

# Reviewing our services for older people and adults with learning disabilities



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## How to contact us

You can get more information about social care services by contacting Social Care Direct.

**Phone:** 0845 60 80 191 (calls charged at a local rate)

**Minicom:** 01323 466630

**Fax:** 01323 466567

**E-mail:** [socialcaredirect@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:socialcaredirect@eastsussex.gov.uk)

**Website:** [eastsussex.gov.uk](http://eastsussex.gov.uk)

You can also contact us by text message from your mobile phone. Please text to **07797 878111**.

## **What is the services review?**

In November, we announced the start of our two-year review of our services for older people and adults with learning disabilities. The review will make sure we can continue to provide services to the growing number of adults who will need our services due to physical and mental health needs.

The independent sector may provide similar services. These services are not part of our review.

This review includes the following services.

- Home care
- Day care
- Residential, respite (giving carers a short break from caring) and community services.

We provide all these services for older people and adults with learning disabilities.

This review is a major part of our three-year plan for Adult Social Care – which sets out how we will provide cost-effective, efficient and high-quality services across the county.

## **Why do we need to carry out a review?**

East Sussex has the highest percentage of people over 85 in England and Wales and the second-highest percentage of people who receive a pension. Over the next 20 years we expect these numbers to rise by 28%.

The good news is that older people and adults with learning disabilities are living longer. The problem is that people may have chronic (long-term) health conditions that need high levels of care. As these conditions become more common, we will have difficulty finding the money to pay for the care people need.

## **Our main aims**

We want to provide high-quality, cost-effective care services for older people and adults with learning disabilities.

Our main policies are to support older people and adults with learning disabilities in their own homes and their local communities, and increase the access they have to intermediate care services (these aim to help people return to their own homes after a stay in hospital).

We want our care services to:

- reflect the needs of local people
- give them choice
- encourage them to live independently, and
- make sure we look after their wellbeing.

To achieve this we need to make significant changes to the way we provide care.

## **Our challenges**

By 2027, 40% of our population will be over 60. We believe the Government has failed to recognise how this will affect the population.

While the Government has put more money into public services, we believe it does not recognise the increasing demand for care services.

Over the next three years we expect to receive an average increase of only 0.5% of government funding each year. This is less than the expected rate of inflation.

## **What we are doing**

We plan to increase how much we spend on adult social care by £6million (5%) each year for the next three years. But, this will mean we will not spend any extra (or very little extra) money on our other services ( for example roads, libraries and some children's services).

Because there is more pressure on services and not enough money, we simply can't continue to offer the same services without increasing Council Tax (which you have told us you don't want to happen). We need to look at doing things differently and make some tough decisions.

This review will make sure our services are as efficient as possible, respond well to current needs and are fit for future needs.

## **How will we carry out the review?**

We will consult everyone who uses our services including:

- carers
- relatives of people who use our services
- staff, and
- many organisations, including the health service and the voluntary sector.

The review will look at:

- current and future care needs, taking account of a larger number of older people and an increase in young adults with complex physical and behavioural needs
- focusing more on preventative services (these aim to keep people at home and improve their wellbeing)
- giving our customers value for money compared to similar services in the independent sector, and
- relevant government laws and regulations.

It is important to remember our review will find out how we can improve our services. It does not necessarily mean our services will change or stop.

## When will we carry out the review?

We have planned a timetable (below), although dates may change.

### Older people's services

Homefield Place, Seaford	February 2007
Milton Court, Eastbourne	February 2007
Ridgewood Rise, Uckfield	February 2007
Grangemead, Hailsham	February 2007
Hookstead, Crowborough	April 2007
Gilda Crescent, Polegate	April 2007
Firwood House, Eastbourne	February 2008
St Anthony's, Eastbourne	February 2008

### Older people's day-care centres

Phoenix Centre, Lewes	October 2007
Charter House, Bexhill	
Isabel Blackman Centre, Hastings	
Moreton, St Leonards-on-Sea	

### Home-care services

Heffle Court, Heathfield	July 2008
St. Mary's House, Eastbourne	
Charter House, Bexhill	

### Learning disabilities group homes

Greenacres, South Chailey	April 2007
Field Cottage, Ringmer	
Gabledown, Crowborough	
The Gables, Crowborough	
Beacongate, Crowborough	
The Haven, Uckfield	
Homelea, Uckfield	
Chyngton Close, Eastbourne	
Whitbread Close, Eastbourne	
Hazelbank, Eastbourne	

**Learning disabilities respite care**

February 2008

Sandbanks, Hailsham

Greenwood, Bexhill

**Learning disabilities day services**

September 2007

Beeching Park, Bexhill

Conquest, St. Leonard's on Sea

Firstfields, Hailsham

Linden Court, Eastbourne

Southview Close, Crowborough

Bellbrook, Uckfield

St Nicholas, Lewes

**Learning disabilities  
community-support services**

July 2008

Ridgeway, Hastings

St Mary's House, Eastbourne

Sackville House, Lewes

Bellbrooke, Wealden

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They are also available in PDF format, which you can download from our website at [eastsussex.gov.uk](http://eastsussex.gov.uk).

