

Denbighshire Supporting People Decommissioning Strategy

Cyngor
sir ddinbych
denbighshire
County Council



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1. What is Decommissioning?

We are defining Decommissioning as the withdrawal from or closure of an internal or external service and funding arrangement by ceasing payment of grants or the ending of a contract or service level agreement.

2. Background

Decommissioning is part of the commissioning cycle and should be undertaken in a planned way to ensure that the most effective services are delivered, making best use of the resources available.

This strategy has been developed in the context of year on year reductions to the Denbighshire Supporting People budget. Changes to the funding distribution formula for Supporting People in 2012 resulted in proposed cuts to Denbighshire Supporting People of 20% over 5 years between 2012-13 and 2016-17. Additional cuts to all public services in Wales have resulted in further cuts to Supporting People, which are indicated to continue into 2017-18.

These cuts were managed in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 without significantly impacting on service levels, with the current grant allocation being £6.1 million for 2014-15. Cuts for 2015-16 have recently been confirmed as 10.4% and negotiations with a number of providers have been instrumental in meeting these required savings. However, we are anticipating further cuts at a similar level for 2016/17 and further cuts again in 2017/18.

With this in mind, Denbighshire County Council Supporting People will need to decommission services that have previously been deemed strategically relevant from 2016-17 onwards.

3. DCC Approach

Denbighshire County Council Supporting People have given a commitment that grant reductions will be managed in a strategic way. The cuts will not be managed through simply “salami-slicing” budgets.

Denbighshire County Council Supporting People are committed to making these difficult decisions in a consultative and transparent manner which will include considering the views of affected providers, Service Users and stakeholders.

Denbighshire County Council Supporting People will strive to deliver more for less, but it is acknowledged that demand often outstrips provision. We will remain committed to ensuring housing related support services are maintained for the most vulnerable people across all service delivery groups.

Denbighshire County Council Supporting People will ensure that the support projects we continue to commission are delivering safe, high quality, innovative and person centred housing related support.

When making decommissioning decisions Denbighshire County Council Supporting People along with Denbighshire Supporting People Planning Group will consider the following;

3.1. Does the project deliver Housing Related Support?

In determining whether a support project is delivering eligible support, reference will be made to current Supporting People Programme Guidance as below;

“Housing-related support is provided to help vulnerable people develop or maintain the skills and confidence necessary to live as independently as possible. It has housing, and preventing homelessness or people living in inappropriate institutional settings, at its core. Support can be offered to anyone eligible, regardless of their tenure.” (SPPG 2013, 3.4, P22)

“Supporting People services should be enabling, and develop a person’s independence, i.e. ‘doing with’ as distinct from ‘doing for’. The focus of the service should be to encourage and support the service user to exercise personal choice and self-determination.” (SPPG 2013, 3.8, P23)

“Questions to be considered when commissioning, reviewing or identifying whether a service will come within the remit of Supporting People Programme Grant are:

- Could the support offered prevent the person from being at risk of losing their accommodation or moving to less independent care or an institutional setting?
- Could the support offered enable a person to develop their independence, following a period living in an institutional setting or in less dependent settings?
- Does the support cover key areas that enable an individual to live independently?” (SPPG 2013, 3.12 P23)

3.2. Does the project support the Early Intervention Agenda as outlined in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. Also the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

Denbighshire County Council Supporting People are committed in ensuring that our services compliment and contribute to statutory service provision. We feel that we can do this best by ensuring that the services we commission contribute to the early intervention agenda as outlined in the above acts as well as the Supporting Independence in Denbighshire approach (SID) and the Denbighshire Wellbeing Plan.

Housing (Wales) Act 2014

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 enables people to receive advice and assistance at an earlier stage due to the extension of the definition of 'threatened with homelessness' from 28 days to 56 days. Those who are homeless will also be owed a duty to receive help from the local authority to secure a home regardless of the circumstances which lead to their homelessness.

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to provide preventative services based upon the needs of the local population, which may involve promoting the development of social enterprises, user-led services and third sector services. Individual needs assessments should consider whether preventative services could contribute to meeting any of the needs identified.

SID and the Wellbeing Plan

Denbighshire County Council's own approach, Supporting Independence in Denbighshire, promotes early intervention through the provision of information and low level preventative services which are easily accessible within the community – this includes the Single Point of Access, a single telephone number for access to advice, assessment, information and community health and social care services.

Denbighshire's Single Integrated Plan, the Wellbeing Plan, focuses on maximising and maintaining independence and resilience amongst individuals and wider communities within the County, in order that people can more effectively support themselves and others around them when faced with challenges.

It will be expected that, moving forward, projects will need to evidence how they are providing preventative services, including how they complement and work together with statutory and other services to do so.

3.3. Does the project discharge Statutory Duty?

As we move forwards with a reduced budget, Denbighshire County Council Supporting People will need to investigate whether individual projects are delivering support that is either wholly or in part discharging statutory duty.

Where it is identified that a project is discharging statutory duty, Denbighshire County Council Supporting People team will consider withdrawing or reducing funding.

The Supporting People Programme Guidance states;

“SPPG should not fund services that are a statutory duty which Social Services are required to fund under community care legislation.” (SPPG 2013, 3.17 P24)

3.4. Could the project be funded from another funding stream?

As we move forwards with a reduced budget, Denbighshire County Council Supporting People will consider whether individual projects could be funded via other funding streams – i.e. via Health, Community Safety.

Where it is identified that a project could be funded from another funding stream, Denbighshire County Council Supporting People team will consider withdrawing or reducing funding.

3.5. What similar provision exists?

As part of the decision making process around decommissioning services, Denbighshire Supporting People will consider what provision already exists. This could either be other support projects delivered through the Supporting People programme locally, sub regionally or regionally or similar services delivered via other funding streams, statutory services or third sector organisations. Maintaining service provision for the most vulnerable people will be at the forefront of these considerations.

Where similar support is identified Denbighshire County Council Supporting People will consider withdrawing or reducing funding.

3.6. How good are the projects at delivering the service they provide?

Decommissioning decisions will only be made about a project once it has been reviewed. A national review package has been created and provided to all Local Authorities throughout Wales. The reviewing process looks at the strategic relevance, cost effectiveness, eligibility, quality and partnership working of a service. Where it is identified that a project is underperforming or demonstrating poor value for money, but remains a priority to fund, we will seek to remodel and re-commission in accordance with Denbighshire County Councils Contract Procedure Rules, this could involve holding a competitive tender process.

When making decisions around decommissioning projects, reference will also be made to Denbighshire County Council Supporting People Strategic Priority to Fund (SPTF) matrix. The SPTF considers a number of indicators that assess performance and strategic relevance, which are combined to produce an overall priority rating for each project. The SPTF was developed as one part of a strategic approach in managing the cuts to Supporting People; therefore, the rating of individual projects is not considered in isolation but is considered as part of wider discussions.

4. Process

Denbighshire County Council Supporting People will strive to maintain the following processes when making decommissioning decisions

4.1. Where possible, decommissioning proposals will be featured within the Local Commissioning Plan. However, it is recognised that opportunities may present

themselves between plans and these should not be ignored just because they were not identified in the previous LCP.

4.2. In order to maintain a clear audit trail and to ensure transparency, a decommissioning report will be completed for each project decommissioned (appendix 1)

4.3. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed for each project that is being considered for decommissioning.

Appendix 1

Report for the decommissioning of Supporting People Services	
Project Name	
Provider	
Date	
Name of Contract and Reviewing Officer	

Details of initial reason why this project was considered for decommissioning – please refer to DCC SP decommissioning strategy.

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Was this proposal featured in the SP LCP?

LCP proposal details.	
Changes to LCP proposal.	

Has the service been reviewed?	
Date of Review.	
Key Findings of Review.	
Findings of SPTF	
SPTF Rating.	
List factors that affected rating – i.e. no data, new project etc.	

Has this proposal gone to SPPG?	
Date presented to SPPG.	
Comments from SPPG.	
Have Service Users been consulted?	
How, when and where?	
Have stakeholders been consulted?	
Service Provider details.	
Related Services that could be affected – internal and external.	

<p>12mths of Referrers details from Single Pathway.</p>	
<p>County Council member/s.</p>	
<p>Interest groups/charities.</p>	
<p>Has the regional impact been considered?</p>	
<p>Could this proposal have any implication for the wider North Wales region?</p>	
<p>Has this proposal been presented to RCC? (Applicable where the proposal changes the total of spend category by greater than 10%) And/Or.</p>	<p>Date and comments</p>

<p>Has this proposal been presented to NWSPIN?</p>	<p>Date and comments</p>
<p>Are there any related plans that will minimise the impact of decommissioning this service? i.e. increased capacity in another project/development of regional project/development of non SP service</p>	
<p>Details.</p>	
<p>Has this proposal been considered alongside other decisions or proposals to decommission services in order to assess the cumulative effect? Will this have a disproportionate impact on any particular client group which is not supported by data trends?</p>	
<p>Projects or services decommissioned within the last 12 months, or those proposed to be decommissioned in the next 6 months should be considered.</p>	
<p>Has an EQIA been carried out in relation to the decommissioning of this service?</p>	

Date completed.	
Name of officer completing this.	
Are there any actions identified to mitigate the impact of the decommissioning of this service?	
Details of actions.	

Record Of Actions

Date	Action	DCC Officer Name
