

Consultation on Community Life Choices (CLC)

A LECG 'Task & Finish' group received a briefing on the proposed changes to CLC on Tuesday 24 August 2016 from Amisha Chauhan, Strategic Planning & Commissioning Officer in the Adults & Communities Department, Leicestershire County Council.

CLC

- Total budget (in house & independent) 2016/17 is £8.3m
- Have to make savings of £500k 2017/18 & £750k 2018/19
- 6 week consultation from 25 July to 4 September 2016
- Results will be analysed and a report will be sent to Cabinet on 11 October 2016
- Report will include summary of consultation feedback and a full EIA
- If implemented, all users will have their needs reviewed in partnership with carers, providers and/or the user's rep, prior to any changes made to individual support packages
- If there is a risk of negative impact on any user, then LCC will put in place the most cost effective support package
- There are 73 independent providers offering 198 services but only 45 are currently providing 102 services
- 13 in-house services provided by LCC Adults & Communities Dept.
- Procurement for new model has started & will be in place by Jan 2017
- Reflects approach taken by Leicester, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Councils

Current Issues

- Lack of clarity in outcomes achieved
- Inconsistent commissioning practice, some users receiving more support than others
- Service provision not linked to needs
- Some services under utilised
- Lack of equity in service provision across County
- Inconsistent costs

Current Demand

- 849 Users
 - Mental Health 71
 - Learning Disability 532
 - Physical Disability/Sensory 246
- 561 service users are under 65 and 288 are 65+

Two Proposals:

1 Stop paying CLC support for those already funded to receive 24/7 care

- Currently there are 130 people, majority have LD – LCC is paying full time care plus day time activities, 5 days a week
- Others in residential care don't benefit from these activities so system is not fair/equitable
- But LCC accepts that individual exceptions may be required if it is evident that there is significant risk/negative impact or if CLC is necessary for supported living
- Consultation will identify impacts & potential needs for exceptions

2 Reduce CLC support from 50 to 48 weeks for existing & new users

- Pay max of 48 weeks as envisage that people who take part in day time activities take holidays so minimal impact on them
- Users/families make alternative arrangements or pay provider direct
- Consultation will indicate impact on users and carers & potential need for exceptions, in which case most cost effective care solution will be considered

Consultation Process

- On-line questionnaire
- Meetings with service providers and partners
- Meetings with users and carers

Questions:

1. Is it a blanket approach?
No, it's not a blanket approach, it will be based on individual service user reviews, it depends on impact on individual users, LCC will be talking/meeting with providers and users to ask if care needs are being met.
2. What will be done with the equalities impact information you gather from the consultation process?
An EIA has already been completed and is appended in the Cabinet report. Any new information collected will be used to update the EIA in final report.
3. How are you going to consult with older people and ethnic minority people?
Various means i.e. providers, community and voluntary sector organisations. Note LECG's suggestions to contact OPEN, AgeUK, patient groups in localities, Healthwatch, etc.

4. Will there be an appeals process?
Yes and note LECG's concerns re: vulnerable people and requirement to include advocates where necessary.
5. Will new framework be implemented in January 2017?
Most likely it will be phased in from January to July.
6. How are you going to help users who are frightened or anxious about these proposals?
Reassure users that proposals are not set in stone!
We will work with providers and carers to help us, help users.
We will ask providers to help us support individual service users through the review process
Note LECG suggestion to shorten periods of assessments and inform users of decisions as soon as possible to minimise concerns particularly for people who suffer from mental health.
7. Will LCC be meeting with all providers and users?
Yes and that is already happening.
8. Will you brief us again on key results after Cabinet?
Report will be available on line.

Update

The report outlining outcomes and recommendations for CLC went to the Leicestershire County Council's Cabinet on Friday 14 October 2016.

Cabinet agreed the CLC proposals but its decision was 'called in' by the Adults & Communities Scrutiny & Overview Committee for debate on Tuesday 1st November 2016.

The end result was that it was voted for the proposals to go ahead and be implemented.

The report which outlines the reason for the Call In can be viewed by accessing the following link <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=4936>