

**Leicestershire's future**

The plan for change

# Have your say on proposed changes to Community Life Choices



## Your feedback is important

Online: [leicestershire.gov.uk/community-life-choices](http://leicestershire.gov.uk/community-life-choices)

For general enquiries or comments about this consultation  
phone **0116 305 0232** or email [ascengage@leics.gov.uk](mailto:ascengage@leics.gov.uk)

**Public consultation: the consultation runs from 25 July 2016.  
Submit your views by midnight on 4 September 2016.**

## Leicestershire's future

The plan for change

### What are community life choices?

Community Life Choices (CLC) are better known as day services and provide a safe and supported place for people in Leicestershire with health needs such as learning and physical disabilities and mental illness.

Leicestershire County Council currently funds day services for around 850 people during 50 weeks of the year.

There are 13 services directly delivered by the county council and around 72 services delivered by independent providers who are paid by us to operate these services. These services offer choice and flexibility as well as the opportunity to build people's confidence and support them into employment.

Some of the activities on offer include arts, crafts and wheelchair sport with outreach and community support available within a group, or on a one-to-one basis.

### Why change?

Leicestershire County Council is facing its biggest-ever financial challenge with the authority having to consider savings in all areas.

The 2016-17 budget for community life choices is £7.7 million and it is proposed to make reductions of £500,000 in 2017/18, rising to £750,000 in 2018/19, a saving of nine per cent.

Inevitably, a reduction in funding is leading the county council to explore how it can provide a more efficient service in the future, while minimising the impact on users of the service and their families.

An example of community life choices support in the future is:

Peter, 38, has a learning disability and lives with his mum.

He attends a community life choices service 12 hours a week.

It has helped him to look after himself more, including the ability to cook simple meals, and to keep safe.

Peter now lives with friends which has enabled him to become more independent and be less reliant on his mum.

Peter is now also volunteering which enables him to increase his confidence and will help him to gain paid employment.



## Our new approach to community life choices

We are proposing a new approach to offering community life choices services (known as a framework) from 1 January 2017, which we believe reflects the fairest way of offering support.

In line with the principles set out in the adult social care strategy 2016-20, the new services will aim to promote people's independence and reduce or prevent the need for social care support.

The best way to do that is to ensure people are less dependent on adult social care and that they have involvement in the community where they can improve their health and wellbeing, develop life skills as well as exploring volunteering and job opportunities.

### The new community life choices offer will support:

- Increasing independence – Learning and developing skills for employment, education, training and volunteering support;
- Personal and skills development – Life skills, including use of public transport, cooking, money management, confidence building and decision making;
- Community involvement – A focus on meaningful, inclusive activities based in the community, with an emphasis on tailored support. The activities aim to meet the needs of both the individual and, where relevant, associated carers, with a view to reducing a dependency on funded support;
- Health and wellbeing – Providing advice and support on healthy lifestyles by promoting the physical and mental health needs of individuals, offering emotional support and enabling people to develop personal resources to deal with life changes, stresses and crises as well as providing respite for carers.

Individuals will be able to either attend half-day (three hour) or full day (six hour) sessions. This support will be provided within a group or on a one-to-one basis, in a centre or within the community.



## What is the council proposing?

As part of the new approach there are two key proposals around how we should deliver community life choices services.

- **We are proposing to stop paying for community life choices support for people who are already funded to receive 24/7 residential care**

At present, around 130 people – the majority of them with learning disabilities – are being supported in full-time residential care paid by the county council, while the county council is also funding their daytime activities up to five days a week on top of that.

Many others in residential care don't benefit from extra funding to access these activities, so we need to make sure that the way we support people is fair and that we are making the best use of council budgets.

We would ensure that care home providers offer leisure opportunities and social activities to all their residents – many we know are already doing this.

- **We are proposing to reduce the number of weeks we fund community life choices support from 50 to 48 weeks.**

Our proposal is to only pay for a maximum of 48 weeks of community life choices support.

The people who take part in the daytime activities do take holidays during the year so we envisage that the impact of this proposal on them would be minimal.

For the remaining two weeks, service users and/or their family and carers could either make alternative arrangements - or pay the service provider directly.

## Who will this affect?

- Leicestershire residents on a direct payment (previously called a 'cash payment'), which is paid directly to you
- Leicestershire residents on a managed budget – where we hold the money and buy your care for you which is provided either by an independent provider or Leicestershire County Council



## What happens next?

When the consultation closes, we will analyse the feedback and report the results back to the council's Cabinet in Autumn 2016.

If these proposals are implemented we will ensure that all people currently receiving community life choices will have their support reviewed, prior to any changes being agreed.

During the review process, we'll talk to people and their carers about their needs and if it is clear there is a risk of a negative impact, the county council will put in place, as required, the most cost-effective support.

## How the consultation will work

**The consultation begins on 25 July 2016 and will end at midnight on 4 September 2016.**

During this period, we will be holding meetings for those people accessing community life choices.

To submit your views, please fill out the consultation survey and make sure it reaches us by midnight 4 September 2016 at the latest. The survey is available online at: [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/community-life-choices](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/community-life-choices)

Paper copies of the survey are available on request by calling 0116 305 0232 or if you currently receive CLC services your service provider will be able to give you a copy.

If you are able to, please complete the questionnaire online as it will save us money.

If you need help to complete the questionnaire or have any questions about the consultation, please call 0116 305 0232 or email [ascengage@leics.gov.uk](mailto:ascengage@leics.gov.uk)

## You can view the latest information in a number of ways

Visit us online [leicestershire.gov.uk/community-life-choices](http://leicestershire.gov.uk/community-life-choices).

Our web pages will be kept up-to-date with the latest information and developments. You'll also be able to access the survey here.

Send an email to [ascengage@leics.gov.uk](mailto:ascengage@leics.gov.uk) to register for the latest news and updates.

Follow us [@leicscountyhall](https://twitter.com/leicscountyhall) for general updates from the council, including the developments on the budget.

Alternatively, you can telephone **0116 305 0232** to ask for information in printed or alternative formats.



This information is also available in  
Easy Read format call **0116 305 0232** or  
email **ascengage@leics.gov.uk**

જો આપ આ માહિતી આપની ભાષામાં સમજવામાં થોડી મદદ  
ઈચ્છતાં હો તો 0116 305 0232 નંબર પર ફોન કરશો અને  
અમે આપને મદદ કરવા વ્યવસ્થા કરીશું.

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਕੁਝ ਮਦਦ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ  
ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0116 305 0232 ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ  
ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਦਵਾਂਗੇ।

এই তথ্য নিজের ভাষায় বুঝার জন্য আপনার যদি কোন  
সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয়, তবে 0116 305 0232 এই নম্বরে  
ফোন করলে আমরা উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির ব্যবস্থা করবো।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات سمجھنے میں کچھ مدد درکار ہے تو براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر کال کریں  
0116 305 0232 اور ہم آپ کی مدد کے لئے کسی کا انتظام کر دیں گے۔

假如閣下需要幫助，用你的語言去明白這些資訊，  
請致電 0116 305 0232，我們會安排有關人員為你  
提供幫助。

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tej informacji  
w Twoim języku, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 305 0232,  
a my Ci dopomożemy.