

Enquiry Number – FS51747212

Request and Response:

Enquiry concerning the planned use of the additional Adult Social Care (ASC) funding in 2017/18. The proposed application of each of the funding sources is outlined below.

Council Tax Precept

The council has agreed a 3% precept which will generate £2.676 million and this has been reflected within the resources allocated to ASC in 2017/18.

For the same period the authority's funding from central government has been reduced, including a cut in the core revenue support grant in excess of £14 million. The ASC budget represents one third of council expenditure and so the service has contributed savings of £3.578 million towards the delivery of this corporate savings requirement. After reflecting the funding from the precept this represents a net reduction of £0.902 million.

The funding from the precept has therefore been used to limit the service reductions required in response to the overall reductions in funding provided by central government.

Adult Social Care Support Grant

This grant is for 2017/18 only and nationally it is a redirection from existing local government funding – the New Homes Bonus. This was funding previously allocated to local authorities in return for the delivery of new homes and that funding had previously been used to fund ASC services.

Sandwell will receive an ASC Support Grant of £1.856 million however the New Homes Bonus funding has been reduced by £1.546 million for the same period. The net increase available for ASC in 2017/18 is therefore £0.310 million.

The net increase in funding has been applied to the expected increase in the cost of commissioned residential and nursing care because of the impact of the National Living Wage and other inflationary pressures. This funding is a

temporary and minor element in the overall approach to managing the expected financial pressures within commissioned care in 2017/18.

Funding announced in the Spring Budget

Sandwell's allocation of the additional funding is £9.045 million in 2017/18. There are conditions attached to the grant funding including that it must be pooled with the Better Care Fund (BCF) and plans for using the grant must be agreed with the Clinical Commissioning Group.

As the grant funding reduces in 2018/19 and 2019/20 and ceases in 2020/21 we are jointly developing proposals which consider a sustainable use for the funding in conjunction with overall BCF resources.

Unfortunately, the final grant conditions were not published until 24 April 2017 and the detailed planning guidance for the BCF have not yet been released. Given these restrictions the planned application of the funding is still in development.

If you wish to receive further information in regards to this request or wish to submit a Freedom of Information Request please forward your request to info_management@sandwell.gov.uk or Information Management Unit, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE.