

APPENDIX B

SUPPORTING NARRATIVE FOR BUDGET PROPOSALS

CHILDREN'S AND ADULTS' SERVICES

Overview

Children's and Adults' Services deliver the core '*people*' aspects of the council's services to our 293,530 residents – Education, Children's Social Care and Adult Social Care. The department focuses on protecting our children and vulnerable residents, addressing inequalities and by working across the council and partnerships, ensuring that the many opportunities being created in Southwark are inclusive and accessible to the whole community. Our approach seeks to maximise good outcomes for residents by providing preventative and helpful universal services.

With more than two thirds of the council's budget, the department has a critical role to play in ensuring value for money. The reach of the department is extensive, effectively engaging with every family, and we work very closely with our partners including schools, the police, the NHS, the voluntary sector and employers. We are very fortunate to have a workforce of highly motivated, professional and resilient people who are deeply committed to Southwark and we are proud of the progress we have made on our journey thus far. By listening to the voice of children, young people, parents and our elders, we continually reflect on our approach and evolve our services to meet the changing needs of our community.

Education

The council is investing in children's centres to help parents balance work and family life. Working with local early years providers who share our values and commitment to giving our children the best start in life, the council is investing in a significant increase in affordable childcare and community nurseries.

With a large population of young people, Southwark has 5 nursery schools, 72 primary schools, 9 special education schools and 17 secondary schools. Performance in our schools is excellent, with our results exceeding London and National performance. We are delivering more and better schools, to meet growing demand for school places and driving up standards across all our schools so that local schools can be schools of choice. Major investment by the council in our schools and a highly effective school improvement service support our young people to achieve their best potential and to benefit from the high quality education on offer in Southwark.

The Southwark Schools Forum recognises that the emotional wellbeing of our children and young people has a direct impact on educational experience and achievement. Our schools appreciate the support available from our Early Help service, which includes child and adolescent mental health services. The council delivers this service directly into schools and the service will benefit from additional investment by schools and the NHS from 2016/17.

Our post-16 offer includes a guarantee of education, employment or training for every Southwark school leaver, with 2,000 new apprenticeships and training places. Southwark also directly addresses affordability of higher education by providing scholarships to young people who would otherwise be unable to access this opportunity.

Changes are proposed to Youth and Play services which seek to increase access to community facilities (including capital investment) and to improve the offer to young people and families across the borough. This will be supported by a continuing universal Youth and Play offer which will work with the strong Leisure offer already available across Southwark. The Youth Grants scheme supports some targeted work and the higher needs are met by our Youth Offending Service. Working with local community organisations such as sports groups, music groups, arts groups and scouts/guides we will be looking to support these groups with access to good community facilities so that they can increase the number of young people they reach and spend their funds on direct provision.

Southwark Council spends in excess of £24m on community and voluntary sector provision and going forward we will develop a strategy which aligns our community needs with the local offer of community and voluntary groups to ensure that residents benefit well from this investment.

Children's Social Care

Southwark has traditionally had a high number of *children in care* and *children looked after*. Recently established programmes such as *Families Matter* and a practice model of intensive support for social workers are delivering good outcomes and Southwark is seeing a reduction in the number of children in care and a reduction in repeat referrals. This is very encouraging and has a direct impact on the life chances of our children, young people and parents. By synchronising support to families, including parental mental health, we are strengthening families and mitigating risk. The challenges are still significant but it is clear that the approach and range of services available across the borough are having a positive affect.

The council is working very closely with the police and other partners to protect our children and young people from harm, including child sexual exploitation and gangs. This work is very challenging and demanding of our social workers and with the average career span of a children's social worker in the UK now being just 7 years, retention of experienced social workers and recruitment of highly skilled and resilient social workers is critical. Southwark co-hosts London's social work teaching partnership and our social work academy will invest significantly in our workforce to support them to undertake this most challenging of work on behalf of all of us.

The council is investing in adoption and fostering to increase the opportunities for children and young people to be supported by loving and caring families. There is also a commitment to care leavers through options such as 'staying put' which enables young people to stay on with foster parents and to be supported with accommodation, education and support into employment.

In recognition of the importance of this work and very encouraged by the impact the service is having on Southwark children, young people and families, it is proposed that the budget for Children's Social Care be protected for the next three years. This will give stability to the service, allow for medium-term planning with our partners so that we can synchronise our support, and enable us to shift resources towards early help, prevention and *edge of care* services that we know have better outcomes for children and young people and are more cost effective.

Adult Social Care

Southwark has 24,000 residents aged 65 and over. Our projections indicate a significant increase in our older population going forward, not just because we are living longer thanks to advances in medicine and positive lifestyle choices but because increasingly older people are choosing to remain in borough, in their communities, rather than escaping to the country.

Southwark is committed to becoming an Age Friendly Borough, supporting our elders and family carers well so that later life is enjoyable and that Southwark benefits from their contribution to community life. Increasingly older people are choosing to be supported at home or in extra care housing rather than care homes. Accessing personal budgets rather than traditional care services enables older people, and carers, to enjoy activities of their choosing and at times that work well for them.

Southwark Council is investing in the local social care workforce through the Southwark Ethical Care Charter which is ensuring that home care workers are paid the London Living Wage, paid for travel time between calls and offered guaranteed hours contracts rather than zero hours contracts.

Our services to people with learning disabilities and mental health needs are in need of transformation and need to deliver better value for money. Non-care elements of support packages (e.g. accommodation and overheads) will be reviewed by commissioners. The care elements of support packages will be reviewed by social workers and we will ensure that there is a better

outcomes focus to the support we commission. Even after proposed changes, Southwark will still be a council that funds these services very well, in the top quartile of our comparator group.

Working closely with the NHS, we will establish integrated community care services in the form of Local Care Networks and we will integrate our commissioning of care services with Southwark NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to ensure joined up services that make sense to people using the services and people working in them.

Southwark NHS CCG is supporting Adult Social Care through the Better Care Fund which delivers system-wide benefits and through the fair application of Continuing Health Care. This is of direct benefit to local residents.

Equalities Impact Summary

Equalities impact screenings have been undertaken for each proposal. Consultations are underway for proposals relating to service changes, where appropriate. Impact is mitigated by alternative offers of services, support or personal budgets as per service user choice. Some of the services provided by Children's and Adults' Services are provided under legal duties on the council and are provided on the basis of eligibility – this is set down in national legislation and Government guidance. Other services are discretionary and universal.

In line with our Public Sector Equality Duty, any changes to services arising from these proposals will be implemented in such a way so as to not impact disproportionately on any specific section or group in our community. The equality analyses have been collated across the department to look for any cumulative impacts and none have been identified. In line with the process across the council, information on equality analysis will be shared with decision-makers for consideration before any decisions are taken.

Southwark Council's Fairer Future Promises are reflected in the proposals set forth as is a shift upstream to prevention and early help, recognising the evidence base and the outcomes that can be achieved by offering our residents good universal services.

SCHEDULES OF EFFICIENCIES, INCOME AND SAVINGS PROPOSALS FOR CHILDREN'S AND ADULTS' SERVICES

Division	Ref	Description	2016/17 to 2018/19 £'000
Efficiencies and improved use of resources			
Adult Social Care	1	Restructuring necessary to support updated commissioning and IT strategies	(2,000)
Adult Social Care	2	Review of contracts to achieve best value and to ensure best practice.	(5,000)
Adult Social Care	3	Reorganisation of Adult Social Care to support modernisation of the service	(1,000)
Adult Social Care	4	Review of non direct care cost for people with learning disabilities to ensure that support is appropriate, in line with policy, best practice and value for money. After completion of the review Southwark will remain a top quartile authority for expenditure.	(7,500)
Adult Social Care	5	Reconfiguration and reorganisation of Mental Health teams to support modernisation of the service.	(2,000)
Adult Social Care	6	Rationalisation of in house provider units	(500)
Education	7	Review of Pupil Access, Transport Admissions and Parent Partnership	(95)
Education	8	Review of support to School Improvement Team	(50)
Education	9	Reconfiguration of Early Help functions.	(1,650)
Adult Social Care	10	Review of Community Safety Partnership service organisation structure	(55)
Total efficiencies and improved use of resources			(19,850)
Income generation			
Adult Social Care	11	New Contributions Policy in line with Care Act, introduced October 2015.	(3,000)
Adult Social Care	12	NHS funding for health service aspects of care.	(6,000)
Adult Social Care	13	Better care Fund - Integration of Health and Social Care.	(6,000)
Education	14	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding for Home to School Transport.	(800)
Education	15	Increased DSG contribution for the Special Educational Needs service.	(211)
Education	16	DSG and NHS funding for Early Help Service.	(1,044)
Total income generation			(17,055)
Income generation			
Education	17	Reconfiguration of Youth and Play services, including transfer to Environment and Leisure Department	(2,500)
Total income generation			(2,500)
Total Children's and Adult Services			(39,405)