

Proposal to review financial assistance for people receiving housing support

Background

Central government has significantly reduced their funding to local authorities in recent years and by 2020, we will have lost over a third of our budget. This means that we face considerable challenges and difficult decisions on spending and providing services. The County Council has already saved around £170 million and has protected services where we possibly can but we need to save a further £43m by 2019/20 and it is becoming more difficult to find ways to save money. We are reviewing financial assistance for people who receive housing support and this is one of the services that we need to look at to reduce spending.

What is the proposal?

The County Council is proposing to withdraw access to a financial assessment and therefore possible financial assistance for people with a community/emergency alarm service or who live in supported housing (sometimes called sheltered housing) who do not have an eligible need for social care.

People won't be affected by this proposal if they receive this service as a result of a social care assessment to enable additional Telecare equipment to be fitted.

We won't change any of the existing arrangements until the responses to the consultation have been considered. We expect to be able to make a final decision in February 2018 and we propose to implement any decision in April 2018.

Why are we doing this?

We are taking difficult decisions on the savings that we need to make. We need to make sure we can support the people we are obliged to support and, unfortunately, we are not obliged to offer financial support for people who do not have an eligible need for social care or who live in supported housing. We also know that not all people in supported housing have been able to apply for this financial assistance and so this has not been fair.

We are only obliged to offer financial assistance to people who have already been assessed as eligible for social care services.

We estimate that the proposal will save £1m every year and we will use this for savings and to develop the Assistive Technology service for people with eligible social care needs. This will help vulnerable people to live independently at home and help to prevent the need for more complex services.

If the proposal does not go ahead, then we will need to look at other ways to make the savings which will mean that we will not be able to develop the Telecare and Assistive Technology service.

The County Council wants to know what you think of this proposal.
Closing date for consultation: Friday 2nd February 2018.

If you require this information and/or the questionnaire in an alternative format or have any queries regarding this please ring the North Yorkshire County Council Customer Services Centre on 01609 780780 or email commissioning@northyorks.gov.uk

Additionally, if you would like to see the draft Equality Impact Assessment which has been prepared by the County Council, this is available on the County Council's website - <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/reviewing-financial-assistance-housing-support> or we can send you a paper version on request by ringing 01609 780780 or emailing commissioning@northyorks.gov.uk