

Local Assistance Network Consultation

Overview

The Local Assistance Network (LAN) was established in 2013 to replace a number of discretionary benefits for households in crisis situations which had previously been available through the benefits system. A ring fenced grant to support this spending was originally provided by Department of Work and Pensions but this was removed in 2015. The LAN budget is currently £800,000 per annum.

The Cabinet Member agreed to consider the further reduction of Local Assistance Network (LAN) funding to £200,000 per annum from April 2019. The decision has opened a period of engagement to gather evidence to inform this decision in the context of an impact assessment.

The County Council welcomes views on the best way of continuing to provide discretionary welfare assistance to households in crisis situations and the form this should take if there is to be a further reduction to the resources which may be available.

Why We Are Consulting

The County Council welcomes views to assist the preparation of an impact assessment that will inform difficult decisions in connection with the prioritisation of limited resources.

We regret that we are unable to respond to individual comments but all views will be carefully considered before any decision is made.

How to have your say

You can have your say by completing the survey below, or by emailing your comments to us at Local.assistance.network@westsussex.gov.uk or by writing to us at the following address:

Freepost RSBK-CHTU-KGGG
Have Your Say -Local Assistance Network
West Sussex County Council
Chichester
PO19 1RQ

Please note: The deadline for you to respond is Monday 3rd December as the final decision on this proposal will be taken later in December 2018. The proposal will also be considered by the Council's Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny committee at its 30th November meeting. If you wish your views to be considered at that meeting they should be submitted no later than Friday 9th November.

If you require this survey in an alternative format, please contact us on 01243 777100, email us at Local.assistance.network@westsussex.gov.uk or via NGT Text Relay 18001 01243 777100.

Introduction

Privacy Statement

The Childrens, Adults, Families, Health & Education Team will use this survey to collect a range of personal or sensitive data in order to carry out a statutory duty and a task in the public interest. The data will be processed in accordance with the 1998 Data Protection Act and any subsequent legislation, including the General Data Protection Regulations.

The data we collect will be not be shared or used for any other purpose than that stated, and will be held securely on computer for a period of up to 5 years before being appropriately destroyed. West Sussex County Council is registered as Data Controller (Reg. No. Z6413427). For further details and information about our Data Controller, please see www.westsussex.gov.uk/privacy-policy.

1 Are you primarily responding as.... Please select one option only Single choice radio buttons (Required)

- A service user
- A resident
- A member of staff
- An organisation

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please tell us the name of your organisation in the box below.

Name of organisation

2 What is your email address?

Please enter your email address if you would like to be kept informed of the results of this consultation.

Email

3 We would like to hear your views on the proposed changes. We would also like to understand the likely impact of these changes on you. Please share your views on the proposal and any available evidence to support your comment. Please share your views in the box provided below: (Required question)

About You

Why do we ask 'about you' questions?

We want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally. We collect this data as part of our day to day business to help us improve our services.

You do not have to answer the questions in this section but it will greatly help us if you do. Your responses help us to check we are hearing from all members of society. It also helps to ensure that we can meet our duties under the Equality Act 2010.

If you're below 16 years of age please indicate your age but do not fill in the rest of this section. Instead, please go directly to the end of the survey.

4 Which of the following age groups best describes you? Please select one option only

- 15 or under - please now go directly to the end of the survey
- 16-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75-84
- 85+
- Prefer not to say

5 What is your postcode?

Postcode

6 What is your main employment status? Please select only one option only

- Full-time Employment
- Part-time Employment
- Self-employed
- Looking after Home
- Retired
- Student
- Unemployed
- Carer
- Volunteer
- Other

If 'other', please specify

7 Are you? Please select only one option only

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

8 Is your gender the same as the one assigned to you at birth? Please select only one option only.

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

9 What is your ethnic origin? Please select only one option only

- White - English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British/Irish/Gypsy or Irish Traveller/any other white background
- Mixed/multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean/White and Black African/White and Asian/any other mixed/multiple ethnic background
- Asian/Asian British - Indian/Pakistani/Bangladeshi/Chinese/any other Asian background
- Black/African/Caribbean/Black British - African/Caribbean/any other black/African/Caribbean background
- Other ethnic group - Arab/any other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

10 What is your religion? Please select one option only

- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- No religion
- Any other religion
- Unknown
- Prefer not to say
- Other

If 'other', please specify

11 Are you currently pregnant or have you given birth in the last 26 weeks? Please select only one option only

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

12 Do you consider yourself to have a disability? Please select one option only

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

13 Please state what your disability is: Please select all that apply

- Physical impairment
- Sensory impairment
- Mental health condition
- Learning disability
- Long-term illness
- Other

If 'other', please specify

14 What is your sexual orientation? Please select only one option only

- Heterosexual
- Bisexual
- Gay or Lesbian
- Other
- Prefer not to say

15 Are you.... Please select only one option only

- Single
- Cohabiting
- Married
- Civil Partnership
- Separated/Divorced/Partnership dissolved
- Widowed
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Please now email us your completed responses to Housing.related.support@westsussex.gov.uk or return the survey to us via post using our Freepost address:

Freepost RSBK-CHTU-KGGG
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West Sussex County Council
Chichester
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