

Medium Term Financial Plan

Initial Equality Impact Assessment of Budget Proposal 2024/25



1. The Proposal

Budget Theme:	Adults Transformation – Maximising Independence
Budget reference:	ADTR01
Budget proposal 2024/25 (£):	£3,150,000

The following savings are included within this Theme:

Directorate Reference	Service Area	Budget Proposal	2024/25 Budget reduction
ASS04	Care in the Community	Reducing the number / size of new care packages through reablement, Technology Enabled Care (TEC) and other early intervention services.	£600,000
ASS05	Care in the Community	Reviews of existing care packages to ensure that all appropriate Continuing Health Care (CHC) or joint funding is received	£500,000
ASS07	Care in the Community	Identify new Supported Living schemes as a more cost effective and independence maximising alternative to residential placements	£100,000
ASS09	Care in the Community	Single Point of Access – review system and maximise voluntary sector	£75,000
ASS13	Care in the Community	Direct Payments - increase recovery rate of unspent amounts	£75,000
ASS16	Care in the Community	Demand management actions to offset anticipated growth including demographic measures.	£1,800,000
Total			£3,150,000

Theme Narrative:

Initiatives designed to support all adults within the community to maximise their independence and to manage demand for council services by focussing efforts on those who need services the most. This will include looking at the services we provide along with partners and other key stakeholders, to expand areas such as reablement and preventative services as well as increasing the types of provision available to residents, for example, delivery of more Supported Living schemes, Extra Care housing places and an increase the use of technology aided care solutions where appropriate.

Summary of changes:

ASS04 - Care in the Community

Reducing the number / size of new care packages through reablement, Technology Enabled Care (TEC) and other early intervention services.

The ongoing development of the Technology Enabled Care (TEC) and Reablement service with revised pathways which focus on therapy and TEC to improve long term outcomes for citizens.

Collaborative working between North Somerset Council, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Sirona led to creation of the Discharge for Access (D2A) business case. The document focuses on redevelopment of the reablement offer and funding through the ICB was agreed. The new service is a collaboration between the multi-disciplinary TEC and Reablement Intervention (TRI) Team, Access Your Care, and the wellness services to deliver a proactive and preventative service which supports the D2A process and improve outcomes for individuals. There is an improved offer for plus sized people and scope for increased staffing resource within these services. If necessary, a Care Act Assessment will be completed once the reablement pathway is completed.

There is ongoing improvement to align with hospital discharge pathways, involving closer working with Sirona and an improved access to TEC and dedicated occupational therapist support for strategic domiciliary care providers. This will enable improved outcomes from provider reviews over the reablement pathway. There is a reduction in packages of care and higher proportion of clients no longer requiring care following successful reablement outcomes.

ASS05 - Care in the Community

Reviews of existing care packages to ensure that all appropriate Continuing Health Care (CHC) or joint funding is received

When assessing and reviewing the needs of people consideration is given whether the assessed needs relate to their health conditions, an assessment for Continuing Health Care (CHC), to determine their eligibility. It is beneficial for people to access this funding because it is not subject to a financial contribution, and it ensures that their care is co-ordinated by the relevant health organisation. When a person has been in receipt of Local Authority funding and the responsibility transfers to the Integrated Care Board (ICB) there is a saving.

The dedicated resource that is in place has been very successful in supporting people to achieve CHC funding, the team have expert knowledge of the Continuing Health Care Framework and its application.

The CHC Team will continue to support the operational teams to make CHC applications for people who it is considered may have a primary health need.

ASS07 - Care in the Community

Identify new Supported Living schemes as a more cost effective and independence maximising alternative to residential placements

Continuation of the Housing with Support Strategy approach to developing further supported living schemes.

This proposal includes the plan to build on the foundations of the existing housing with support plans to an accommodation shift away from residential care options and alternatives for older people and those with learning disabilities.

This includes:

- The development of housing for people with a learning disability with support in place to meet individual's needs. This is supporting a change that allows people with a learning disability and their families to have choices that support self-determination and values including choice and independence. Housing with support offers the opportunity to remain in your local area close to friends and families and established networks, this isn't always available when considering residential care options. This option is based on tenancies that support people being able to keep their home and change care which is not available with residential care.
- There are plans being proposed for 12 self-contained flats being developed in Weston with the aim that these would be available early 2024; This will be able to provide long term secure accommodation to people with learning disabilities and/or people with physical disabilities. The scheme is in partnership with Freeways.
- There are plans to create a framework for developers who can be approached to develop smaller self-contained units in key locations across North Somerset to further secure long-term accommodation for people with learning disabilities and / or physical disabilities.

ASS09 - Care in the Community

Single Point of Access – review system and maximise voluntary sector

We are undertaking a review of our Single Point of Access system, with the aim of ensuring referrals are completed as quickly as possible with maximising the independence of people as its priority. This will result in earlier solutions of problems that may be resolved from provision of improved information and advice and onward referral to universal services available from NSC or such as community meals or activity groups provided by the Voluntary Community or Social Enterprise

(VCSE) sector. This will be enhanced by the current work on improving information and advice services from the refresh and replacement of the existing North Somerset Online Directory.

ASS13 - Care in the Community

Direct Payments - increase recovery rate of unspent amounts

Working with Liberata, the Direct Payments (DP) support team will ensure that robust reviews are regularly undertaken of how DP funds are allocated, ensuring that underutilised resources are recovered promptly and that resources to support the individual are applied appropriately. Previous exercises have identified the need to recover unallocated resources that accumulate.

ASS16 - Care in the Community

Demand management actions to offset anticipated growth including demographic measures.

We will continue to transform services to ensure our maximising independence measures reduce ongoing demand for services and offset the anticipated growth measures our demographics would indicate. These measures offset growth and ensure specific grants are targeted at enabling care provider sustainability and workforce challenges are prioritised. These measures include deployment of TEC, expansion of our extra care and supported living capacity and improved information and advice services.

Is any of the proposals within this theme a continuation of a previous medium-term financial plan saving?

Yes No

If yes, please insert reference number and year of assessment?

Budget Proposal	Year of assessment	Budget Reference
ASS-04 Reablement	2023	ASS03
ASS-05 CHC	2023	ASS05
ASS-07 Supported Living	2023	ASS08

If yes, please describe what steps you have taken to review the equality impacts from previous years?

We have reviewed consequential impacts from previous measures and sought to mitigate actions to ensure positive or neutral impacts are identified.

3. Explanation of customer impact

ASS04 - Care in the Community

Reducing the number or size of new care packages through reablement, Technology Enabled Care (TEC) and other early intervention services.

The impacts offer positive alternatives and greater independence through an enhanced therapy offer. Whilst Technology Enable Care (TEC) has the potential to benefit all, its scope to maximise the independence of disabled and older people receiving reablement following hospital discharge is particularly positive. Some TEC is customable to other languages and can offer translation capacity so has wider benefits, whilst it can also be inexpensive e.g. Alexa.

ASS05 - Care in the Community

Reviews of existing care packages to ensure that all appropriate Continuing Health Care (CHC) or joint funding is received

Whether a person receives CHC funding, or joint funded between the Local Authority and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) it should not affect the delivery of their care. There will be continuity of care should it be transferred from the Local Authority to the ICB.

People who are deemed eligible for CHC do not financially contribute to their care. It is beneficial for people who have an elevated level of care needs to have these coordinated by a health care professional.

ASS07 - Care in the Community

Identify new Supported Living schemes as a more cost effective and independence maximising alternative to residential placements

The outcomes so far show that this way of working has a positive impact for users and their families and helps support people's local connections and closeness to their local networks, friends, and families. It also provides an assured secure tenancy with options for users to choose who supports their care needs.

The groups identified are reflected as predominantly needing this type of accommodation being developed and whom have been mostly impacted by a lack of choices around care, with residential care, often placed outside of the local area, generally being the only option.

Having suitable accommodation situated within the local area also has a positive impact on parent carers, including their health and wellbeing.

ASS09 - Care in the Community

Single Point of Access – review system and maximise voluntary sector

Ideally referrals to the SPA will be resolved at an earlier stage, ensuring that appropriate information and advice is shared online or via the call and targeted referrals ensure quicker outcomes that maximise an individual independence. An improved signposting and referral service will benefit disabled people the most, earlier involvement with specialist faith and race groups to support individuals maximise their independence.

ASS13 - Care in the Community

Direct Payments - increase recovery rate of unspent amounts

This will ensure underutilised resources are identified earlier and recovered and any concerns are rectified from regular monitoring. This will ensure more certainty over resources is in place and support the individual manage their resources. This will have low impact benefits across all groups.

ASS16 - Care in the Community

Demand management actions to offset anticipated growth including demographic measures.

The transformation activities from TEC, accommodation shift etc are ensuring future demand for services are minimised from improving independence and wellbeing leading to better outcomes for all our citizens. This will have a low impact particularly for disabled people where access to TEC will have the most impact.

Please describe how you will communicate these changes to your customers

The communication routes will be specific to each individual proposal dependent on the assessed level of engagement/consultation and the consequential impact, albeit these are broadly positive or neutral across all categories.

4. Staff equality impact summary

Are there any staffing implications for this proposal?

Yes

No

Explanation of staff impact

None

6. Review and Sign Off**Service Manager Review**

Insert any service manager comments here:

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Is a further detailed equality impact assessment needed? Yes

If 'yes', when will the further assessment be completed?

During 2024/25 as each project is implemented a separate Equality Impact Assessment will be completed.

Service Manager:

Gerald Hunt

Date:

12 December 2023