

Budget Proposals 2014/15 and 2015/16: Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Business Unit:	Supporting People	Directorate:	Adults & Resources
Date Started :	12/08/13	Date of current version:	06/02/2014

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 Scouler	Executive Head:	Fran Mason
Date:	06/02/2014	Date:	06/02/2014

Summary from Overall Budget Proposals:

Proposals – Outline	Savings for 2014/15 and 2015/16		Implementation Cost Include brief outline + year incurred	Delivery When will this proposal realise income / savings	Risks / impact of proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential risks Impact on community Knock on impact to other agencies If statutory service please state relevant legislation section and Act together with any statutory guidance issued. 	Type of decision		
	Income £ 000's	Budget reduction £ 000's				Internal	Minor	Major
<p>1. Social Inclusion Floating Support service (SIFS) Brief intervention and short term crisis support for people in housing difficulties.</p> <p>Annual contract value: £350,000</p>		Reduce by 100%: £350,000		April 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIFS Current contract expires March 2014. COSS contract expires 17 Feb 2014 Reduced capacity for early intervention. Potential for increased evictions and and increased demand on housing options Potential for increased demand on other public services such as adult social care and hospitals Consultation and Equality Impact Assessment undertaken to assess the impact of the proposal. 			
<p>2. Community Outreach Support Service (COSS) Generic floating support</p> <p>Annual contract value: £358,700</p>		Reduce by 100%: £358,700		March 2014				

Section 1: Purpose of the proposal/strategy/decision

No	Question	Details
1.	<p>Clearly set out the proposal and what is the intended outcome.</p>	<p>Community Outreach, through the Social Inclusion Floating Support (SIFS) and Community Outreach Support Service(COSS) contracts, support people aged 18+ with low to medium support needs to live independently. This includes people with physical disabilities and sensory impairments, mental health problems, learning disabilities, people who are homeless & people who misuse substances. Length of stay in the service is 9 months and the service provides 260 hours per week of support for SIFS and 300 hours per week for COSS, totalling 560 hours per week between the two services.</p> <p>Proposal: To achieve savings by terminating the contracts of the floating support services provided by West Country Housing Association's Social Inclusion Floating Support (SIFS) service and Sanctuary Supported Living's Community Outreach Support Service (COSS), a total of £707,636 for 2 contracts.</p> <p>Community outreach provides a flexible, dynamic, responsive and person -centred support service for people who have a range of needs in order to deliver a preventative intervention that supports sustainable life skills and independent living. The services aim to enable people to enhance their lives through a supportive and encouraging process; and are intended to be innovative and act as an early intervention thereby preventing the need for people to use other acute and more intensive services.</p> <p>Originally housing support was the key focus of the service, but this has now widened to provide intervention and low-level support in situations which traditionally came under the remit of Adult Social Care. In addition, these services offer brief intervention sessions (ie very short term, time limited support of up to four sessions, or one off drop in surgeries) to prevent needs escalating into a crisis requiring more intensive and costly intervention, for example homelessness.</p>
2.	<p>Who is intended to benefit / who will be affected?</p>	<p>All client groups could be affected by this change, as the range of support services offered by the two organisations is wholly generic. The community outreach service is intended to be innovative and short-term (with assessed needs being met in 9 months) and to act as an early intervention where possible thereby preventing the need for people to access other more acute and more intensive services. In the year 2012/13 a total of 456 people entered the two services (SIFs 274, COSS 182).</p>

No	Question	Details
		<p>Key stakeholders are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current/previous Service users • Torbay Council Housing Services • Service Providers and staff • Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust • Devon Partnership Trust (DPT) • National and local partner organisations, including Probation Trust • Wider public (non service users)

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>In the year 2012/13 a total of 456 people entered the two services (SIFs 274, COSS 182) These clients had a range of needs including physical and sensory disabilities, mental health issues and complex needs.</p> <p>Of the clients entering the SIFs service in 2012/13, 27% had a mental health problem, and 16% had a physical or sensory disability. Of the clients entering the COSS service in 2012/13, 33% had a mental health problem, and 13% had a physical or sensory disability.</p> <p>Many service users have complex needs or are homeless, of the clients entering the SIFs service in 2012/13, 17% had complex needs and 19% were homeless & of the clients entering the COSS service in 2012/13, 21% had complex needs</p>

No	Question	Details						
		<p>and 12% were homeless.</p> <p>In 2012/13, regarding clients entering short term Supporting People services (across all services):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where known, 122 were accepted as requiring secondary mental health services, and 139 were accepted as requiring Probation/Youth Offending Team services • Where known, 27.6% (293) were statutory homeless with 156 of them owed a homelessness duty, another 137 (12.9%) were not statutory homeless but considered homeless by the service • Where known, 31 were assessed as at high risk of domestic abuse and supported through the MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) <p>The table below shows historic data for clients entering SIFS. Note this is not available for COSS as the contract commenced end of 2011/12.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="562 544 2132 651"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="562 544 1350 579">Year</th> <th data-bbox="1350 544 2132 579">Number of clients entering SIFS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="562 579 1350 614">2011/12</td> <td data-bbox="1350 579 2132 614">254</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="562 614 1350 651">2012/13</td> <td data-bbox="1350 614 2132 651">274</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Latest figures show proportion of children in poverty in Torbay is significantly above the England average at 24%. Levels of adult obesity, hospital stays for alcohol related harm and hospital stays for self harm, long term unemployment are worse in Torbay than England average.¹ The service can impact on these figures by supporting vulnerable people with varying needs to live independent lives and enter training/employment and to make healthy and safe life choices.</p>	Year	Number of clients entering SIFS	2011/12	254	2012/13	274
Year	Number of clients entering SIFS							
2011/12	254							
2012/13	274							
4.	How have you consulted on the proposal?	<p>Providers of Supporting People funded services</p> <p>The consultation period ran from Thursday 21 November 2013 to 16 January 2014</p> <p>On 21st November Providers were sent written details outlining the proposal(s) for their service(s) and given the Consultation Summary document detailing the overall proposals for the Supporting People (SP) programme, Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) for their services and access to view the EIAs of other services online. Initial provider meetings/conversations were set up with SP Contract Managers in the week prior to the formal draft budget announcement. This was to explain the proposals and consultation process to providers and to allow the providers time to arrange meetings with their staff to take place on the day of the budget announcement (as for many services the proposals will affect staff)</p> <p>A client profile template was developed and sent to Providers to complete to identify clients in support services</p>						

¹ Torbay Health Profile 2013, Public Health England, 24 September 2013, www.healthprofiles.info

No	Question	Details
		<p>who were also in receipt of a statutory service. This information was used to inform the service EIAs and evidence where there might be an impact on the expenditure in other parts of the Authority. The Consultation Summary document and questionnaire were available on the Supporting People page of the Council's website.</p> <p>A follow up email was sent to Providers on 8th January asking if they were responding collectively, individually or both; and asking them to encourage referral agencies to respond to the consultation.</p> <p>Current and previous users of Supporting People funded services, and their carers, relatives and advocates.</p> <p>A standard letter outlining the specific proposals for each service was sent to the service provider to distribute to their service users. The letter outlined where service users could access and complete the client consultation questionnaire and explained the consultation process including the opportunity to attend focus groups or face to face interviews.</p> <p>Posters were sent to Providers to insert the details of the consultation events and promote these to service users.</p> <p>A number of focus groups proportionate to size of service were held for each of the affected services. Where services had more than 20 clients then 2 focus groups were offered, with the option for more if required, subject to the availability of resources to facilitate them. Focus groups used the same questions as the client questionnaire. However 1 focus group for clients in the supported employment service used different questions, chosen by by the external agency that facilitated this particular group.</p> <p>Focus groups were facilitated by representatives from Torbay Voice with a member of the SP team present to record comments. Where a focus group was organised but there were no attendees, the focus group has not been counted.</p> <p>Face to face interviews (with Torbay Voice representatives) or telephone interviews were offered to those choosing not to or unable to attend focus groups using the same questions.</p> <p>There may be a small duplication of respondents as some may have completed a questionnaire as well as attended a focus group</p> <p>Providers were encouraged to undertake their own consultations using the same questions, and some</p>

No	Question	Details
		<p>providers issued the questionnaires to their clients.</p> <p>The client questionnaire was available on the SP page of the Council's website and providers advised of this so that they could direct service users to it, or support service users to complete it themselves.</p> <p>Individual written submissions (email and letter) were received from service users, relatives, and family members.</p> <p>Stakeholders including statutory partners, referral agencies, local and national partner organisations</p> <p>An email was sent to all stakeholders attaching the SP Consultation Summary document and stakeholder questionnaire, a summary of SP services and a link to the EIAs for each service. Stakeholders were also encouraged to respond to the overall Council budget proposals and a link to the wider Council budget consultation was included in the email.</p> <p>Stakeholders included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust • Devon Partnership Trust • Devon and Cornwall Probation Trust • South Devon Clinical Commissioning Group • Torbay Council Housing Services • Torbay Council Children's Services • Police • Referral agencies such as: Community Mental Health Teams, Disability Information Service, Housing Options team, Torbay Hospital <p>Other local and national partners such as: British Association of Supported Employment, Shelter, The Alzheimers Society, MIND and Mencap.</p> <p>See Appendix 1 for consultation results.</p> <p>Other including members of the public/non service users</p>

No	Question	Details
		<p>A general questionnaire was placed on the Council's website by the Council's Policy and Performance Team asking about all of the Council budget proposals including a section on Supporting People. The SP section contained a link to the SP consultation documentation on the specific budget proposals for SP services.</p> <p>Further representations were made in writing (via letter, email and petition) by organisations and members of the public.</p> <p>A total of 285 representations were received, as well as 21 focus groups that were facilitated for clients and carers, where 160 people attended.</p>
5.	<p>Outline the key findings</p>	<p>There were 30 responses received which referred to the proposal for the Community Outreach floating support service provided by Sanctuary Supported Living. There were also 2 focus groups held for clients where 8 people attended.</p> <p>There were 35 responses received which referred to the proposal for the Social Inclusion floating support service provided by Westward Housing. This included a petition signed by 88 clients. There were also 2 focus groups held for clients where 14 people attended.</p> <p>People felt that the service enabled people to develop independent living skills, tackle debt and finance issues and avoid eviction and/or homelessness. As the service supports a wide range of people, issues around mental and physical health or drug and alcohol abuse are also helped by the service.</p> <p>Without the service, people felt that there would be an increase in homelessness through eviction or through debt. An increase in drug abuse and the health and psychological issues related to it was also suggested. A number of people felt that there would be an increased risk of suicide without the service there to support them.</p> <p>It was also noted that there would be an increase in use of statutory services, including hospitals, drug treatment services and housing teams, meaning that any savings achieved through the closure of these services would soon be spend on these more expensive interventions.</p> <p>The providers noted that if the services closed, then a number of staff would be made redundant. It was also noted that demand for the service remained high, with over 50 people on the waiting list.</p>

No	Question	Details
6.	What amendments may be required as a result of the consultation?	Provider organisation and Police, probation and health services request a delay in implementation of the proposals so that alternative sources of funding can be investigated.

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			Of those entering service in 2012/13: Age breakdown- 78 aged 18-24, 181 aged 25-44, 157 aged 45-60 and 40 aged 61+.
	People with caring responsibilities		18% of clients were recorded as having dependent children in their household, therefore service end may impact on children as well as the adults receiving the service	
	People with a disability		Of the clients entering the SIFs service in 2012/13, 27% had a mental health problem, and 16% had a physical or sensory disability. Of the clients entering the COSS service in 2012/13, 33% had a mental health problem, and 13% had a physical or sensory disability	
	Women or men			No differential impact
	People who are black or			No differential impact

No	Question	Details	
	from a minority ethnic background (BME)		
	Religion or belief (including lack of belief)		No differential impact
	People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual		No differential impact
	People who are transgendered		No differential impact
	People who are in a marriage or civil partnership		No differential impact
	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave		No differential impact
	Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)		In 2012/13, where economic status is known, 56% of people who entered short term Supporting People services (across all services) had a status that meant they were eligible for welfare benefits
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)		The effect of the withdrawal of these services may impact on the differential healthy life expectancy between communities.
8a.	Cumulative Impacts – Council wide (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	There are proposed reductions to the Housing Options service meaning early advice and information relating to housing will be reduced as the statutory service focuses on immediate homelessness. With the reduction to the SIFS and COSS service more people will require emergency housing advice increasing demand on Housing services.	
8b.	Cumulative Impacts – Other public services (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	Community based adult social care services commissioned by Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust are facing similar budget reductions which will impact on those people living in the community requiring care and support. Generic floating support services help to prevent needs escalating and avoid more costly adult social care interventions which will be less available than now.	

No	Question	Details
----	----------	---------

Section 3: Mitigating action

No	Action	Details
9.	Summarise any negative impacts and how these will be managed?	<p>Negative impacts identified in section 7:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 18% of clients were recorded as having dependent children in their household, therefore service end may impact on children as well as the adults receiving the service 2. Of the clients entering the SIFs service in 2012/13, 27% had a mental health problem, and 16% had a physical or sensory disability. Of the clients entering the COSS service in 2012/13, 33% had a mental health problem, and 13% had a physical or sensory disability 3. In 2012/13, where economic status is known, 56% of people who entered short term Supporting People services (across all services) had a status that meant they were eligible for welfare benefits 4. The effect of the withdrawal of these services may impact on the differential healthy life expectancy between communities. <p>It will be very difficult to minimise negative impacts due to the cumulative effect of the overall reduction in Supporting People services, meaning that there are no alternative services to refer people to. We will monitor the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential increase in number of people accepted as statutorily homeless by Housing Options requiring emergency accommodation • Potential increase in numbers of people seeking advice and assistance from Housing Options and type of advice/assistance required • Potential increase in temporary accommodation budget • Potential increase in bed based care placements made by Adult Social Care and Devon Partnership Trust. • Potential increase in safeguarding referrals

Section 4: Monitoring

No	Action	Details
10.	Outline plans to monitor the actual impact of your proposals	<p>The following impacts will be monitored and reported to the Commissioning for Independence Board, chaired by the Director of Adult Social Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor numbers of people approaching Housing Options Service for housing advice- this information can be obtained from colleagues in Housing Options and reported quarterly • Monitoring numbers of homelessness applications and placements in temporary accommodation for those whom a statutory homelessness duty is owed – this information can be obtained from colleagues in Housing Options and reported quarterly • Monitoring temporary accommodation costs – this information can be obtained from colleagues in Housing Options and reported quarterly • Monitoring numbers of safeguarding referrals – this information can be obtained from colleagues in Safeguarding and reported quarterly • Monitoring numbers of applications for statutory care assessments – this information can be obtained from colleagues in Adult Social Care and can be reported quarterly <p>The following impacts will be monitored and reported to the Commissioning for Independence Board, chaired by the Director of Adult Social Services:</p>

Section 5: Recommended course of action –

No	Action	Outcome	Tick ✓	Reasons/justification for recommended action
11.	State a recommended course of action <i>Clearly identify an option and justify reasons for this decision. The following four outcomes are possible from an assessment (and more than one may apply to a single proposal). Please select from the 4 outcomes and justify the reasons for</i>	<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>		

your decision	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'.	x	The purpose of this proposal is not to discriminate directly or indirectly, and does not amount to unlawful discrimination. The Council has to deliver significant savings, and in doing so has to prioritise its statutory responsibilities. Whilst the consultation has highlighted the benefits derived from the service together with the impact upon those who currently receive the service, this service is not statutory. The Council will endeavour, with its partners and the community, to mitigate against any adverse impacts. 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.
	Outcome 4: Stop and rethink – EIA has identified actual or potential unlawful discrimination in relation to equalities or adverse impact has been identified		

Appendix 1

Consultation Results: Social Inclusion Floating Support - Reduce by 100%

There were 35 responses received which referred to this proposal. This included a petition signed by 88 clients. There were also 2 focus groups held for clients where 14 people attended.

The service is provided by Westward Housing.

Category	Examples of comments
Impact on the Health, Wellbeing and Quality of Life of Existing and Potential	The provider has submitted a number of case studies which demonstrate the impact the service has on the health, wellbeing and quality of life of existing and potential clients. The type of support provided which impacts on health etc. have been summarised below:

Category	Examples of comments
<p>Clients</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing independent living skills • Support with debt • Support to avoid eviction/homelessness • Support with mental health • Attending health appointments <p>“Exacerbation of mental health issues, fewer opportunities to regain/retain independence, increase in homelessness and associated social and health difficulties.”</p> <p>“More people who will be made homeless, deaths and suicides. Removing the service doesn't just affect me but the whole family.”</p> <p>“It will stop the ability to overcome issues that stop them being safe and more productive citizens”.</p> <p>“I did have floating support to help me be independent by living on my own but i do have learning difficulty, were I don't understand how to do somethings that why I need help with be living independent.”</p> <p>“If you have help, you have a chance to change”.</p> <p>Two focus groups were held with service users from SIFs. The service supports a number of service users who have learning disabilities or literacy problems who were concerned at the loss of support to help them with correspondence and bills. Service users also commented on the knowledge of support workers and their skill in signposting to and/or liaising with other agencies and professionals. One example given was of a service user who was assisted to get help with travel costs to attend an important hospital appointment in London.</p>

Category	Examples of comments
<p>Impact on Statutory Services and National Priorities</p>	<p>“The cost to local authority housing services and emergency housing provision has increased. The same will happen in Torbay as demand for emergency services increases.”</p> <p>“The absence of SIFS will shift the volume and cost of providing support to Torbay’s most vulnerable people to other budget-pressured and in-demand public services (housing, social care, health, mental health teams, Drug & Alcohol Teams, A&E departments, public health, criminal justice, voluntary sector provision).”</p> <p>“Wrong on all levels, crime will go through the roof as long as people engage in addiction. These services are fantastic and in the long run will save money through less crime. People not being in hospitals etc.”</p> <p>“Because me and my family would end up homeless, due to no one supporting me with bills and paper work.”</p>
<p>Financial Impact of the Proposals</p>	<p>“In other area where the Floating Support Services have been removed (such as in Cornwall in 2011) there has been a significant increase in evictions and homelessness, as well as a noticeable increase in admissions to hospital (including the mental health units), and an increase in domestic abuse and crime.”</p> <p>Petition - 88 signatures - asked what would happen if service ended - 11 indicated hospital, 13 indicated homeless, 10 indicated prison.</p> <p>“...currently 69 people access the two generic floating support contracts with three people on the waiting list. If all of these people were assessed as needing continuing support this would equate to spend of £184,080 pa.”</p>

Category	Examples of comments
<p>Impact on the Service / Provider</p>	<p>“There would be potential staff redundancies which would have a ‘knock on effect’ to other services in the area which share resources and offices with the SIFS team.”</p> <p>“The loss of services in Torbay will also have a ‘knock on’ effect on central functions of Westward, such as IT, HR and Finance.”</p>
<p>Opportunities to Discuss Alternative Options / Source Other Funding</p>	<p>“We believe that the proposals can be implemented differently in order to reduce the Impact, we already work with other local authorities to achieve efficiency savings within contracts – whilst still retaining services we have done this in Cornwall, Devon and Plymouth.”</p> <p>“We understand the need to reduce costs, but we do need more time to work this through. We cannot achieve this by May 2014 and are putting at risk some of Torbay’s most vulnerable people by rushing this proposal through, therefore we would ask for an extension to the contracts for a year to give us time to work with commissioners and the Council to achieve the cuts needed.”</p> <p>“We propose that a group consisting of Council officers and providers meets together urgently to plan and propose alternatives.”</p>

Consultation Results: Community Outreach Support Service - Reduce by 100%

There were 30 responses received which referred to this proposal. There were also 2 focus groups held for clients where 8 people attended.

This service is provided by Sanctuary Supported Living.

Category	Examples of comments
<p>Impact on the Health, Wellbeing and Quality of Life of Existing and Potential Clients</p>	<p>“Clients with a sensory loss we feel with be adversely affected by the proposals ... will lose access to two fully qualified BSL trained staff who are able to communicate with them in their own language.”</p> <p>“Increase in debt and using “pay day loans” as clients fail to deal with their debt. Where there is an increase in debt this will have an effect on people’s mental and physical health. Rent arrears will increase resulting in potential risk of lose of home. CAB are already over stretched and do not have capacity to respond to increase in demand as there is currently a waiting list. The loss of the Supporting People service will mean that early invention work around debt management will not be as effective, currently Torbay is achieving 90% in reducing debt against a national average of 76%.”</p> <p>“I believe this is going to have a terrible impact on people who face crisis, support needs, or someone to talk to if they need some kind of brief intervention.”</p> <p>“I think there will be serious cases of people whose mental health problems will be exacerbated, debt problems will increased and they will lose their homes, families will break up under the pressure and eventually, some will attempt to take their own life”</p>
<p>Impact on individual and ability to live independently</p>	<p>“Saved my life really, I was giving up. Unaware of benefits and entitlements I could get, helped to claim benefits, sort bills and put my financial affairs together.”</p> <p>“With help I stay on an even keel regarding my finances. All this has a positive effect on my mental wellbeing and stops me having another breakdown.”</p> <p>“I need the support so I don't lose my independence- I don't want to go back to going into a home”</p>

Category	Examples of comments
	<p>“I don't have the ability to read or write. I don't want to get behind on anything or get into debt or lose my flat.”</p>
<p>Impact on Statutory Services and National Priorities</p>	<p>“If you cut the non statutory services in such a drastic way it will have a huge financial knock on effect to the statutory services and therefore will cost more money in the long run. These services are preventative and stop people going into crisis and draining the resources of statutory services.”</p> <p>“This will lead to an increase pressure on current sensory team who would need to manage more crisis related issues which are hard to resolve given that 90% are resolvable if right support information was given earlier leading to quicker action.”</p> <p>“There will be untold pressure upon the statutory agencies in Torbay. They cannot manage now, let alone with our service. It will be disastrous for the whole community. People will be evicted and lose their homes – they will get exploited and people will end up having to go into supported homes again as clients with learning disabilities cannot manage without some form of support”</p> <p>“I would be homeless and suffering from serious depression which would lead me down a never ending spiral“</p> <p>“If homeless people were back on the streets then more crime such as shop lifting and muggings would be more of an occurrence and there would be more anti social behaviour and also the homeless people's health would deteriorate resulting in more strain on the NHS. The same thing would happen if people with mental health problems were not receiving the support required.”</p> <p>“Many service users in the focus groups said that they would have been homeless, drinking, using drugs, in prison or dead if the service had not</p>

Category	Examples of comments
	<p>been available”</p>
<p>Financial Impact of the Proposals</p>	<p>“These proposed cuts may give the Council a short term gain in their overall budget line figure but the effects of these cuts will have far reaching effects within the Council future expenditure and that of its strategic partners including the police and health services.”</p> <p>“The Cuts will also affect the budgets of Torbay Care Trust, the South Devon Care Trust, and Fire Service as well as the police as clients who no longer receive support we target or use front line emergency and care services which will mean that resources will have to be redirected to address this counter balance.”</p> <p>“The overall budget is disproportion to that other departments within the Council with a 70% cut being proposed to Supporting People Budget and only a 25% cut to other departments.”</p> <p>“...currently 69 people access the two generic floating support contracts with three people on the waiting list. If all of these people were assessed as needing continuing support this would equate to spend of £184,080 pa.”</p> <p>“.... cuts to services will result in so many redundancies that this will have an adverse impact on the local economy....”</p>
<p>Impact on the Service / Provider</p>	<p>“In terms of Sanctuary the impact on these proposals will be we will have see a total of 12 members of staff who will face redundancy as a result of the proposals to withdraw 100% of funding from the COSS service.”</p> <p>“The proposal may have an effect on future allocations within our general</p>

Category	Examples of comments
	<p>needs stock for potential tenants with significant support needs. There will not be a support service with trained staff who will be able to help support potential tenants with their support needs to manage and maintain a tenancy particularly those with complex needs.”</p> <p>“Sanctuary tenants in need of support will run the risk of losing their tenancy.....other staff will not be able to use the wealth of knowledge and skills provided by the support staff.”</p>
<p>Quality of Service Provision</p>	<p>“Community Outreach Service we have supported 252 clients have successfully moved on from the service since we started the providing the service in Feb 2012”</p> <p>“Demand for the service remains high and is evidenced, by the waiting list which stands at 50, we currently share the waiting list with Westcountry SIFS.”</p> <p>“My Support Worker was always pleasant, professional and cheerful, she was helpful and supportive, she listens and I felt like someone cares”</p> <p>Two focus groups were held with service users from COSS. A number of service users commented on the support they had received concerning benefits such as the Bedroom Tax and Employment Support Allowance. Two service users mentioned the consistency of support worker and the trust that built up between the service user and the support worker. Service users felt they were understood and valued being given options.</p>
<p>Opportunities to Discuss Alternative Options / Source Other Funding</p>	<p>“We would have welcomed the chance to have worked with you to identify savings within our services, this is the approach we have taken with other local authorities. We are still open to work with you to look at how services can be secured.”</p> <p>“The budgetary problem will not be solved in isolation it can only be</p>

Category	Examples of comments
	<p>achieved through agencies both statutory and voluntary working together that includes the Council in working with the new Clinical Commissioning Group around saving or future partnership working and integration of social care funding. The CCG itself in its letter to the Scrutiny Team on the 17th of December proposing that some areas of the proposals including the Community Outreach Service should be withdrawn in order for more integrated and partnership approach to the future direct and commissioning of these services.”</p>