT MORE SUICIDES IN TORBAY?"</i></p>
<p>Increased use of acute services and use of crisis team.</p>	<p><i>"There will be an increase in problems in managing their conditions without the group there to provide advice, information and support for effective self management."</i></p>
<p>Increased demand for carers services and social care</p>	<p><i>'Further demand on primary and secondary mental health teams. Increased use of acute services and use of crisis team. Increased demand for carers services and social care'</i></p>
<p>Less chance of people returning to meaningful occupation or training</p>	<p><i>'Less chance for people to return to meaningful work, or training, than otherwise possible'</i></p>
<p>Support for families and friends on first diagnosis</p>	<p><i>"The help provided is 'immeasurable"</i></p> <p><i>"My son has not had to be admitted to hospital for 5 years"</i></p> <p><i>"It has given those persons newly diagnosed HOPE and their carers/families vital information to help them"</i></p>

Q6. What do you think will be the impacts on other services or parts of the community if these proposals are adopted?

Theme	Examples of comments
-------	----------------------

<p>Huge impact on Mental Health services</p>	<p><i>“Community Psychiatric Nurses refer their clients with Bipolar Disorder to the self help group as they know it provides a vial source of expertise in self management and helping people to live independently without reliance on statutory services. It provides service not available elsewhere.”</i></p> <p><i>“Without this programme it is reasonable to expect that referrals to mental health and to psychology will increase as this will be the only place where people could access advice and support to manage their bipolar illness”</i></p> <p><i>“Haytor Mental Health facility is stretched to breaking point”</i></p>
<p>Increased number of visits to GP</p>	<p><i>“CPN’s/Psychiatrists/GPs are doing an impossible load of work. We need to be empowered to look after ourselves as much as we can”</i></p>

Q7. Do you have any other comments or insight in respect of these proposals that you would ask to have considered?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>Valuable Volunteering opportunity created</p>	<p><i>‘We have trained some members to become highly skilled, enabling and experienced volunteers, trainers and facilitators.’</i></p>
<p>Contribution to research projects</p>	<p><i>‘Our group works closely with and contributes to research projects’</i></p>
<p>Filling gap left by statutory services</p>	<p><i>“our members tell us that accessing mental health services is increasingly difficult and people are discharged very rapidly, therefore our group fills the gap on both counts”</i></p>

4. Brixham Does Care

4.1 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.

The online survey opened on the Council website on 18th December 2013 with a closing date of 16th January 2014 - A total of 11 responses were received. The online survey was also sent to Brixham Does Care on the 4th December. Reminders and encouragement to complete was sent 11th & 18th December 2013.

Further to this, each organisation affected was contacted individually to offer the opportunity of a face to face meeting. For **Brixham Does Care** this was held on 08 January 2014. This was facilitated by Tim Nand-Lal and attended by 10 members. Discussion and general comments were captured rather than verbatim quotes.

The following responses incorporate all response mechanisms, online, face to face and written.

The responses of 11 people are included in this feedback.

Please also see section 8 for results of the online consultation.

4.2 Results

The following shows the consultation results to a standard set of questions. The responses have been grouped into themes with examples of any comments made.

Q1. What are the main benefits, if any, for people who use the services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Addresses Social Isolation	<p><i>"Brixham Does Care objectives are to provide a source of solace and encouragement to those whose lives are impaired by loneliness, ill health or the threat of despair"</i></p> <p><i>"Provides support, visiting and befriending services for free to people"</i></p>
Information & Advice	<p><i>"Help in the completion of the Attendance Allowance forms and hence help people obtain their appropriate benefits. This is often following referral from the Job Centre.</i></p> <p><i>In Paignton and Torquay there is Age Uk and the CAB that can help people. In Brixham there is just a CAB presence for ½ day a week."</i></p>
Carers Support	<p><i>"Brixham Does Care offers services to everyone in the community Don't have to be a member to access the services"</i></p>
Signposting	<p><i>"Receive referrals from social care and from the Compass GP surgery to support people with isolation/depression"</i></p>
Community Development	<p><i>"To enhance their quality of life, education, health and social welfare and to promote independence of vulnerable people and offer befriending support to all those in need. Brixham Does Care objectives are to provide a source of solace and encouragement to those whose lives are impaired by loneliness, ill health or the threat of despair. To offer support and guidance through periods of crises and distress. We offer a wide range of services including advocacy, carers support, information advice and signposting, minibus trips and coach</i></p>

	<i>outings, luncheon club, books on wheels, jigsaw lending and volunteer opportunities”</i>
--	---

	Number	Percent
Strongly agree	11	100%
Agree	0	0%
Neither agree or disagree	0	0%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
No response	0	0%
Total	11	100%

Q2. What are the main disadvantages, if any, for people who use these services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Insufficient Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>There is a waiting list for support with Attendance Allowance</i> <i>It is evident that more benefits could be obtained and more community connections established if there was more funding</i>
Overall allocation not transparent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>We are unable to answer this without detailed knowledge of individual service funding and the reach and impact of the other services.</i>

	Number	Percent
Strongly agree	11	100%
Agree	0	0%
Neither agree or disagree	0	0%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
No response	0	0%
Total	11	100%

Q3. Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Voluntary and Third Sector budget?

	Number	Percent
No	11	100%
Yes	0	0%
No response	0	0%
Total	11	100%

Q4. Please provide further details/comments below and which, if any, specific service you wish to highlight.

Theme	Examples of comments
Social Isolation and Depression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The ageing population means that a significant proportion of elderly people live alone and need a befriending service</i>
Signposting and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>More people are coming in now than before, including because of reductions in statutory services</i>
Benefits support and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>There is a waiting list for BDC to help people complete the Attendance Allowance forms</i>

	Number	Percent
Strongly agree	11	100%
Agree	0	0%
Neither agree or disagree	0	0%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
No response	0	0%
Total	11	100%

Q5. What do you think the main impacts will be on people who use these services?

Theme	Examples of comments
Limited Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inability to provide services at times when people can access them – will be shut during times in the week
Lunch Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closure with the loss of interaction and support

	Number	Percent
Strongly agree	11	100%
Agree	0	0%
Neither agree or disagree	0	0%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
No response	0	0%
Total	11	100%

Q6 What do you think will be the impacts on other services or parts of the community if these proposals are adopted?

Theme	Examples of comments
GPs & Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently take referrals for support and care from GPs More demand would be placed on statutory services Less low level and early support leading to higher needs and costs to the system Discharge services are particularly important
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer Driver service may end – leading to missed appointments and/or costly alternatives to the statutory sector

	Number	Percent
Strongly agree	11	100%
Agree	0	0%
Neither agree or disagree	0	0%

Disagree	0	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
No response	0	0%
Total	11	100%

Q7. Do you have any other comments or insight in respect of these proposals that you would ask to have considered?

Theme	Examples of comments
N/A	<i>None</i>

5. Parkview

5.1 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.

The online survey opened on the Council website on 18th December 2013 with a closing date of 16th January 2014 - A total of 11 responses were received. The online survey was also sent to all Parkview on the 4th December

Please see section 8 for results of the online consultation.

Further to this Parkview was contacted to offer the opportunity of a face to face meeting but this was declined.

One item of correspondence was received.

5.2 Results

The following shows the consultation results to a standard set of questions. The responses have been grouped into themes with examples of any comments made.

Q1. What are the main benefits, if any, for people who use the services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Statutory service	<i>Appropriate Adult service required under PACE 1984</i>

Q2 What are the main disadvantages, if any, for people who use these services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Use of funding	<i>Our service provides 365 days per year service 9am-9pm for £38 per day</i>

Q3. Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Voluntary and Third Sector budget?

Yes

Q4. Please provide further details/comments below and which, if any, specific service you wish to highlight.

Theme	Examples of comments
Understand need for reductions	<i>'Understand need for reductions'</i>

Q5. What do you think the main impacts will be on people who use these services?

Theme	Examples of comments
Resulting costs	<i>This proposed cut will inevitably cost Torbay Council more than the £1400 saved as Parkview will need to reduce capacity and the ensuing referrals will be forwarded to Social services. It will cost much more to send qualified social workers to attend Police Custody and provide training.</i>

Q6. What do you think will be the impacts on other services or parts of the community if these proposals are adopted?

Theme	Examples of comments
Time spent in custody by vulnerable individuals	<i>Our service responds within minutes between 9am-9pm to vulnerable people detained in custody. With reduced service, people will spend longer waiting for a Torbay Council appointed rep to attend.</i>

Q7. Do you have any other comments or insight in respect of these proposals that you would ask to have considered?

Theme	Examples of comments
N/A	<i>None</i>

6. RELATE

6.1 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.

The online survey opened on the Council website on 18th December 2013 with a closing date of 16th January 2014 - A total of 11 responses were received. The online survey was also sent to Relate on the 4th December

Please see section 8 for results of the online consultation.

Further to this, Relate were contacted to offer the opportunity of a face to face meeting - this was held on 9th January 2014. This was facilitated by Julie Foster and attended by the Local Manager. Discussion and general comments were captured rather than verbatim quotes.

No separate correspondence was received.

6.2 Results

The following shows the consultation results to a standard set of questions. The responses have been grouped into themes with examples of any comments made.

Q1. What are the main benefits, if any, for people who use the services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Prevents relationship breakdown	<i>"in turn prevents family breakdown...the ripple effect is massive"</i>
Relate is only service offering support to couples, families, children and young people	<i>Children and young people often suffer greatly from relationship breakdown and need skilled support at the right time to prevent difficulties in terms of their own ability to form long lasting relationships. Impacts on school and work attendance.</i>

Q2. What are the main disadvantages, if any, for people who use these services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Use of funding	<i>The £5000 contract is used to subsidize the cost of sessions for people without the means to pay.(unit cost is £57 but only 5% pay this) 'we don't want to turn people away'</i>

Q3. Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Voluntary and Third Sector budget?

No

Q4. Please provide further details/comments below and which, if any, specific service you wish to highlight.

Theme	Examples of comments
Good use of money	<i>All voluntary sector 'organisations use their money as cost effectively as possible ...Any cuts would be of huge detriment'. They 'should not be seen as 'fluffy' as they follow the same policies, procedures and protocols as other mainstream organisations'</i>

Q5. What do you think the main impacts will be on people who use these services?

Theme	Examples of comments
Some people will not be able to access services due to cost	<i>'Will not be able to subsidize clients and they would not be able to access the service as very limited funds'</i>

Q6 What do you think will be the impacts on other services or parts of the community if these proposals are adopted?

Theme	Examples of comments
Relationship issues are often referred to GP so increase in their workload and nowhere to refer on.	<i>Relationship and mental health problems are frequent causes of referral to GP</i>
Children more likely to be referred to statutory services	<i>Lack of intervention leads to low school attendance ,teenage pregnancy etc '</i>
Increased referrals to CAMHS, A and E and Mental Health services	<i>80% have issues with family breakdowns, this leads to self-harming' and other problems</i>

Q7. Do you have any other comments or insight in respect of these proposals that you would ask to have considered?

Theme	Examples of comments
Do not wish to lose support for vulnerable people	<i>'Don't want to lose funding as ring fenced to go for those most in need, don't want to lose support for vulnerable people'</i>

7. VOCAL

7.1 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.

The online survey opened on the Council website on 18th December 2013 with a closing date of 16th January 2014 - A total of 11 responses were received. The online survey was also sent to Vocal on the 4th December

Please see section 8 for results of the online consultation.

Further to this, each organisation affected was contacted individually to offer the opportunity of a face to face meeting. For Vocal, this was held on 14th January 2014. This was facilitated by Julie Foster and attended by the local manager and the Chair of Trustees. Service users were supported to understand the proposal and to make a combined response on line. Discussion and general comments were captured rather than verbatim quotes.

7.2 Results

The following shows the consultation results to a standard set of questions. The results from the survey, group meetings and any other submissions are collated together.

The responses have been grouped into themes with examples of any comments made.

Q1. What are the main benefits, if any, for people who use the services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Use of funding	<i>Vocal receives £15,800 per year to provide advocacy for people with a learning disability. This provides 12 hours per week of advocacy support with associated costs (management /training etc). In 12/13 54 people with 104 issues were helped.</i>
Ability to attract other investment/grants etc	<i>Having this 'core' contract gives other organisations confidence in investing in us to expand our work e.g. Lloyds Bank, Mencap which gives Torbay better value for money and access to other initiatives (e.g. multi media communication system) Our work is also subsidized by fundraising.</i>

Q2. What are the main disadvantages, if any, for people who use these services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Demand is greater than current supply	<i>The value of the contract was reduced in 2008 by 20% and has remained the same. 'Demand for our service has increased – we are now required to operate a waiting list....we do constantly manage risk...and ensure cover when urgently required'. Referral rates decrease when waiting list in place 'as professionals choose not to refer when they know we cannot meet demand'.</i>

Q3. Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Voluntary and Third Sector budget?

No

Theme	Examples of comments
Vocal	<i>Vocal is pleased that the Council is not proposing to reduce its funding over the next two years and is keen to stress that it has done a great deal of work to keep costs to a minimum so that maximum available funding can be spent on direct service user contact. However, no further reduction would make the service unviable.</i>
Rethink	<i>The non-statutory advocacy service for people with a mental health problem is very valuable and any reduction will impact other advocacy services.</i>
Supported employment	<i>This will have a major impact on access to employment for people with a learning disability.</i>

Q4. Please provide further details/comments below and which, if any, specific service you wish to highlight.

Theme	Examples of comments
Impact on other advocacy services	<i>Vocal works as part of the Devon Advocacy Consortium and closely with a range of other advocacy services. Reduction to any funding will impact on other agencies and decrease the availability of advocacy for vulnerable people generally.... 'Cuts to funding of other services within Torbay will increase demand on our services and in the long run, reduce availability for all.</i>

Q5. What do you think the main impacts will be on people who use these services?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>Supports effective involvement and communication with services</p>	<p><i>All service users are vulnerable and the additional support offered by Vocal enables them to engage more effectively with services. For example, a service user might need help to deploy their personal budget to best effect, particularly if this is being reduced as a result of reduction in provided services.</i></p> <p><i>A further example is from a mother of three children facing potential care proceedings. She was unable to understand what was required of her to keep her children safe. This was explained to her in simple terms and the proceedings were not required, this avoiding great distress to the mother and children and very significant costs to the council.</i></p> <p><i>Support with communication ensures the right outcomes are identified with minimum of difficulties and delays.</i></p>

Q6. What do you think will be the impacts on other services or parts of the community if these proposals are adopted?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>Impact on care management services</p>	<p><i>Community Learning Disability Team staffs refer frequently to Vocal to get support for service users in arranging care. Without this, more time would need to be spent by Council staff. See Q5.</i></p>
<p>Impact on service from other cuts</p>	<p><i>'Cuts to funding of other services within Torbay will increase demand on our services and in the long run reduce availability for all'</i></p>

Q7. Do you have any other comments or insight in respect of these proposals that you would ask to have considered?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>Vocal services</p>	<p><i>'Vocal has operated in Torbay for 20 years. We have good links in adult and children's services. We are able to work with other providers in order to support effective service delivery in future'. Monitoring, audit and facilitation are also services offered.</i></p>

8. Online Survey Results:

8.1 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.

The online survey opened on the Council website on 18th December 2013 with a closing date of 16th January 2014 - A total of 11 responses were received. The online survey was also sent to all organisations as detailed in sections 1 – 7 above on the 4th December

Further to this, each organisation affected was contacted individually to offer the opportunity of a face to face meeting. Six meetings were held please see sections 1 – 7 for results of this consultation.

8.2 Results

The following shows the consultation results to a standard set of questions. The responses have been grouped into themes with examples of any comments made.

Q1. **What are the main benefits, if any, for people who use the services with how the funds are currently allocated?**

Theme	Examples of comments
Core funding offers stability and a basis on which to attract other funding. Without core funding, the groups are likely to close.	<i>"the small sum awarded to ACE annually over the last few years has been crucial to the group's ability to manage its core business, providing the stability from which it is able to seek additional funds through small grants and awards to fund particular projects and initiatives for which there is no sustainable funding"</i>
Groups are small and self regulating, making full use of funds	<i>"For ACE...all of the funding they receive goes in direct support of its activities"</i> <i>For Brixham does Care "the people of Brixham thank TSDHCT for their ongoing support and financial support to their local charity, without whose support these services would be unavailable...the funding we receive ...is almost all directed towards staffing and support costs"</i> <i>"Vocal currently receives funding of £15,800 pa to provide advocacy service for adults with a learning disability and communication difficulty. This provides 12 hours of paid advocacy support and the associated management and support systems. Our advocate supports a team of trained volunteers. Last year 54 people with 104 issues were helped."</i>
Wide range of activities and benefits to customers and carers – tackles	<i>"Opportunities provided by ACE include swimming, fitness, art, gardening and literature with appropriate support. The group has formed 'a 'family' they look out for each other as much as they are able'. This has been in existence for 20 years. Carers are supported through time away from their responsibilities."</i>

social isolation, and community support	
Tackling inequalities	<p><i>“The benefits of the current allocation of funds is that it looked to narrow the historical disparity between physical and mental health conditions not only for individuals with a mental health diagnosis and in particular bipolar, but individuals concerned about the potential, carers, families and loved ones. Torbay has historically demonstrated best practice in striving to achieve parity. Torbay has also been proactive in recognising both the prevalence and significant impact of bipolar (a profound and life-long mental illness) and the immense benefits of peer support both in terms of individuals and families in Torbay, front line services in Torbay and local communities”</i></p>
Support of voluntary sector avoids involvement with health services	<p><i>Re ACE “Its current funding from health must likewise be an economical benefit to the Health Authority, as the mental, emotional and physical well-being of ACE members is clearly helped through their involvement in ACE and the mutual support it provides.”</i></p>

Q2. What are the main disadvantages, if any, for people who use these services with how the funds are currently allocated?

Theme	Examples of comments
Restrictions due to level of funding	<p><i>“The single largest disadvantage we can identify is that we are restricted in offering sufficient support to people through lack of funding”</i></p> <p><i>ACE – “the only disadvantage to ACE members in the way funds are currently allocated is in the uncertainty surrounding them. For successive years the 'not knowing' of whether the money would or would not be allocated has caused considerable stress for those who rely on ACE for social contact, for the physical and psychological health benefits that their group provides. For the Trustees this uncertainty is even more telling because, as well as dealing with their own physical disabilities and making decisions on behalf of the group they feel most acutely their responsibility towards their members, many of whom have conditions that pre-clued self-advocacy. This consultation survey is a typical case in point; many of the most vulnerable members of ACE will not be able to complete it.”</i></p> <p><i>VOCAL – “Demand for our service has increased. – We are now required to operate a waiting list – this is far from ideal..... When we are required to operate a waiting list the referral rates reduce, professionals choosing not to refer when they know we can not meet demand”</i></p> <p><i>“For the allocated £6k allocated to the Bi Polar Group the disadvantage is the support that can be offered has to be measured and is limited that said it is a local point of contact which shouldn't be dismissed.”</i></p>

"There are no disadvantages with the way the funds are currently allocated. If more funds were available then ACE could offer a broader programme to those who attend. If the funds are cut completely then this would be detrimental to those who attend ACE possibly resulting in isolation and ill health."

Q3. Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Voluntary and Third Sector budget?

	Number	Percent
No	10	91%
Yes	1	9%
No response	0	0%
Total	11	100%

Q4. Please provide further details/comments below and which, if any, specific service you wish to highlight.

Theme	Examples of comments
Recognition of need to save money but query if this is the best way.	<p><i>"When savings have to be made across the board it is reasonable to study all expenditure carefully to ensure that public money is allocated with wisely and is providing a worthwhile service for those in need. Most organizations can make adjustments to save money."</i></p> <p><i>"I understand the need to reduce the budget, but is this the best way forward. If it has been well researched and this will cause the least disruption to the community then it must be."</i></p> <p><i>"Some reduction or re-allocation of funds is inevitable so the 'yes/' 'no' structure of this question is unhelpful, giving no opportunity for negotiated positions. In relation to ACE, the Trustees are clear that some reduction of their funding is a given. What they cannot accept is that to remove their funding altogether after April 2015 is a good move for anyone."</i></p>
Impact of these savings on other parts of the health and care system	<p><i>"In relation to ACE, the Trustees are clear that some reduction of their funding is a given. What they cannot accept is that to remove their funding altogether after April 2015 is a good move for anyone."</i></p> <p><i>"If the historical lessons have not been learned i.e. that reducing financial support to the voluntary sector increases demand and places greater pressure on statutory health and social care, then perhaps now would be a good opportunity to address these difficult decisions."</i></p> <p><i>"Voluntary Organisations make a significant contribution to the health and well-being of the residents of Torbay. Grants provided by the trust</i></p>

	<p><i>are topped up by fundraising initiatives, meaning the trust gets far more for its money.”</i></p> <p><i>“We absolutely appreciate Torbay is facing a budget deficit, but our concern particularly with regard to the Torbay Bipolar UK support services is that the relatively speaking small level of savings will not only have a severe negative impact on the lives of individuals/families in Torbay who access our support every year (approximately 1,000 in the past year), but actually add to your overall costs owing to the withdrawal of our bipolar support services. It is estimated that the annual health costs to the NHS in England of treating bipolar is £342 million (Young et al, Journal of Affective Disorders Oct 2011. More than 60% of this cost is accounted for by hospitalisation. Without the benefits of dedicated peer support services focusing on self management these costs will be higher.”</i></p>
<p>Negative Impact on individuals</p>	<p><i>“Testimony from individuals - much of it very moving and powerful - will come through this consultation process through members, their families and their carers.”</i></p> <p><i>“Without the core funding it is inevitable that ACE will fold in the future and fundraising is becoming more difficult because of the ongoing cutbacks. If ACE ceases to operate, where else can its members go?”</i></p>

Q5. What do you think the main impacts will be on people who use these services?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>Impact on social isolation, well-being and maintaining independence</p>	<p><i>“The impact will be far reaching: social isolation, physical isolation imposed by transportation issues, broken friendships, nowhere like it for the recently disabled people to come and regain confidence and a sense of belonging, strains on GP and mental health care facilities, healthcare benefits of bespoke exercise, creativity and learning lost: the list is comprehensive.”</i></p> <p><i>“Volunteers would miss their sense of worth and friends. Several 24/7 carers would not get a day off and would also miss the moral support they get from ACE.”</i></p> <p><i>“Our support services in the past year including those with a diagnosis, those concerned about the potential of a diagnosis and families, friends and loved ones affected by bipolar. The bipolar services in Torbay focus on peer support with core values including taking responsibility for our illness through self management and empowering people to make meaningful life choices. Peer support absolutely cuts the immense feeling of isolation that bipolar brings about, provides an understanding of and tools for self management, helps explain the effectiveness of medication and mental health professional support, offer empathy, signposting to wider support services (including those available national through Bipolar UK), challenges stigma, discrimination, bias and emphasise full community inclusion. Torbay's bipolar peer support services are life changing and indeed at times life saving.”</i></p> <p><i>“Isolation, depression, health problems due to the isolation”</i></p>

Q6. What do you think will be the impacts on other services or parts of the community if these proposals are adopted?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>Loss of jobs and local businesses</p>	<p><i>"The loss of jobs for care workers and tutors. Loss of income for taxi companies. Loss of income for swimming pool"</i></p> <p><i>"Effect on local businesses - particularly the taxi companies employed by ACE, lost revenue for local swimming pools, ACE gardeners use local businesses in maintaining the gardens etc."</i></p> <p><i>"Increased unemployment for some and loss of revenue to others. For one, who is going to employ me at my time of life if the charity ceases to exist and I lose my job, I'm 60 this year and not due to retire until I am 66? Along with me there are four Care Workers and six Tutors so a few more unemployment statistics along with Jobseekers allowance claimants. Of course, benefits are also being cut so maybe I'll be selling the big issue if I can't afford to pay my bills. Joking aside though as this is a serious matter; it is also a worry for us who work with these organisations. Our taxi company will lose its contract and the local swimming pools will lose revenue for the annual pool hire they charge. So this will also affect local businesses."</i></p>
<p>Increased pressure on statutory services</p>	<p><i>"NHS could be used more since with no ACE members may well develop symptoms such as depression and other minor ailments"</i></p> <p><i>"Less opportunity for people to access services placing greater demand on statutory services and putting greater pressure on the voluntary sector. In Brixham there are fewer caring organisations than there are in Paignton and Torquay. Therefore it is likely that the impact of fewer services in Brixham would have most dramatic consequences."</i></p> <p><i>"Lost respite care for those caring for the disabled at home will undoubtedly put pressure on other services, in some cases leading to the cost of providing residential care instead."</i></p> <p><i>"Cuts to funding of other services within Torbay will increase demand on our services and in the long run reduce availability for all. Cutting funding of non statutory mental health advocacy will lead to an increase in referrals to our service."</i></p> <p><i>"Bi Polar The CCG/DPT will have an increased level of support required from patients without a support structure."</i></p> <p><i>"Other services in the health sector may become burdened with people who are not ill seeking help when companionship and someone to talk to would help them"</i></p>

Q7. Do you have any other comments or insight in respect of these proposals that you would ask to have considered?

Theme	Examples of comments
<p>Alternatives to proposals to consider</p>	<p><i>"I think it would be a great shame for ACE to have to close since it's become such a big part of a group of people's lives. I presume an exercise will take place to ascertain the minimum amount that is required to keep going and hope that somehow this could be raised."</i></p>
<p>Consultation methodology</p>	<p><i>"All groups will naturally view the proposals from their own position. It may have been better to construct a consultation process reflecting that, tailored to each group rather than this homogenous approach. Some of those most vulnerable, most affected people will not be able to respond directly to this consultation. Issues of transport, not having the ability to speak out, physical limitations imposed by disability all affect opportunities to attend public meetings. Physical limitations, lack of internet accessibility, poor IT literacy (particularly for the elderly and infirm) all impact on the ability for those most affected to complete this questionnaire. Visiting groups in action, seeing what is done, receiving direct feedback from those involved would be more effective in assessing the need for continued funding - I would say for groups like ACE but actually, ACE is pretty unique."</i></p>
<p>Value added benefits of contract</p>	<p><i>"We work with service commissioners to check that individuals care plans are being provided and that they are happy with the care that they receive. Our contract in Torbay benefits significantly by the activities of the rest of our organisation which operates in south and west Devon. We actively seek funding from other agencies and trust funds in order to support the delivery of advocacy. Torbay benefits from these initiatives. Our contract with Torbay is subsidised by our other fundraising activities – these are not sufficient to stand alone but add considerable value to the work that we do as part of this contract."</i></p>

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 22nd 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 voluntary and Third Sector Contracts Budget Proposals:

Negotiation with voluntary sector organisations to improve efficiency or reduce costs.

Terminate five contracts / grants with the voluntary sector. These cover a variety of schemes aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing, promoting self-help and inclusion and reducing pressure on statutory services (including Access to Community Education, Relate South Devon, Bipolar Self Management, MDF the Bipolar Organisation and Rethink. Reduce cost contracts for the provision of information and advice by 10%, currently provided by Brixham does Care and Age UK. Work with Parkview Society and Devon County Council to negotiate a reduction in the cost of their contracts. This is expected to save £76,000 over two years.

Do you support this proposal?	Number	Percent
Yes	202	49.4
No	166	40.6
No response	41	10.0
Total	409	100.0

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

Category	Examples of comments – where respondents said ‘No’ above
Will impact on vulnerable people	<p><i>“Because it will impact on some of the most vulnerable in the community...”</i></p> <p><i>“Do not penalise the most vulnerable people in society.”</i></p> <p><i>“The council should honour their responsibility to provide care for the most vulnerable people of our society.”</i></p> <p><i>“The proposal would discriminate against vulnerable people who need it.”</i></p>

Category	Examples of comments – where respondents said ‘No’ above
	<p><i>“This proposal targets the most vulnerable in our community and only increases risks to individuals and communities.”</i></p>
<p>Increase pressure on statutory services</p>	<p><i>“These organisations are working with some of the most vulnerable people. Withdrawing funding will result in greater costs further down the line.”</i></p> <p><i>“This affects the vulnerable and does not save money in the long run as the early intervention prevents using more expensive services later on..”</i></p> <p><i>“This strikes at provision for some of the most vulnerable and needy in our society and will adversely impact other services – e.g. NHS mental health, NHS care of the elderly, safety of the community.”</i></p>
<p>Vital service</p>	<p><i>“Good services for mental health and wellbeing are vital for our community”</i></p>
<p>Affect on voluntary sector</p>	<p><i>“Due to cuts...a lot more responsibility has fallen on voluntary sector organisations. If these shut...where do people go for help?”</i></p>
<p>Other</p>	<p><i>“It’s already underfunded”</i></p> <p><i>“Too many cuts to mental health already”</i></p>