

**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**13 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER**  
**34**

Questions from Rachel Hall

1. The answer to question 1 states that “the service specification stipulates that in-reach (hostel based) support is linked to accommodation... however this is not the same as saying that the funding should pay for the accommodation itself”. However, I would like clarification on this because there are a number of other statements that have led us to infer that the funding has included accommodation, things like ‘hours of operation for supported accommodation is 24/7 365 days a year’ and we must employ all staff for safe running of the supported accommodation and the hostel premises must be compliant.

**Response:**

The service specification stipulates that in-reach (hostel based) support is linked to accommodation equivalent to 30 bed spaces across Leicestershire. In order to provide support within any setting, the Council requires assurance that the setting is safe and compliant for those being supported. This is not the same as saying that the funding should pay for the accommodation itself.

2. Has an impact assessment been carried out on the impacts of decommissioning the service and the wider impacts of the proposal?

**Response:**

A draft proposal was developed following a review of existing provision, a review of need, and a review of the duties of the County Council. This work also included analysis of benefits, risks and impact of the proposal. A draft Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has also been completed.

The impact of a change in service model will be informed by the outcome of consultation and a final EIA will be produced. This will be presented to Cabinet in November.

3. Did any face to face focus groups take place? Is there any evidence of this?

**Response:**

Two face to face sessions were held at Loughborough library to talk through the proposal and provide information on how individuals could have their say. At these

sessions, we collated feedback from participants and provided hard copies of consultation packs for participants to take away. County council staff were also available to support completion of the survey on-site. Space was also made available at Loughborough library for participants to complete a survey.

4. I appreciate that one of the factors behind the proposals is the need for LCC to save money, but what other factors are behind the proposals? How has it been established that the proposed model will better align with the duties of the Council and local need?

**Response:**

This is set out in the report presented to the Cabinet on 23 June 2023. A link to the report is provided below. Particular attention is drawn to paragraph 24 of the report which states 'This proposal has been developed based on the review of existing provision, a review of need, a review of the public health grant conditions, and the latest MTFS requirement'.

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s177126/2023.06.23%20Cabinet%20Report%20Homelessness%20Consultation.pdf>