

Luton Borough Council – Adult Social Care Efficiency Programme

Luton Council's Adult Social Care Team focused on the improvement of their reablement service as their part in this programme. This is written up as a case study.

Over the three years of the programme Luton has had the following gross budgets:

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
£73.675 million	£64.412 million	£62.952 million

Luton has had to make savings to balance its budgets over the last three years. Even though the council has put additional resources into the budget to meet demographic pressures and inflation (at about £3.5 million per annum), the overall picture like other councils is that the savings that Luton has funded has met these pressures and more, with a £14.5 million cashable saving delivered over the three years (about 15 per cent of the budget).

Luton has delivered savings in the following ways:

The development of extra-care housing as an alternative to residential care and the renegotiation of both the care and the support contract for the housing schemes

The policy of no direct admissions to residential care from an acute hospital bed – which has contributed towards a 65 per cent reduction in admissions to residential care over the three years.

The improved reablement services giving a performance of 66 per cent of people not needing further domiciliary care support (see case study on reablement in Luton)

Use of assistive technology to support adults with learning disabilities who live in supported housing

The contracts team use a value-for-money approach for all care packages that are above £900.00 per week

An improved resource allocation system with creative packages of care encouraged through a panel process

Using the ordinary residence rule to encourage local authorities where people reside to take up the costs of the care

Retendering the domiciliary care contracts and moving from over 20 local suppliers down to six key strategic partners – this reduced the unit costs from between £12.50 - £14.50 (with one provider at £16.00) down to £12.68 - £13.80 per hour (this is a flat rate paid for any time of day, weekend or bank holiday and is paid pro-rata in 15-minute blocks) saving about £500,000 in the first year.

The use of electronic monitoring through CRM 2000 system for domiciliary care both to assure quality and to make easier payments to suppliers – saving £250,000 in first year

The use of the health monies to support mainstream activities

Review of some previously funded Supporting People services

Some staffing reviews

Luton have a full savings programme supported by a programme-managed approach with weekly monitoring meetings to adjudge progress against targets.

In the medium term the council faces significant challenges and currently the Adult Social Care contribution to the council's medium term financial strategy is expected to be £25 million over the next three years (almost double what has already been achieved). In addition Luton is experiencing real pressures, with the numbers of younger people coming into transition for adult care services each year looking to increase significantly (twice as many people than in previous years); an increase in demands for mental health services; and growing numbers of older people experiencing dementia and needing some care and support.

The Adult Social Care service is preparing for this in a number of ways:

A continuation of a strongly performance managed savings programme for the Directorate

Working closely with health partners towards a more integrated model – building on good relationships and looking to use their agreed programme with the Better Care Fund to assist in managing demand in both health and social care

The further development of extra-care housing

The re-provision of day and respite services for adults with learning disabilities including providing new alternative services for both those with high and lower care needs.

They are looking to work more closely with communities and already have a dementia-friendly communities programme which will be enhanced with increased use of volunteers and projects to tackle social isolation.

On a positive note, Luton has a vibrant third sector which has helped in part with some funding which comes through the local airport's contribution to the economy. This money operates like a social bond with outcomes expected as a social return on the investment – this is an important part of why the monies are awarded. Early evidence shows some good results from the use of these monies in the third sector. In addition the Clinical Commissioning Group is anticipating a 3 per cent growth in its budgets as a result of the changes to formula allocations from the Department of Health (this also will help the options from the Better Care Fund).

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Extract taken from:

Adult Social Care Efficiency Programme Final Report: Annex:

<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/11779/Adult+Social+Care+Efficiency+Programme+Final+Report+-+Annex+2014/7952391e-a043-4f16-bebd-644780d1eb77>

ASCE programme website: <http://www.local.gov.uk/productivity/>

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