

Report to : EXECUTIVE CABINET

Date : 10 February 2016

Executive Member / Reporting Officer: Councillor Gerald P. Cooney - Executive Member (Working and Healthy)
Emma Varnam – Head of Stronger Communities

Subject : **SUPPORTING PEOPLE: REDUCTIONS IN 2016-17**

Report Summary : This report proposes a significant reduction in spending in 2016/17 and the years following, on supported housing services funded through the former Supporting People programme. Due to continued cuts in Government financial support to local authorities the Council is considering a range of service cuts to enable a balanced budget. The proposals to reduce funding under the Supporting People programme are within the set of proposals for reductions to Stronger Communities funding.

The proposed reduction in funding will result in substantially reduced contract values for 3 organisations, Greystones, Threshold and Foundation Housing that are contracted to provide accommodation based supported housing for homeless people. It will lead to the closure of 8 schemes, and a reduction of 59 units of accommodation. This will leave just 47 units of supported housing for single homeless people compared with 134 in 2014/15, a reduction of 65% in 2 years.

It will result in a substantially reduced contract value for Adullam Homes Housing Association that provides tenancy support services, and a termination in funding for the Tameside MBC Disability Housing Support Service.

The reduction will also result in the termination of funding for 12 Registered Providers that provide housing services for older people.

The report describes the services that are currently provided and the impact that a funding reduction will have on service delivery, and on the service users affected. The report includes a summary of the consultation process, the full findings are detailed in paragraph 7. Further details of the consultation exercise are attached at **Appendix 3** and **Appendix 4**. It also explores the impact on the Council's strategic objectives.

Recommendations : That Executive Cabinet agree to the proposal to implement the following:

- 1) Contract variations up to 31 March 2018 are issued that will reduce annual funding to Greystones from £149,500 to £113,333, to Threshold Great Moves from £323,000 to £117,780 and Foundation Housing Complex Needs Service from £322,000 to £133,887 (full year effect).
- 2) A contract variation up to 30 June 2018 is issued that will reduce annual funding to Adullam Homes from £389,000 to £225,000 (full year effect).
- 3) The annual funding of £130,590 to the Tameside Disability Housing Support service is terminated with effect from 11 May 2016.

- 4) Contracts with 12 Registered Providers of housing services for older people, to the value of £95,000 per annum, are terminated with effect from 11 May 2016

Links to Sustainable Community Strategy :

One of the 6 aims of the Tameside Community Strategy 2012-22 is to support people to live independent and healthy lives in strong communities.

Policy Implications :

A reduction in the supply of supported housing has implications for the achievement of a number of the Council and its partner's strategic priorities. These include priorities within the Homelessness Prevention Strategy, the Substance Misuse Strategy and the Health and Well Being Strategy.

**Financial Implications :
(Authorised by the Section 151)**

Section 4 of the report provides details of the reductions or cessation of various supporting people contracts (table 4, section 4.4 refers).

Contract values have reduced in the current financial year which has delivered a saving of £ 0.289 million in 2015/16 and on a recurrent basis thereafter.

The report proposes further contract value reductions from 1 June 2016 which will deliver additional recurrent efficiency savings of £ 0.819 million on an annual basis (£0.683 million part year in 2016/17).

A total recurrent saving of £ 1.108 million will be delivered from 1 April 2017 if the recommendations are approved.

It should be noted that these savings will contribute towards the requirement to reduce annual expenditure within the Stronger Communities Service by £ 3.1 million during 2015/16 and on a recurrent basis thereafter.

**Legal Implications :
(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

The Council has a statutory duty to deliver services in the most effective and efficient way possible. It is important that when subject to significant reductions in budget that the Council reviews all its functions and the way they are undertaken.

The service has undertaken consultation and engagement with those currently affected as set out in the report. The decision taker will need to consider and take into account any feedback which may affect the making of the decision or require moderation, and consider any equality impact.

The decision taker will also need to ensure they read and take into account the Equality Impact Assessment before making their decision, as case law now requires them to do so to mitigate the risk of challenge. It is not sufficient to simply read the summary.

Risk Management :

An appraisal of the level of risk associated with this decision is detailed at Section 8 of this report.

Access to Information :

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report author, Diane Barkley, Poverty and Prevention Manager.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Due to continued cuts in Government financial support to local authorities the Council is considering a range of service cuts to enable a balanced budget. This report proposes a significant reduction in spending in 2016/17 and the years following, on supported housing services funded through the former Supporting People programme. The proposals to reduce funding under the Supporting People programme are within the set of proposals for reductions to Stronger Communities funding.
- 1.2 The proposals if implemented would reduce the total funding for these services by 58% and provide a full year saving to the Council of £0.820m. They will affect 16 organisations that the Council contracts with and 1500 local people who use the services.
- 1.3 The proposals relate to 3 types of supported housing services, accommodation based services, tenancy support services and sheltered housing services. The accommodation based and tenancy support services are provided for people of all ages who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness. Sheltered housing services are provided for older people, usually aged 55+ years.
- 1.4 The term accommodation-based services is used throughout this report to describe support services provided to people living in particular accommodation by staff that work on site. The accommodation is provided temporarily until the service user moves onto permanent accommodation. The Council's financial support pays for staffing costs, it is not spent on the costs of providing or maintaining the property which is funded by rent (often via housing benefit). Each resident has an individual needs and risk assessment and a support plan that includes short and long term actions leading to greater independence.
- 1.5 The term tenancy support is used throughout this report to describe support services for people who are finding it difficult to manage and are at risk of losing their home, or who are moving into a new tenancy, following a period of unsettled living or homelessness and need some help to do this. The people that receive help may be living in a social or a private tenancy. Although the term tenancy is used in this report, owner occupiers may also receive support if they are at risk of losing their home.
- 1.6 The term sheltered housing is used throughout this report to cover the whole range of social rented retirement housing schemes of self-contained, purpose-built accommodation units for older people. These are units with or without a scheme manager, with or without communal areas and with or without additional services¹.
- 1.7 The purpose of sheltered housing is to provide preventative services, reducing the need for more acute and costly interventions. Housing management services in sheltered housing are targeted to assist people to live an active and fulfilling life. The benefits can be seen in tenancy sustainment, maintenance of independence, the prevention of accidents and poor health and improvements to physical and mental health. Sheltered housing can prolong independence and self-care by providing a range of low-level services and by helping people to access more intensive services as and when they need them.
- 1.8 The report describes the services that are currently provided and the impact that a funding reduction will have on service delivery, and on the service users affected. It describes the consultation process and its findings. It also explores the impact on the Council's and its partner's strategic objectives.

¹ National Housing Federation (2010) More than just a few kind words. Reshaping housing support in Sheltered Housing: a good practice guide for housing providers and local authorities

- 1.9 The Equality Impact Assessment in **Appendix 1** explores the impact on people with the protected characteristics and other vulnerable groups. **Appendix 2** lists the Registered Providers of sheltered housing. **Appendix 3** is the questionnaires used for consultation on the Big Conversation. **Appendix 4** is the text of the responses to the free questions in the Big Conversation survey.

2. BACKGROUND

Accommodation based services

- 2.1 The proposal to reduce funding affects 3 accommodation based services for single homeless people provided by Threshold, Foundation and Greystones.
- 2.2 On 14 March 2012 a Key Decision was approved to implement a new model of Supporting People accommodation based services for homeless people from April 2013. This incorporated an aggregated service structure, new ways of working, and the provision of structured activities, a single access point, and personalisation approaches. The model is based on a 'whole system' approach so that these services integrate with homelessness prevention services and services for those at risk of sleeping rough.
- 2.3 The Key Decision gave authority for a new contract to be issued to Greystones Ltd to continue to provide supported housing for men with alcohol problems without subjecting the service to a competitive tender process. It also gave authority for a tender exercise to enable the procurement of services to deliver the new model. The tender was split into 3 lots.
- Lot 1: A short term accommodation based support service for predominantly younger clients (under 30) at a range of properties. A maximum contract price of £370,000 per annum was allocated for this service.
 - Lot 2: A short term accommodation based support service for predominantly older clients (over 30) with longer term and more enduring, complex and entrenched support needs. A maximum contract price of £420,000 per annum was allocated for this service.
 - Lot 3: A service providing structured activities for service users of Lots 1 and 2 directed at improving their prospects of achieving successful move on. A maximum contract price of £200,000 per annum was allocated for this service, along with an additional budget of £60,000 per annum for personalised approaches.
- 2.4 Threshold was awarded contracts to provide Lots 1 and 3 and Foundation Housing was awarded a contract to provide Lot 2. The Key Decision authorised the award of 3 year contracts, with the option to extend for up to 2 years, followed by another up to 2 year period.
- 2.5 On 4 February 2015 a Key Decision agreed a £100,000 reduction in funding for Lots 1 and 2. The reduction was allocated pro-rata between the 2 contracts so that Threshold Great Moves (Lot 1) contract was reduced by £47,000 to £323,000 and Foundation Housing Complex Needs (Lot 2) contract was reduced by £53,000 to £367,000. The funding reduction resulted in a reduction of 17 bedspaces available to homeless people. A subsequent contract variation agreed with Foundation Housing resulted in a further reduction in value of £45,000 (full year effect) and a reduction of a further 6 spaces.
- 2.6 On 24 March 2015 a Head of Service report gave authority to vary the contract with Greystones Ltd following a value for money assessment. The contract value was reduced from £170,554 per annum to £149,500 per annum. The number of units to be supported was also reduced from 26 to 20 units.
- 2.7 In summary during 2015/16 the contract value of accommodation based services for single homeless people was reduced by £166,054 (17%) and the number of supported bedspaces by 29 (22%).

Tenancy support services

- 2.8 The proposal to reduce funding affects 2 tenancy support services, provided by Adullam Homes Housing Association and the Disability Housing Support Service provided by the Council's Adult Services.
- 2.9 On 13 October 2014 a Head of Service report gave authority to align 2 existing services, Tameside Floating Support Service (TFSS) provided by Adullam Homes Housing Association and the Great Lives service provided by Threshold Housing Project (Lot 3 referred to above in 2.3) so that the contracts ended on 30 June 2015. The purpose was to enable the 2 services to be tendered as a single service and to achieve a full year saving of £200,000, a 31.5% reduction compared to the combined costs of the 2 separate services.
- 2.10 The new service would combine the core elements of tenancy support and the provision of group work, training and activities for people at risk of homelessness. A competitive tendering process was won by Adullam Homes Housing Association and the new service commenced on 1 July 2015.
- 2.11 The Disability Housing Support Service (DHSS) is provided by a team based with the Council's Adult Services. The service has been in place since April 2003 and has been subject to limited funding reductions over the last 12 years.

Sheltered housing

- 2.12 On 25 June 2014 a Key Decision gave authorisation to issue 3 months' notice to Regenda and Your Housing to modify Supporting People contracts for sheltered housing to reduce funding levels and to vary the service specification with effect from 1 October 2014. It also gave authorisation to issue 3 months' notice to New Charter Housing Trust to terminate the Supporting People funding for sheltered housing with effect from 1 October 2014. The report also noted that allowable contract variations had enabled the reduction of Supporting People funding for sheltered housing with Accent Group, Guinness Northern Counties, Johnnie Johnson Housing Trust and Riverside English Churches Housing Group.
- 2.13 The net effect of these changes is that since October 2014 the Council no longer contributes funding towards the cost of providing scheme managers, or co-ordinators in sheltered housing schemes. This provided a full year saving to the Council of £0.520m in 2015/16, when compared to spending on these services in 2013/14.
- 2.14 In most cases Registered Providers have continued to provide on-site managers, in some cases at reduced hours, whose role is to provide intensive housing management services, rather than support services as previously provided.

3. CURRENT SERVICE PROVISION

Accommodation based services

- 3.1 In 2015/16 the Council provides a total of £795,000 in revenue funding for the provision of supported accommodation based services for single homeless people. This provides 106 bedspaces delivered by 3 contracts with 3 organisations, Threshold, Foundation and Greystones Ltd. Each contract is a 3 year contract, with an option to extend for up to 2 years. Each one commenced on 1 April 2013, and each will end its first 3 year period on 31 March 2016.
- 3.2 Threshold provides 47 units of supported housing at a range of addresses as detailed in **Table 1**. The service is delivered using a hub and spoke model with 1 building staffed for 24 hours per day and the others staffed on a flexible and responsive basis depending on the profile and needs of service users. Threshold manages an additional 22 units that are not

funded by the Council contract, but that are available to service users as move-on accommodation.

Table 1: Threshold Great Moves (Lot 1)

Scheme name	Units	Gender	Staffing
Enville (Hub)	10	Mixed	24 hours with security provision over night
Stamford Villa	13	Men	Flexible day time / visiting night service
Vernon House	11	Women	Flexible day time / responsive night service
Wickham	13	Mixed	Flexible day time / responsive night service
Total	47		
Current contract value	£323,000 per annum		

3.3 Threshold leads a partnership approach to the delivery of this contract, along with New Charter Housing Trust and Tameside, Oldham and Glossop MIND. The aim of the service is to promote responsibility for self, a commitment to recovery and motivation to change.

3.4 Foundation Housing provides 39 units of supported housing for single homeless people at a range of addresses as detailed in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Foundation Complex Needs (Lot 2)

Scheme name	Units	Gender	Staffing
Mottram Road	5	Mixed	Flexible visiting
Westbrook	12	Men	Flexible visiting
Ambleside	4	Women and children	Flexible visiting
Newton Street	4	Mixed	Flexible visiting
Fairfield Avenue	6	Mixed	Flexible visiting
Whiteacre	4	Mixed	Flexible visiting
Bentinck Terrace	2	Mixed	Flexible visiting
Community based	2	Mixed	Flexible visiting
Total	39		
Current contract value	£322,000 per annum		

3.5 Foundation Housing have developed partnerships with a range of organisations to enhance the housing support process, in particular the Spotlight Team (Police and Probation Services) and local substance misuse providers including Lifeline, Alcohol and Drugs Services and Pennine Care.

3.6 Greystones Ltd provides 20 units of supported accommodation based services for men who are aged over 35 years and who are homeless and who have alcohol problems (harmful drinking and alcohol dependence). The current contract value is £149,500 per annum.

3.7 Greystones manage the accommodation based service that the Council commissions alongside a service for people who are at risk of, or sleeping rough and a commercial bed and breakfast. The service manages people with highly complex and challenging issues and Greystones have forged close working relationships with the police and make a significant contribution to the management of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

Who uses the accommodation based services

3.8 In 2014/15 161 new people moved into Threshold, Foundation and Greystones services. 104 (65%) of them were men and 57 (35%) were women. 92% were White British, the second largest ethnic group are Black/Black British. The service accommodate people aged between 18 and 69, with the largest single group (35%) aged between 18-21 years. 23% of people identify that they have a disability.

Tenancy support services

- 3.9 In 2015/16 the Council provides £520,000 of revenue funding for tenancy support services that support up to 274 people at any one time.
- 3.10 The new service that combines the former Tameside Floating Support Service (TFSS) and Great lives activities programme is called Unlocking Potential, it is provided by Adullam Homes Housing Association, it commenced on 1 July 2015. It is part of the whole system of homelessness prevention services; it is a generic service for people who have experienced or who are at risk of homelessness and is not targeted at any specific client group. It provides support and activities for people living in and moving on from accommodation based services to enable them to settle into new accommodation. It also provides support to people in the community who are struggling to maintain existing tenancies. The current contract value is £389,000 per annum.
- 3.11 When delivering the TFSS, Adullam Homes Housing Association developed innovative and sustainable methods for delivering support and promoting independence which continue in the new service. Opportunities for service users include access to accredited training to become peer mentors, and a social enterprise that provides employment opportunities.
- 3.12 The Disability Housing Support Service (DHSS) is provided by a team of 4 staff based with the Councils Adult Services. The service provides housing advice and support to Tameside residents who have disabilities and require additional support to live independently in the community. The aim of the service is to provide practical help, support and assistance to ensure that people with disabilities receive the housing advice and support that they need. This service also provides support to people who do not meet access eligibility criteria under the Care Act 2014 so provides an important early intervention and prevention function. The revenue funding allocated from Supporting People to this service is £131,000 per annum.

Who uses tenancy support services?

- 3.13 In 2014/15 287 new people started to receive support from TFSS and the DHSS. There are more women 151 (52.5%) than men 136 (47.5%) using these services. The age range is from 16 to 80+, with the largest single group aged between 46-55 years. 89% of users are White British, with Asian/Asian British as the next largest ethnic group. 68% of users identify that they have a disability.

Sheltered Housing

- 3.14 Since October 2014 the Council has provided revenue funding via the Supporting People programme towards the costs of alarm and response services to sheltered housing services in Tameside. If the alarm is activated it goes through to a control centre. Staff at the control centre will provide advice and reassurance, call the emergency services or send a support officer to respond.
- 3.15 The services affected by the proposal are listed in **Appendix 2**. These include services with and without scheme managers or co-ordinators on site. Similar services provided by New Charter Housing Trust are funded by a different funding mechanism. Proposals for these services are covered by a separate report submitted by Adult Services.
- 3.16 On average 70% of tenants in sheltered housing in Tameside are in receipt of Housing Benefit to cover the costs of receiving housing management services. The Supporting People funding paid to the service contributes to the cost of providing the emergency alarm for these tenants. The remaining 30% of tenants pay the full cost themselves. All tenants must pay a service charge that is not covered by either Housing Benefit or Supporting People funding.

Who uses sheltered housing?

- 3.17 45% of tenants moving into sheltered housing in Tameside are men and 55% are women. This is in line with the current gender split in the over 65 year's population in Tameside.

3.18 The majority of tenants are aged over 75 years on admission to sheltered housing in Tameside:

- 39% are aged over 75 years on admission;
- 25% are aged over 80 years on admission;
- 13% are aged over 85 years on admission.

The profile of the ages of tenants indicates that living in sheltered housing may help people to live longer. Over 58% of tenants are aged over 75 years, 40% are aged over 80 years and 24% are aged over 85 years.

3.19 The ethnicity of new residents is mainly White British at 96.5%, with small numbers of admissions of Irish, Caribbean, White and Black African and Pakistani.

4 PROPOSAL TO REDUCE FUNDING IN 2016-17

4.1 Due to continued cuts in Government financial support to local authorities the Council is considering a range of service cuts to enable a balanced budget. The proposals to reduce funding under the Supporting People programme are within the set of proposals for reductions to Stronger Communities funding.

4.2 The recommendation in this report is part of a package of reductions to Supporting People spending. As well reducing funding for accommodation based and tenancy support services to prevent homelessness and ending funding for services for older people, the proposals include reducing funding for outreach and day services for rough sleepers.

4.3 The Council has chosen to select specific services for funding cuts, rather than apply an across the board reduction to all services funded within the overall programme. This is to protect those services that are delivered as part of the Council's statutory obligations. These services include temporary supported housing services for homeless households and the refuge accommodation for people fleeing domestic abuse.

4.4 Some financial efficiencies have already been implemented and an ongoing full year saving of £0.289 has been achieved in 2015/16. Further proposals are currently being considered which would achieve additional ongoing full year saving of £1.108m. The Council is proposing the following level of funding reduction with effect from 2016/17.

Table 4: Proposed funding reductions

	Current funding	Proposed funding	Reduction	Reduction %
Accommodation based services	£795,000	£365,000	-£429,000	- 54%
Tenancy support services	£520,000	£225,000	-£295,000	- 57%
Sheltered housing	£95,000	£0	-£95,000	-100%
Total	£1,409,000	£590,000	-£819,000	- 58%

5. PROPOSALS TO MANAGE THE FUNDING REDUCTION

Accommodation based services

5.1 The options available to the Council to achieve this level of reduction are to give notice on all or some contracts and commission a new service or services, or to agree negotiated reductions as allowed within the terms of the contract.

- 5.2 Initial discussions with the accommodation based providers in August 2015 indicated a willingness by them to work together to jointly agree a negotiated reduction in service and contract value. In September 2015 the providers jointly submitted an initial proposal that would ensure that all 3 organisations continue to provide services in Tameside, delivering around 47 bedspaces, compared to the current provision of 106 bedspaces.
- 5.3 In total the 3 organisations will reduce staffing by 14 full time equivalent staff posts, this reduces the supply of employment opportunities in Tameside and directly affects local people who are currently employed in those posts.
- 5.4 The contracts that the Council holds with Threshold, Foundation Housing and Greystones for the provision of these services allows for the modification of the contract by agreement of both parties. The Council has held further meetings with the providers collectively and individually to further explore the proposals. The service providers have developed the proposals further.
- 5.5 This report proposes that the Council agrees to progress the achievement of the funding reduction via a series of contract variations as this will be quicker and less disruptive to service delivery than a tendering exercise. It also enables the continuation of diversity in service provision. The changes required within each organisation are however of an order that some disruption in service delivery will occur that extends beyond the contractual 3 month notice period.
- 5.6 The report proposes that the option to extend each contract by up to 2 years from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2018 is implemented and that the funding reduction will apply during these 2 years. At the end of that period the Council will tender for a new service.

Summary of proposals by organisation

- 5.7 Threshold propose to reduce the number of bedspaces in management from 47 to 16. Threshold will reduce the staffing hours available for support to service users by the equivalent of 7 full time equivalent posts. With such a reduced number of staff available Threshold are not in a position to safely manage the risks posed by accommodating people in large groups in some of their existing schemes. Rather Threshold propose to provide support in a range of smaller units located across the borough. This will require them to give notice to their landlords that they propose to hand back the buildings detailed in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Proposals for Threshold schemes

Property	No of bedspaces	Proposal	Notice required period
Enville Place	10	Close	6 months
Stamford Villa (97 Manchester Road)	10	Close	6 months
95 Manchester Road	3	Close	6 months
Wickham House	13	Close	3 months
Vernon House	11	Close	6 months

- 5.8 Threshold's aim is to provide good quality accommodation in locations which enables social integration into the community with access to services and amenities.
- 5.9 Foundation propose to reduce the number of bedspaces in management from 39 to 16. This will reduce the staffing hours available for support to service users by the equivalent of 5 full time equivalent posts. The reduction in the number of bedspaces in management will require Foundation to give notice to their landlords on the some of the buildings they currently manage:

Table 6: Proposals for Foundation's schemes

Scheme name	No of bedspaces	Proposal	Notice period required
Mottram Road	5	Close	2 months
Westbrook	12	Close	6 months
Fairfield Avenue	6	Close	1 month
Newton Street	4	Retain	
Ambleside	4	Retain	
Whiteacre	4	Retain	
Bentinck Terrace	2	Retain	
Community based	2	Retain	
Total	39		

5.10 Both organisations require a transitional period to phase in the service reduction. This is likely to involve decanting customers into alternative accommodation based on detailed risk assessments and discussions with the affected customers. The most affordable option for Threshold and Foundation is to commence the process of winding down the properties they propose to hand back prior to the proposed contract change, and to be operating at the agreed reduced numbers by the commencement of the new contract. It is likely that this will result in reduced availability to take on new referrals from early in the New Year.

5.11 Greystones propose to reduce the number of service users on a formal support plan from 20 to 15. They propose to reduce staffing by 2 posts. The funding reduction will not result in the closure of units managed by Greystones as the organisation will continue to provide the same number of accommodation units but fewer residents will have full support plans.

Tenancy support

5.12 The proposal to manage this reduction is to end the funding for the Disability Housing Support Service (DHSS) and to agree a negotiated reduction of contract value, as allowed within the terms of the contract, with Adullam Homes Housing Association.

5.13 The proposal to end the funding for the Council service involves consultation with staff as well as consideration of the options for withdrawing or providing alternative sources of support for service users. It is proposed that consultation will be formally commenced with those affected following 8 February 2016 when a report is presented to the Employee Consultation Group. This report is concerned with service delivery processes, rather than staffing.

5.14 During the consultation process the service has assessed the needs of people on its current caseload to determine their status with regard to any statutory requirements, or otherwise. The assessment has also taken account of the needs of the service users. As with the accommodation based services this DHSS requires a transitional period to phase in the service withdrawal.

5.15 The transitional phase will include identifying which existing service users may be safely exited from the service by the time the notice period for ending the funding expires. Those service users who need ongoing housing related support and who are not eligible for statutory support will with their consent be transferred to Adullam Homes at the end of the notice period. Those who are eligible for statutory support will continue to be supported within Adult Services. The transitional period is likely to include reduced availability to accept new referrals from January 2016.

5.16 At the start of the process Adullam Homes indicated a willingness to negotiate a reduction in the contract value of the current service and submitted an initial proposal to terminate specific staffing posts within the current service. During the consultation period Adullam have developed this process and commenced formal consultation with staff about the changes.

Sheltered Housing

- 5.17 In considering options for managing the withdrawal of funding for alarm services in sheltered housing, the Council identified the following options open to the 12 RPs affected by the proposal to end funding for alarm provision in sheltered housing
- RPs will review their charging policies and charge all tenants for the provision of an alarm and response service (charges vary between £1-2 per week);
 - Tenants will opt out of the service;
 - RPs will terminate the provision of an alarm and response service.
- 5.18 Members should note that RPs are restricted by tenancy legislation in their ability to levy additional charges on tenants. Service charges and rents may only be increased at the annual rent review, and tenants must be given notice of such changes. The RPs that work in Tameside have varying dates for their rent reviews, they are not automatically co-terminus with the financial year.
- 5.19 At a meeting on 28 September 2015 with the RPs affected, the Council agreed that each organisation would provide the Council with a summary of their proposed response to the funding withdrawal as well as a summary of the consultation process with tenants and its results.
- 5.20 The RPs have reported that they propose to manage the reduction by advising tenants on the potential withdrawal of Council funding for the alarm provision, asking tenants to identify if they wish to retain the service and advising tenants of the cost if they wish to do so.

6. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 6.1 An Executive Decision dated 23 September 2015 gave permission to progress with a consultation process about cuts to sheltered housing services. An Executive Decision dated 14 October 2015 gave permission to commence a consultation process about cuts to accommodation based services and tenancy support services.
- 6.2 The consultation process included focus group meetings with affected service users, meetings with strategic stakeholders, meetings with service providers and written consultation via the Big Conversation. The nature of the consultation exercise and the responses are detailed in paragraph 7.

Table 7: Main activities undertaken during the consultation period

With who	date	Participants
Threshold	7/8/15	Chief Executive
Foundation	10/8/15	Service Manager
Greystones	12/8/15	Manager and Deputy Manager
Adullam	13/8/15	Regional Manager, Service Manager
Disability Housing Support	2/9/15	Service Unit Manager
Accommodation based providers	24/9/15	Development Manager, Foundation, Chief Executive and Operations Manager, Threshold, Manager and Deputy Manager Greystones
Adullam Homes	25/9/15	Head of Housing and Support Services
Providers of older peoples services	28/9/15	Accent, Johnnie Johnson, Guinness Northern Counties, Your Housing, Riverside, Regenda, Peak Valley Housing Association and Mosscafe

Public consultation	5/10/15-20/11/15	Big Conversation about sheltered housing
Registered Providers Forum	14/10/15	Ashton Pioneer Homes, New Charter Housing Trust, Regenda, Your Housing, Peak Valley, GM Fire and Rescue Service, Places for People, Sanctuary
Public consultation	19/10/15-27/11/15	Big Conversation about tenancy support services and accommodation based services
Tameside Poverty Action Group	20/10/15	Community and Voluntary Action Tameside, Minted, Foundation, Citizens Advice Bureau, Homestart, University of Salford, TMBC Debt Advice, TMBC Policy Team, Tameside Hospital, Hyde Community Action, Emmaus, Pennine Care, Greater Manchester Poverty Action Group, New Charter Housing Trust
NCHT Housing Advice	20/10/15	Tameside Housing Advice Manager and Director of Communities
Bridges	22/10/15	Bridges Operational Manager and Head of Commercial and Partnership Services
Preventing Homelessness Forum	28/10/15	Foundation, Threshold, Greystones, New Charter, APH, Peak Valley, Your Housing
Ogden Court, Your Housing	6/11/15	21 older people, Scheme Manager, Regional Manager
Pennine Care	9/11/15	Team Manager
Stakeholder Consultation	10/11/15	Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service, Pennine Care, Public Health Drug and Alcohol Commissioner, CAB, MIND, Welfare Rights
Accommodation Providers	11/11/15	Threshold, Foundation, Greystones
Threshold customers	12/11/15	12 customers of Threshold and 4 front line staff at Enville Place
CVAT voluntary sector summit	13/11/15	Briefing paper on reductions to homelessness services circulated to 37 attendees from Homestart, Greater Manchester Police, Noah's Ark, Our Kids Eyes, The Hippodrome, Helping Hand, Off the Record, The Stroke Association, Cloverleaf, St Peter's Partnership, MIND, Europia, Water Adventure Centre, Active Tameside, Khush Amdid, Adullam, Tameside CAB, Wooden Canal Boat Society
Foundation customers	16/11/15	4 customers of Foundation and 1 front line staff member (customers also completed the Budget Simulator)
Foundation	24/11/15	Service Manager and Area Manager (NW)
Threshold	25/11/15	Head of Operations
Pennine Care	26/11/15	Housing Officers
Greater Manchester Police	04/12/15	Chief Inspector
Adult Services	08/12/15	Head of Service
Lifeline	09/12/15	Senior Contract Executive

6.3 In delivering supported and sheltered housing the service providers are engaged in a series of legal agreements. These include a contract with the Council for the provision of support, employment contracts with staff, management agreements with landlords and licence or

tenancy agreements with service users. In this case each service provider has undertaken their own consultation process with landlords, staff and service users.

7. RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Big Conversation

- 7.1 The Council undertook 3 consultation exercises via the Big Conversation on each of the service types affected. **Table 8** details the responses received for each. This section summarises the content of the consultation and the main themes identified in the responses. **Appendix 4** reproduces the responses to the free text questions in each consultation.

Table 8: Big Conversation: number of responses

Supported housing service type	Responses
Accommodation based	120
Tenancy support	33
Sheltered housing	221
Total	374

Summary of responses to the consultation on Accommodation Based Services

- 7.2 The consultation on the proposals for reductions to the Accommodation Based Services opened on 19 October 2015 and closed on 27 November 2015. The questionnaire used in the Big Conversation is attached at **APPENDIX 3**.
- 7.3 There were 120 responses to the consultation, of these 61 were current or former users of the services affected by the proposals. This represents 51% of affected users. 70.4% of the respondents were men and 29.6% were women. **Table 9** details the age ranges of the respondents, the highest group being the 40 to 49 age group.

Table 9: Age of respondents

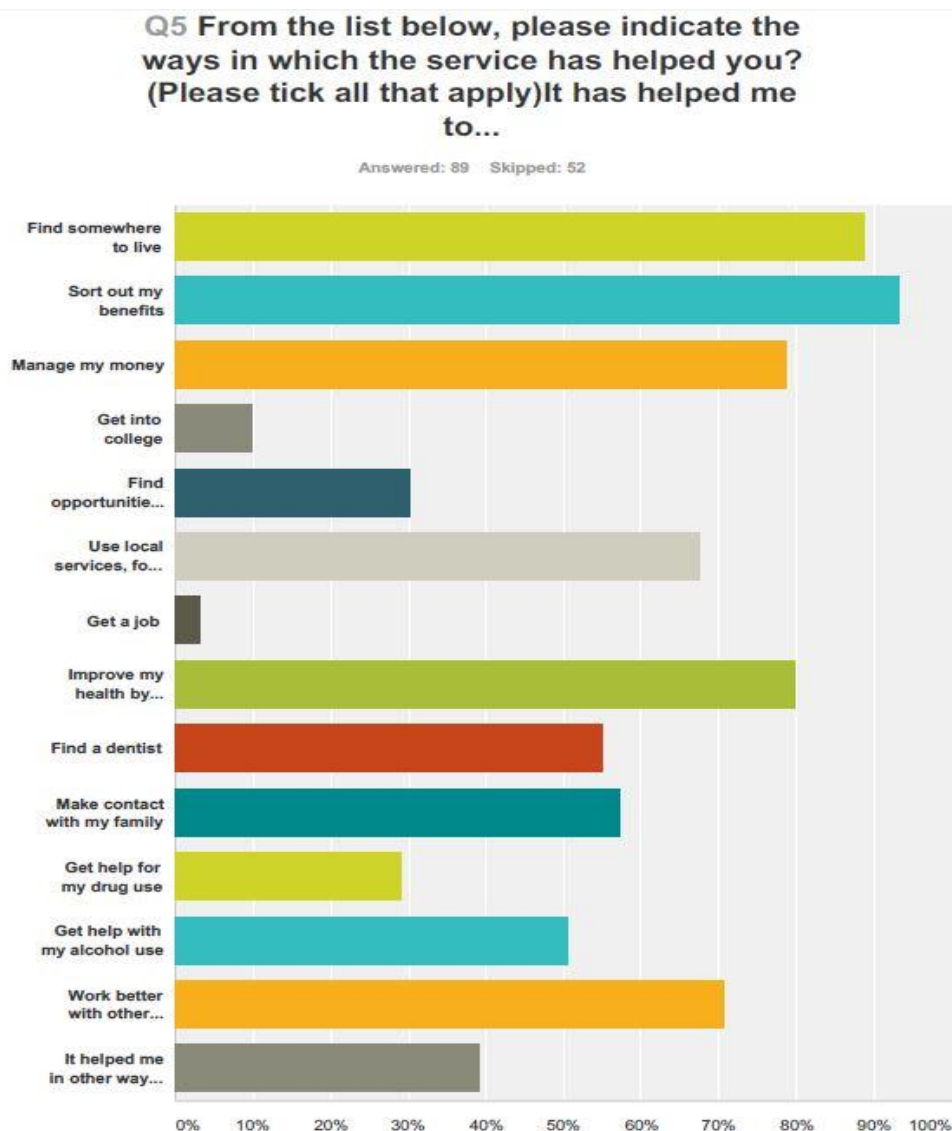
Age Group	No.	%
29 and under	22	18.3
30 to 39	18	15.0
40 to 49	42	35.0
50 to 59	26	21.7
60 +	12	10.0

- 7.4 The majority (59%) of respondents were current users of the affected services. **Table 10** details the reason for interest in the affected services.

Table 10 Reason for interest

Reason for interest	Number	%
Resident of Greystones, Foundation or Threshold	83	59
Resident of another homelessness project	3	2
A former resident of a homelessness project	3	2
A member of the public	6	4
A Tameside Council Employee	3	2
An employee of Greystones, Foundation or Threshold	12	8
A community or voluntary organisation	4	3
A partner organisation	13	9
Other	13	9

7.5 The questionnaire asked respondents who were current or previous residents of the services affected to describe the ways they had been helped. The responses illustrate that the services provide more than just a temporary place to stay.



7.6 The top 5 ways selected from the list provided that services had helped respondents were to:

- sort out their benefits
- find a place to stay
- improve their health by registering with a GP
- work better with other services, for example Lifeline, Probation, Social Services
- manage their money

7.7 34 respondents provided more detail where they had indicated that the service had helped them in other ways than those listed. Most striking in these responses are the 11 (32%) references to the service helping respondents to build confidence, independence or self-esteem. The next most frequently mentioned benefit of using the supported housing services was the assistance they provided respondents with improving social interaction. This was cited by 5 (15%) respondents.

7.8 The questionnaire asked respondents to describe how a reduction in funding for supported housing services might affect them or other people. 110 respondents provided comments in this section, this included comments by service users, staff in the affected services and staff in other interested agencies. **Table 11** lists the key themes identified by respondents.

Table 11: Impact of a reduction in funding

Impact	Number of mentions	%
Increase in homelessness, including rough sleeping and sofa surfing	64	58%
Damage family relationships, including causing worry for family members and reduction in access to and contact with children	28	25%
Negative impact on recovery from drugs and alcohol and an increased likelihood of relapse	20	18%
Negative impact on mental health, including an increase in anxiety and depression	17	15%
Negative impact on physical health	13	12%
Increase in likelihood of crime and anti-social behaviour	13	12%
Increase in risk of premature death, including suicide	9	8%

- 7.9 A recurring theme in this section was that a reduction in funding will lead to a reduction in services and hence to an increase in the number of homeless people in Tameside. Many respondents said that as a consequence there would be an increase in the number of people sleeping rough and sofa surfing. This could have other consequences, such as an increase in crime and substance misuse which is more costly than continuing to fund the accommodation services:

“The money that can be saved by housing someone when they are rough sleeping and have issues, far outweighs the money that would be spent on crime, health etc.”

- 7.10 Many respondents illustrated their comments with personal experience and talked about what they fear they would lose without the support of the services provided within the accommodation based schemes:

“I would not be able to have access to my daughter. I would be at risk of re offending I would be at risk of disengaging with services I would be at risk of disengaging with college My life has really turned around since I have been with ... as they focus on my strengths not what has gone wrong”.

- 7.11 Respondents who have previously experienced homelessness talked about their fears of being in this situation again, to the extent that they would contemplate suicide or self-harm to avoid it.

- 7.12 The questionnaire concluded with an open question to provide respondents with an opportunity to make further comments about the proposals. 112 respondents completed this section. **Table 12** lists the key issues that respondents mentioned.

Table 12: Other comments on the future of supported housing

Comment	Number	%
Reducing supported housing will be harmful to the whole Tameside community	37	33%
Supported housing provides a vital preventative service for people with complex problems with stability and helps them to access jobs and housing	31	27%
Reductions in these services will impact on the most vulnerable people in the community	25	22%
Supported housing services are already under resourced and there is a need for more, not fewer services	20	18%
These reductions will result in higher costs elsewhere in the system	9	8%

7.13 Council staff held 2 focus groups with residents from Threshold and Foundation services. These were attended by 16 services users and 5 front line staff. The service user's views echoed those expressed within the Big Conversation responses - that they feared that a reduction in services could result in an increased risk of them getting involved in harmful activities.

7.14 They also said that losing the support they currently receive would result in lost opportunities and damage their relationships, for example they wouldn't have a stable place to stay and this could result in them losing their place in college.

"It goes right to the core of the community Without supported housing I'm not going to my doctors so not taking my antidepressant and I'm back to being suicidal, I'm offending to fund my drugs habit, I'm a worry to my family. In supported housing I have a sense of worth and belonging -I can wash my clothes so my self-esteem goes up, I have facilities to wash and cook, I work with services and I have for once in my life a good support network. I am actually moving on in a planned positive way TODAY and that is all down to supported housing and ME"

Summary of responses to the consultation on tenancy support services

7.15 The consultation on the proposals for reductions to the Tenancy Support Services opened on 19 October 2015 and closed on 27 November 2015. The questionnaire used in the Big Conversation is attached at **APPENDIX 3**.

7.16 There were 33 completed responses to this consultation. This represents 11% of affected service users. 61% of the respondents were women and 39% were men. **Table 13** details the age ranges of the respondents, the highest group being the 30 to 49 age group.

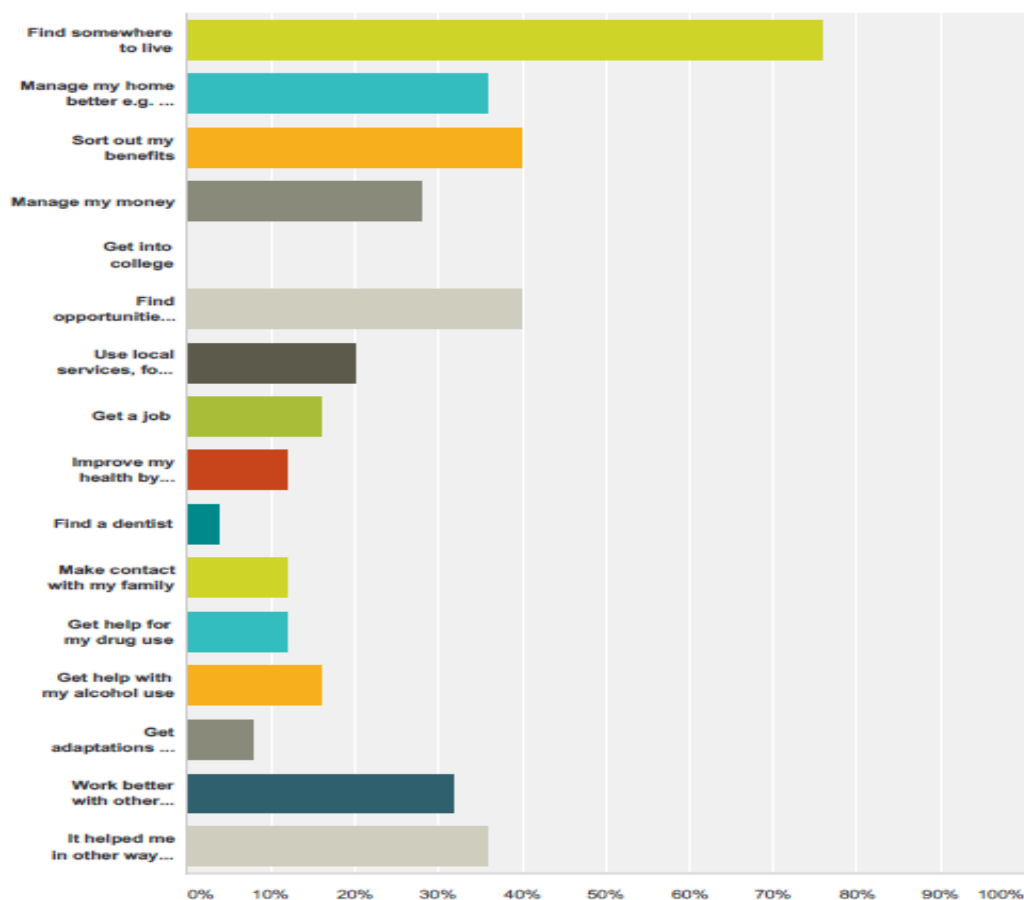
Table 13: Age of respondents

Age Group	No	%
18 – 29	7	21%
30 – 49	21	63.5%
50 +	5	15%

7.17 The majority (30) of respondents were current or former users of Adullam Homes or the Disability Housing Support Services. The questionnaire asked respondents to explain how the service had helped them using a pre-selected list.

Q5 From the list below, please indicate the ways in which the service has helped you? (Please tick all that apply)It has helped me to...

Answered: 25 Skipped: 10



7.18 The results illustrate the range of support that is provided. The top 5 ways selected from the list provided that services had helped respondents were to:

- find a somewhere to live
- find opportunities to volunteer
- sort out their benefits
- manage their home
- other ways

7.19 8 respondents provided more detail where they had indicated that the service had helped them in other ways than those listed. 4 of the respondents commenting here work for other agencies and all say that both services have assisted with homelessness prevention. The service users who responded commented on the help the service had given them to settle into a new house and new community.

7.20 The questionnaire asked respondents to describe how a reduction in funding for tenancy support services might affect them or other people. 24 respondents provided comments in this section, this included comments by service users, staff in the affected services and staff in other interested agencies. **Table 14** lists the key themes identified by respondents.

Table 14: impact of a reduction in funding for tenancy support services

Impact	Number of mentions	%
It would be more difficult to access and keep housing without the support	12	50%
There will be an increased risk of becoming homeless again	6	25%
Reducing the services will impact on homelessness prevention	4	20%

7.21 The response shows that value placed on the services in reducing homelessness, both by service users and by other agencies.

7.22 25 respondents completed the free text question on how a reduction in funding would affect them. **Table 15** lists the key themes identified by respondents.

Table 15: Other comments on the future of tenancy support services

Comment	Number	%
Impact on homelessness prevention / lead to an increase in homelessness	9	36%
Reductions in these services will impact on the most vulnerable and the wider community	9	36%
Reductions will inhibit the rehabilitation process / lead to an increase in crime	4	11%

7.23 The main theme related to respondents fearing an increase in homelessness which would have a negative impact on the most vulnerable in the community. 2 respondents talked about how the service had helped them take up volunteering opportunities to give something back to society.

Responses to the consultation on sheltered housing services

7.24 To take account of the specific needs of older people the process included the delivery of paper copies of the Big Conversation questionnaire to individual tenants and the supply of pre-paid envelopes for their return. The questionnaire is attached at **APPENDIX 3**

7.25 There were 220 complete responses to the consultation, this represents 22% of people affected by the proposed funding reduction. 65% of respondents were women and 35% were men. Over 25% of them were aged over 80.

Table 16: Age of respondents

Age Group	No.	%
59 or under	16	7.2%
60 to 69	59	26.7%
70 to 79	89	40.3%
80 to 89	42	19.0%
90 +	15	6.8%

7.26 The respondents were tenants of 10 of the 12 Registered Providers listed in **APPENDIX 2**.

Table 17: Respondents by landlord

Registered Provider	Number	Percentage
Accent	71	31%
Contour	2	1%

Guinness Northern Counties	25	11%
Housing 21	2	1%
Irwell Valley	1	0.5%
Johnnie Johnson Housing Trust	18	8%
Peak Valley	50	22%
Regenda	16	7%
Riverside ECHG	5	2%
Your Housing	40	17%

7.27 The questionnaire asked respondents to comment on the proposals to withdraw funding for the alarm and response provision using a free text box. 150 respondents commented in this section. Overall the responses fall into 4 broad categories:

Table 18: Comments on the proposal

Comments	Number	%
Don't agree with the proposals to withdraw funding because cuts shouldn't be focussed on the elderly and vulnerable. Respondents also argued that the provision of the alarm service was the reason for them moving into their home and they shouldn't be forced to move out.	60	40%
Don't agree with the proposals because the alarm was very important to them and that they will pay for it in future. Many of this group expressed concern that while they may be able to afford it now, this may prove difficult in the future.	60	40%
Don't agree with the proposals because the alarm is important to them but they can't afford to pay.	16	11%
Don't object to the proposal because they don't wish to keep the service as they don't need or use it.	14	9%

7.28 Council staff held a focus groups with residents at Ogden Court. This was attended by 21 tenants and 3 staff members. The service user's views echoed those expressed within the Big Conversation responses with comments falling into 2 broad categories, firstly a concern about the cost of the service without the Supporting People funding and secondly a concern that people may do without the service and come to harm as a result.

Strategic Stakeholder Feedback

7.29 The consultation with strategic stakeholders identified that a reduction in the availability of housing support services may have a negative impact on the achievement of other strategic priorities, in particular those that relate to crime reduction and health. This section includes comments on reductions to both types of services for homeless people.

7.30 Many professionals that contributed to the discussion via the Big Conversation commented on the multiple and complex issues that can characterise people experiencing homelessness. That homeless people are already among the most vulnerable in society and a reduction in supported housing services will have a detrimental effect on the borough.

"Often people with the most complex needs end up rough sleeping and on the margins of society. This in turn can cause untold harm not only to the person but the community in general. If we are trying to build strong communities in Tameside we need to help people get back into the community and play their part".

Criminal Justice Agencies

7.31 The consultation included discussions with the Probation Service, the Community Rehabilitation Company and Greater Manchester Police. These agencies identified 2 main areas of concern, firstly that the provision of stable accommodation is essential to the rehabilitation process:

“I represent the Cheshire & Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Company (CGM CRC). We supervise offenders in the community who pose a low or medium risk. Many ... access both the Floating Support Services and the Accommodation Based Services. ... We predict with confidence that cuts to these services will impact on other acute public services. Specifically in criminal justice, accommodation is the single most important factor in preventing someone reoffending and going on to live a pro-social life. Without access to accommodation, or a service that assists individuals to maintain accommodation, they will resort to further criminal activities to support their complex and multiple needs, [this]... invariably leads to further prosecution or indeed recall to prison”.

7.32 The second concern is that the reduction of funding for prevention services seems to be regressive and contrary to Tameside’s progressive work around public service reform. Greater Manchester Police in particular expressed a concern that a reduction in supported housing services could undermine the work of the Public Service Reform hub in Denton and hinder the development of neighbourhood support via the Place Based Integration Model.

7.33 Greater Manchester Police commented in particular on the value they accord to the service provided by Greystones in contributing to a reduction in anti-social behaviour and street based crime.

Health

7.34 The consultation included discussions with Public Health, MIND, Lifeline and the Community Mental Health Team. These agencies expressed concern that the funding reductions would have a detrimental effect on the achievement of health priorities. They echoed the concerns of the criminal justice agencies, that the availability of stable accommodation is essential to the recovery process. This is particularly pertinent for service users addressing substance misuse issues.

7.35 National research conducted by Homeless Link in 2010 and 2014² highlights the extent to which people who are homeless experience some of the worst health problems in society. The report uncovers the barriers faced by homeless people in getting treatment as well as the impact of demand on NHS A&E, hospital and substance misuse services. **Table 19** identifies the reports’ relevant findings which are:

Table 19: Health risks and homelessness

Physical health	73% reported problems	41% said it was a long term problem
Substance misuse	39% reported problems with drug use	27% reported problems with alcohol use
Mental health	80% reported some form of mental health issue	45% had been diagnosed with a mental health issue
Hospital	35% had been to A and E over the past 6 months	26% had been admitted to hospital in the past 6 months

Housing

7.36 The consultation included discussions with the main Registered Providers in the borough and with Tameside Housing Advice. These organisations are particularly concerned about the reduction to tenancy support services as these are seen as providing essential support to ensure sustainable tenancies.

² Homeless Link (2014) The unhealthy state of homelessness. Health audit results 2014

"I have referred into tenancy support services, they have helped people retain their tenancies or supported people to cope with move into a tenancy. I feel both disability support and Adullam floating support have been instrumental in homelessness prevention, this has in turn been a financial gain to TMBC by reducing the cost of dealing with a homelessness application including temporary accommodation costs etc."

- 7.37 Another area of concern relates to the impact on the operation of the Tameside Housing Register of the withdrawal of funding from the Disability Housing Support Service (DHSS). The DHSS staff currently provide support to people with a disability applying to the Housing Register. The support ensures that applications are made accurately and that properties offered to applicants are suitable to their needs.
- 7.38 The DHSS work with the register also ensures that best use is made of properties with existing aids and adaptations in place by matching these with the needs of applicants. This reduces the need to remove adaptations once a tenant has moved on. It also reduces the cost of new installations. A cost benefit analysis of this has shown that savings of £939,950 were generated between April 2007 and March 2013.

Conclusion

- 7.39 The outcome of the consultation shows an overwhelming level of concern that the proposed cuts in funding in each of the 3 areas of service will have a potential range of negative impacts with strategic, personal, and organisational consequences. Section 8 examines the risks of this impacts and the proposed mitigations

8 RISKS

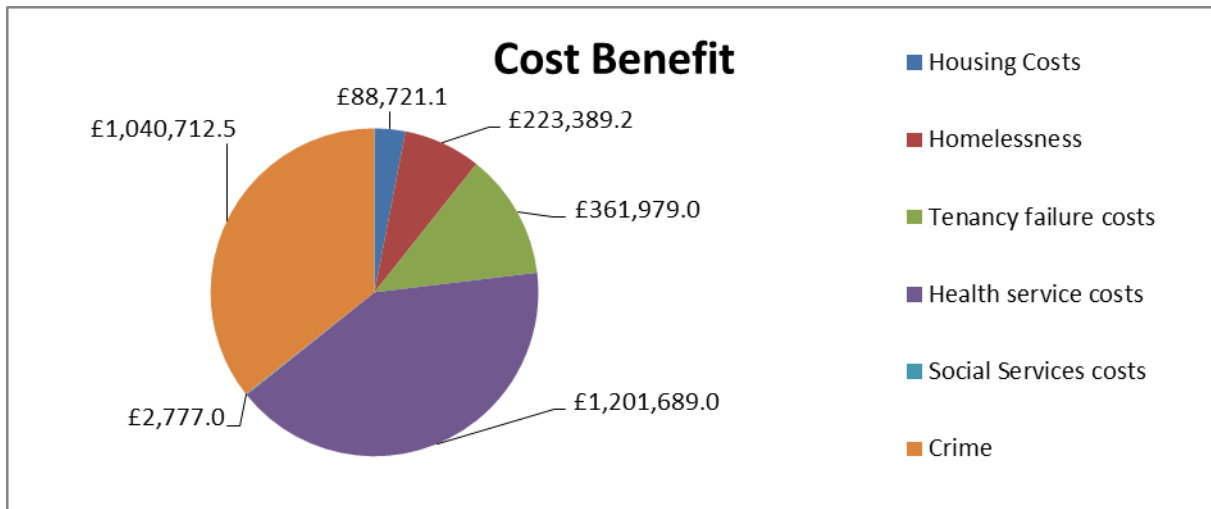
Strategic impact

- 8.1 The local authority has a statutory duty to prevent homelessness, this may be achieved in a variety of ways, including the provision of advice, assistance and information to help people to stay in their own home, as well as the securing of alternative accommodation. Tameside Homelessness Prevention Strategy says that "the Supporting People funded provision in Tameside remains an important tool in both tackling homelessness when it does occur and assisting in minimising the risk of future homelessness". In addition one of its 4 themes is achieving positive and sustainable move on from temporary to permanent housing, the tenancy support services play a key role in this process.
- 8.2 Feedback from Strategic Stakeholders described in paragraphs 7.32 to 7.36 above demonstrates the range of strategic priorities that may be negatively impacted by the reduction. These include the prevention and reduction of crime, the reduction of substance misuse and the promotion of recovery pathways, the promotion of health and well-being and the promotion of Public Service Reform.

Loss of Cost Benefit

- 8.3 An analysis of the group of 245 service users that left services provided by Foundation, Threshold and Greystones in 2014/15 with a positive outcome illustrates the cost benefit of these services. The cost data is based on the total contracted values of these services of £963,156 in 2014/15. The analysis shows that for the £963,156 that was spent on these services in 2014/15, there was financial benefit of £1,956,111. In other words for every £1 spent on supported housing services in 2014/15 there was a financial benefit of £2, with the greatest benefits gained in health service and crime costs How has the cost benefit been calculated?
- 8.4 The analysis is based on an updated version of work commissioned by Government from Cap Gemini. The financial model enables comparison of the total costs of supporting the main client groups that use services under existing arrangements with the cost that would arise if they were supported using the most appropriate alternatives. It enables an estimate of the cost of adverse events if the service was not to be provided. The difference, is considered to be the financial

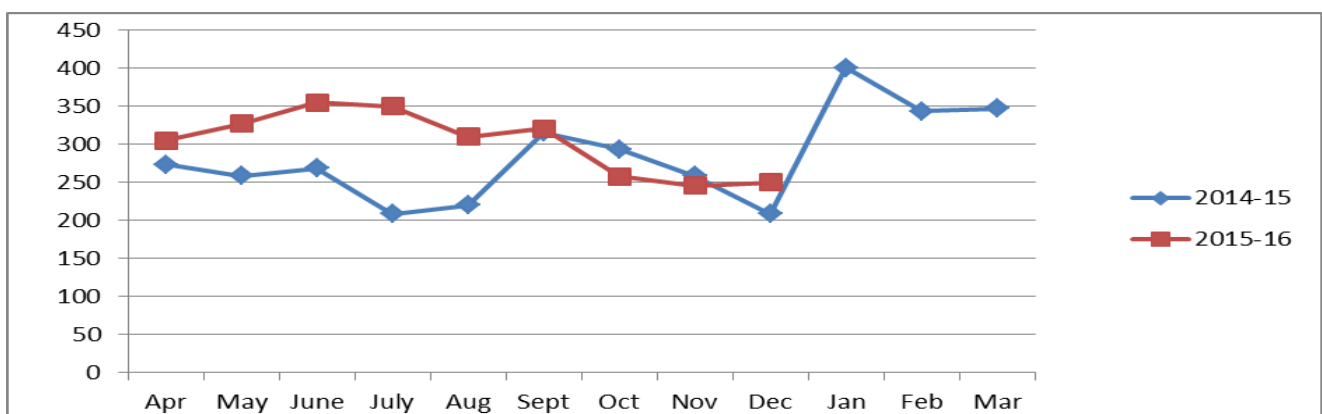
benefit of the services, i.e. the financial benefits of supporting the individual were higher than, and outweighed, the costs of doing so.



Increase in homelessness and rough sleeping

- 8.5 The key risk of the reduction in spending on supported housing for homeless people is that the Council will be able to assist at least 118 fewer homeless people per annum. This will increase waiting times for spaces and may result in an increase in people at risk of sleeping rough or “sofa surfing”.
- 8.6 The local supply of supported housing will reduce from 106 to 47 units, a loss of 59 bedspaces. The reduction in the number of bedspaces in management means that 7 accommodation schemes will close. This reduction is in addition to the loss of 29 units and the closure of 2 schemes in 2015/16. It brings the total reduction in supported units for non-statutory homeless people to 87 or, 65% in just 2 years.
- 8.7 This reduction comes at a time when homelessness is increasing nationally and locally. The official homelessness statistics published by the Government since quarter 4 2014/15 show an increase in homelessness nationally. This trend is reflected in Tameside, where key data for 2014/15 see below shows an increase in demand in quarter 4, continuing into 2015/16.
- 8.8 This increase in demand in the latter part of 2014/15 pre-dates a significant judgement on vulnerability assessments in the Supreme Court in May 2015. The Homelessness Monitor: England 2015, a longitudinal study of the impact on homelessness of economic and policy changes says that a combination of welfare cuts, policy changes and pressure on the housing market has left growing numbers of people struggling to keep a roof over their head.

Numbers attending Tameside Housing Advice



8.9 Every year the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) requires each local authority to submit a return showing the numbers of people sleeping rough in the borough. This is based on a count or an estimate, using a prescribed methodology, of a snapshot of people sleeping rough on a given night. The Tameside estimate for 2015/16, based on 19 November 2015 shows 14 people sleeping rough, compared with 7 in 2014/15.

Impact on vulnerable people:

8.10 There is a risk that the reduction in services will impact on some of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in the borough. This is further explored in the Equality Impact Assessment at **APPENDIX 1**.

8.11 The Lankelly Chase Foundation³ has developed the concept of severe and multiple disadvantage (SMD) to define those living on the **extreme margins** of social disadvantage. This includes people who have experienced combination of homelessness, offending and substance misuse. The extreme nature of SMD lies in the multiplicity and interlocking nature of the issues and their cumulative impact. The experience of SMD can push people to the edge of mainstream society. The association with perceived behavioural deviance or transgression means that a particularly high level of stigma is attached to people with these characteristics.

8.12 The data on new service users in 2014-15 shows that 77% had multiple issues that would place them in the category of SMD:

Table 20: Key Support Issues: accommodation based services

Support issue	Number	%
homelessness and substance misuse	73	45%
homelessness and offending	20	12%
homelessness and substance misuse and offending	32	20%
Homelessness and other issues	36	23%

8.13 The withdrawal of funding from the DHSS in particular impacts on people within the protected characteristic group of disability. While the withdrawal of funding for sheltered housing impacts on older people in particular, some of whom will not be able to afford the charge for support.

Mitigation

8.14 Maintaining and improving throughput levels in the accommodation based services may mitigate some of the risk of increased homelessness, if services are able to assist people to move through services quicker and still retain a positive result. However, it should be noted that 245 people moved through these services and achieved a positive outcome in 2014/15, this level of performance will not be achievable from 47 spaces.

8.15 The Council proposes that all referrals and assessments should continue to be managed by the Single Point of Access based at Housing Advice. This ensures that all people referred for supported housing have access to the full range of housing and support options available and that vacancies are filled quickly and appropriately. It should also ensure a fair distribution of risk between services.

³ Lankelly Chase Foundation, Hard Edges pub 2015

- 8.16 Maintaining the Single Point of Access enables a comparison of demand over time. This will help the Council to assess the impact of the changes and the extent and type of unmet need it creates.
- 8.17 The Council proposes to work with Threshold, Foundation and Greystones to develop a case management system to ensure that any barriers to progress for service users are addressed and overcome by a multi-agency approach. A case management approach will also ensure that most vulnerable service users are not excluded from services.
- 8.18 The Council has also committed to continue providing the Tameside Resettlement Scheme which provides packages of essential household items to households moving out of temporary accommodation, supported housing and from insecure living situations. The scheme may also provide rent in advance and removal costs. This support helps to speed up the move on process.
- 8.19 The Council proposes that Unlocking Potential will continue to provide housing related support to all client groups, including those with physical and sensory disability, who are not eligible for services under the Care Act. This group may also receive low level support and assistance by the Council's Health and Well-Being team.

Organisational impacts

- 8.20 The process for closing supported housing schemes means that Threshold and Foundation Housing will lose rental income that was previously available to support service delivery. This is because the schemes must be gradually emptied of residents before they can be returned to the landlords. In traditional operational periods void levels are low for example, 1% but during the transition period schemes may carry very high void levels
- 8.21 Foundation calculate that the closure of Westbrook project will result in a loss of up to £60,000 in potential rental income. Threshold estimate the closure of Stamford Villa, Enville Place, Wickham House, Vernon House and will result in a loss of up to £150,000 in potential rental income during the transitional period.
- 8.22 There is a risk that the impact of this funding reduction and the associated reduction in rental incomes following scheme closures, will affect the long term financial viability of Threshold and Foundation Housing.

Mitigation

- 8.23 This report proposes a transitional period to enable the organisations to manage this process over a longer time period than the contractual 3 month notice period. The Council has responded to the request of the affected organisations that the funding reduction is progressed by a negotiated process, rather than giving notice on all contracts and tendering for a new single service as originally considered.
- 8.24 This report also proposes that the 2 year extension to the contracts between the Council and Threshold, Foundation and Greystones is confirmed as part of these reductions. This will provide a small degree of stability to organisations that have sustained reductions to contract values in the last 2 years. Notwithstanding the contract end date all contracts will include a 3 month termination clause.

Sheltered housing

- 8.25 The key risk of the withdrawal of funding for sheltered housing is that some older people are unable to afford to pay for the provision of the alarm service for themselves. This may result in them opting out of the service.
- 8.26 Members should note that the Council agreed in 2014/15 to continue to fund the provision of emergency alarm and response services to mitigate the impact of the withdrawal of Council funding for the provision of scheme managers in sheltered schemes.

8.27 A final risk is to the reputation of the Council which has a history of providing supported housing services to an excellent standard.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 Option 1: Don't make any cuts to funding: The Council is legally obliged to set a balanced budget therefore this option is only possible if financial reductions are made elsewhere within the Council expenditure.

9.2 Option 2: Spread the funding cuts across all supported housing and homelessness services: This option is not strategic. The Council has chosen to select specific services for funding cuts, rather than apply an across the board reduction to all services funded within the overall programme. This is to protect those services that are delivered as part of the Council's statutory obligations. These services include temporary supported housing services for homeless households and the refuge accommodation for people fleeing domestic abuse.

9.3 Option 3: Retain the current number of supported units: this option is not viable because the reduction in funding will result in a reduction in staffing levels in all organisations. The current staffing levels are already low as a consequence of previous reductions in funding levels. To continue to attempt to manage the same number units across the range of properties would reduce staff to tenant ratios to an unacceptably low level. This would reduce the quality of the support provided and put staff and service users at risk of harm.

9.4 Option 4: Retain the current number of supported units and seek replacement funding: this option is not viable in the time available if the Council needs to make the reduction in funding by June 2016.

10 EQUALITIES

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out on these proposals and is attached at **APPENDIX 1**.

10.2 The EIA shows that people in 3 of the protected characteristics may be negatively affected by the proposed funding reductions. These are older people, people with a disability and women. The reductions may also impact on other vulnerable groups, these are homeless people, people affected by substance misuse and offenders and ex-offenders. The EIA describes the steps the Council proposes to mitigate these impacts.

10.3 Before approving these proposals, Members need to consider and be satisfied that the assessment has been carried out properly and meaningfully in order to discharge their public sector duty under S149 of the Equalities Act 2010.

11 CONCLUSION

11.1 The report sets out the Council's proposals to reduce funding on supported housing services by £1.1m (full year effect) in 2016/17. The proposals if implemented would reduce the total funding for these services by 58% and provide a full year saving to the Council of £0.820m.

11.2 The reductions will affect 16 organisations that the Council contracts with and 1500 local people who use the services. They will lead to the closure of 8 schemes, and a reduction of 59 units of accommodation. This will leave just 47 units of supported housing for single homeless people compared with 134 in 2014/15, a reduction of 65% in 2 years.

11.3 The reductions will result in a substantially reduced contract value for Adullam Homes Housing Association that provides tenancy support services, and a termination in funding for the Councils Disability Housing Support Service. The reduction will also result in the termination of funding for 12 Registered Providers that provide housing services for older people.

12 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

12.1 As detailed on the front of this report.

	APPENDIX 1
Subject / Title	Equality Impact Assessment Supporting People: Reductions in Funding

Service Unit	Service Area	Directorate
Customer Care and Advocacy	Stronger Communities	People

Start Date	Completion Date
August 2015	10 December 2015

Lead Officer	Diane Barkley
Service Unit Manager	Diane Barkley
Assistant Executive Director	Emma Varnam

EIA Group (lead contact first)	Job title	Service
Diane Barkley	Poverty and Prevention Manager	Customer Care and Advocacy
Linsey Bell	Planning and Commissioning Officer	Adult Services
Jody Stewart	Policy, Research and Improvement Manager	Policy and Communications
Colm Obrien	Senior Housing Strategy Officer	Customer Care and Advocacy

PART 1 – INITIAL SCREENING

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for all Key Decisions that involve changes to service delivery. All other changes, whether a Key Decision or not, require consideration for the necessity of an EIA.

The Initial Screening is a quick and easy process which aims to identify:

- *those projects, policies, and proposals which require a full EIA by looking at the potential impact on any of the equality groups*
- *prioritise if and when a full EIA should be completed*
- *explain and record the reasons why it is deemed a full EIA is not required*

A full EIA should always be undertaken if the project, policy or proposal is likely to have an impact upon people with a protected characteristic. This should be undertaken irrespective of whether the impact is major or minor, or on a large or small group of people. If the initial screening concludes a full EIA is not required, please fully explain the reasons for this at 1e and ensure this form is signed off by the relevant Service Unit Manager and Assistant Executive Director.

1a.	What is the project, policy or proposal?	Proposal to reduce Supporting People funded services by a total of £1.1m. This affects services for homeless people by £874,000, for older people by £95,000 and people with a physical and sensory disability by £131,000
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1b.	What are the main aims of the project, policy or proposal?	To enable the Council to achieve a balanced budget in 2016/7
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**1c. Will the project, policy or proposal have either a direct or indirect impact on any groups of people with protected equality characteristics?
Where a direct or indirect impact will occur as a result of the policy, project or proposal, please explain why and how that group of people will be affected.**

Protected Characteristic	Direct Impact	Indirect Impact	Little / No Impact	Explanation
Age	x			There is a proposal to end funding for the provision of alarms and response services for 1000 older people living in sheltered housing. Almost 50% of people using accommodation based services are aged less than 25 years.
Disability	x			There is a proposal to end funding for provision of housing support for people with a physical and sensory disability
Ethnicity		x		11% of people using tenancy support services and 8% of people using accommodation based services are non-White British
Sex / Gender	x			There are more women than men affected by the proposals to cut funding to services for older people and tenancy support services. There are more men than women using accommodation based services.
Religion or Belief			x	There is no evidence from current data sources of any impact on religion or belief
Sexual Orientation			x	There is no evidence from current data sources of any impact on religion or belief
Gender Reassignment			x	There is no evidence from current data sources of any impact on religion or belief
Pregnancy & Maternity			x	There is no evidence from current data sources of any impact on religion or belief
Marriage & Civil Partnership			x	There is no evidence from current data sources of any impact on religion or belief

Are there any other groups who you feel may be impacted, directly or indirectly, by this project, policy or proposal? (e.g. carers, vulnerable residents, isolated residents)

Group (please state)	Direct Impact	Indirect Impact	Little / No Impact	Explanation
People who are experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness	x			The funding reduction will result in the closure and reduction of services for non-statutory homeless people. The total reduction of spaces will be 65%.
People affected by substance misuse	x			45% of users of accommodation based services for homeless people are affected by substance misuse. These 2 factors result in them experiencing social disadvantage

Offenders	x			20% of users of accommodation based services for homeless people are offenders or ex-offenders. These 2 factors result in them experiencing social disadvantage
People experiencing poverty	x			The majority of people using SP funded services are in receipt of out of work benefits. Their poverty and homelessness result in them experiencing social disadvantage.

Wherever a direct or indirect impact has been identified you should consider undertaking a full EIA or be able to adequately explain your reasoning for not doing so. Where little / no impact is anticipated, this can be explored in more detail when undertaking a full EIA.

1d.	Does the project, policy or proposal require a full EIA?	Yes	No
		x	
1e.	What are your reasons for the decision made at 1d?	3 of the groups with the protected characteristics will experience a direct and negative impact as a result of the funding reduction. Other disadvantaged groups as described in 1c will also experience a direct and negative impact.	

If a full EIA is required please progress to Part 2.

PART 2 – FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

2a. Summary
<p>Due to continued cuts in Government financial support to local authorities the Council is considering a range of service cuts to enable a balanced budget. A report to Executive Board on 13 January 2016 proposed a significant reduction in spending in 2016/17 and the years following, on supported housing services funded through the former Supporting People programme. The proposals to reduce funding under the Supporting People programme are within the set of proposals for reductions to Stronger Communities funding</p> <p>The proposals if implemented would reduce the total funding for these services by 58% and provide a full year saving to the Council of £0.820m. They will affect 16 organisations that the Council contracts with and 1500 local people who use the services.</p> <p>The proposals relate to 3 types of supported housing services, accommodation based services, tenancy support services and sheltered housing services. The accommodation based and tenancy support services are provided for people of all ages who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness. Sheltered housing services are provided for older people, usually aged 55+ years.</p> <p>The proposed reduction in funding will result in substantially reduced contract values for 3 organisations, Greystones, Threshold and Foundation Housing that are contracted to provide accommodation based supported housing for homeless people. It will lead to the closure of 8 schemes, and a reduction of 59 units of accommodation. This will leave 47 units of supported housing for single homeless people compared with 134 in 2014/15, a reduction of 65% in 2 years.</p> <p>It will result in a substantially reduced contract value for Adullam Homes Housing Association that provides tenancy support services, and a termination in funding for the Tameside MBC Disability Housing Support Service. The reduction will also result in the termination of funding for 12</p>

Registered Providers that provide housing services for older people.

These reductions will potentially impact negatively on people within the identified protected characteristic groups, including women, older people and people with a disability. The reductions will also impact negatively on other groups such as homeless people and people with a history of substance misuse and offending who are not within the identified protected characteristics groups but who are nevertheless vulnerable and who experience social disadvantages.

2b. Issues to Consider

A) Accommodation based services:

1. Users within the protected characteristics groups:

Disability: The data below shows that accommodation based services targeted at preventing or alleviating homelessness are used by relatively high proportions of people with a disability. 23% of people using accommodation based services that provide temporary housing with support. This compares with 20.9% of Tameside residents overall reported that their activities were limited due to health problems (Census 2011).

Age: The data for accommodation based services shows that almost 50% of service users are aged less than 25 years.

Gender: There are more men (65%) than women (35%) using these services.

Table 1 : profile of new users: accommodation based services

Gender		
Men	104	65%
Women	57	35%
Age		
16/17	0	0
18-21	56	35%
22-25	18	11%
26-35	21	13%
36-45	33	20%
46-55	27	17%
56-69	6	4%
70 +	0	0
Ethnicity		
Asian/Asian British	2	1%
Black/Black British	4	2.5%
Gypsy/Traveller	0	0
Mixed	1	0.5%
Other	2	1%
Refused	4	2.5%
White British/Irish/Other	148	92%
Disability		
	37	23%

2. Users with other vulnerabilities:

There is a risk that the reduction in services will impact on some of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in the borough.

The Lankelly Chase Foundation⁴ has developed the concept of severe and multiple disadvantages (SMD) to define those living on the **extreme margins** of social disadvantage. This includes people who have experienced combination of homelessness, offending and substance misuse. The extreme nature of SMD lies in the multiplicity and interlocking nature of the issues and their cumulative impact. The experience of SMD can push people to the edge of mainstream society. The authors argue that “The association with perceived behavioural deviance or transgression means that a particularly high level of stigma is attached to people with these characteristics”.

The data on new service users in 2014-15 (Table 3) shows that 77% had multiple issues that would place them in the category of SMD:

Table 2 : Key Support Issues: accommodation based services

Support need	Number of service users	Percentage of service users
homelessness and substance misuse	73	45%
homelessness and offending	20	12%
homelessness and substance misuse and offending	32	20%
Homelessness and other issues	36	23%

3. Cumulative impact of funding reductions.

The funding reductions that are proposed for 2016/17, follow cuts to the funding of the same services in 2015/16. During 15/16 the contract value of accommodation based services for single homeless people was reduced by £166,054 (17%) and the number of supported bedspaces by 29 (22%).

B) Tenancy Support Services

1. Users within the protected characteristics groups

Note that the data below refers to a generic service and a specialist service for people with a physical and sensory disability.

Disability: The data below shows that tenancy support services targeted at preventing or alleviating homelessness are used by relatively high proportions of people with a disability. 68% of people using tenancy support services that assist people to maintain or access housing identify themselves as having a disability. This compares with 20.9% of Tameside residents overall reported that their activities were limited due to health problems (Census 2011)

Gender: There are more women (52.5%) than men (47.5%) using tenancy support services

Table 3: profile of new service users – tenancy support services

Gender		
Men	136	47.5%
Women	151	52.5%
Age		
16/17	2	0.5%
18-21	15	5%
22-25	36	12.5%
26-35	53	18.5%

⁴ Lankelly Chase Foundation, Hard Edges pub 2015

36-45	53	18.5%
46-55	66	23%
56-69	40	14%
70-79	12	4%
80+	10	3.5%
Ethnicity		
Asian/Asian British	16	5.5%
Black/Black British	6	2%
Gypsy/Traveller	0	0
Mixed	3	1%
Other	5	2%
Refused	1	0.3%
White British/Irish/Other	256	89%
Disability	195	68%

2) Cumulative impact of funding reductions.

The funding reductions that are proposed for 2016/17, follow cuts to the funding of the same services in 2015/16. During 15/16 there was a cut of £200,000, a 31.5% reduction to the tenancy support services.

C) Sheltered Housing for Older People

1) Users within the protected characteristics groups

Table 3: profile of users of Sheltered Housing

Gender: The data on who uses sheltered housing shows that a funding withdrawal will impact on women and on older people. The gender split is in line with the over 65 year's population in Tameside

Age: Sheltered housing services are targeted at people aged 55 years and above. The data shows that 58% of tenants are aged over 75 years.

Gender	
Men	45%
Women	55%
Age	
75+	58%
80+	40%
85+	24%
Ethnicity	
Other	3.5%
White British/Irish/Other	96.5%

2) Cumulative impact of funding cuts

In 2014 the Council ended its funding towards the cost of providing scheme managers, or co-ordinators in sheltered housing schemes. This provided a full year saving to the Council of £0.520m in 2015/16, when compared to spending on these services in 2013/14.

2c. Impact

A) Accommodation based services

1) *Increase in homelessness, rough sleeping and sofa surfing*

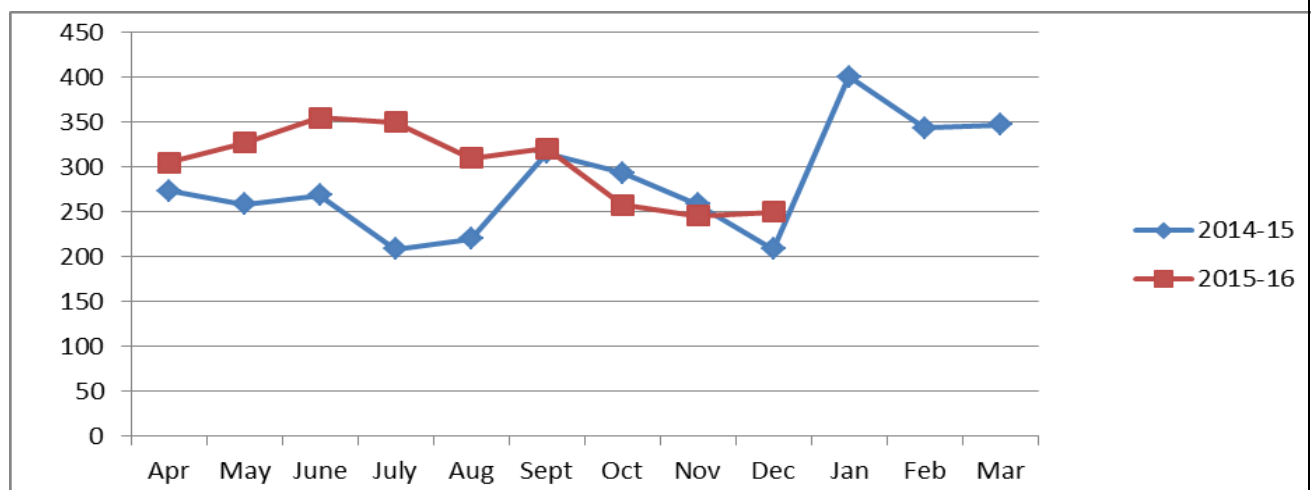
The key risk of the reduction in spending on supported housing for homeless people is that the Council will be able to assist at least 118 fewer homeless people per annum. This will result in a negative impact on people experiencing and at risk of homelessness by increasing waiting times for spaces. It may result in an increase in people at risk of sleeping rough or “sofa surfing”.

The local supply of supported housing will reduce from 106 to 47 units, a loss of 59 bedspaces. The reduction in the number of bedspaces in management means that 7 accommodation schemes will close. This reduction is in addition to the loss of 29 units and the closure of 2 schemes in 2015/16. It brings the total reduction in supported units for non-statutory homeless people to 87 or, 65% in just 2 years.

This reduction comes at a time when homelessness is increasing nationally and locally. The official homelessness statistics published by the Government since quarter 4 2014/15 show an increase in homelessness nationally. This trend is reflected in Tameside, where key data for 2014/15 see graph below shows an increase in demand in quarter 4, continuing into 2015/16.

This increase in demand in the latter part of 2014/15 pre-dates a significant judgement on vulnerability assessments in the Supreme Court in May 2015. The Homelessness Monitor: England 2015, a longitudinal study of the impact on homelessness of economic and policy changes says that a combination of welfare cuts, policy changes and pressure on the housing market has left growing numbers of people struggling to keep a roof over their head.

Numbers attending Tameside Housing Advice



Every year the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) requires each local authority to submit a return showing the numbers of people sleeping rough in the borough. This is based on a count or an estimate, using a proscribed methodology, of a snapshot of people sleeping rough on a given night. The Tameside estimate for 2015/16, based on 19 November 2015 shows 14 people sleeping rough, compared with 7 in 2014/15.

Rough sleeping and homelessness places people at risk of numerous negative outcomes with regard to their health, National research conducted by Homeless Link in 2010 and 2014⁵ highlights the extent to which people who are homeless experience some of the worst health problems in society. The report uncovers the barriers faced by homeless people in getting treatment as well as the impact of demand on NHS A&E, hospital and substance misuse services.

Among the report's findings are:

Physical health	73% reported problems	41% said it was a long term problem
Substance misuse	39% reported problems with drug use	27% reported problems with alcohol use
Mental health	80% reported some form of mental health issue	45% had been diagnosed with a mental health issue
Hospital	35% had been to A and E over the past 6 months	26% had been admitted to hospital in the past 6 months

2) Reduction in homelessness preventions

The provision of alternative accommodation is a key tool in homelessness prevention. The reduction in supported housing units may impact negatively on the Council's ability to offer this option.

B) Tenancy Support Services

1) Reduction of ability to access appropriate housing

The withdrawal of funding from the Disability Housing Support Service (DHSS) may impact negatively on the access of people with a physical and sensory disability to appropriate social housing. The DHSS staff currently provide support to people with a disability applying to the Housing Register. The support ensures that applications are made accurately. Without this support applicants may struggle to complete the applications themselves. The staff also accompany applicants to visit properties when they are offered, this helps to ensure that properties offered to applicants are suitable to their needs.

C) Sheltered Housing

1) Older people may not be able to afford to pay for support –

The key risk of the withdrawal of funding for sheltered housing is that some older people are unable to afford to pay for the provision of the alarm service for themselves. This may result in them opting out of the service. In the consultation 11% of respondents said that the alarm and response service is important to them but they can't afford to pay for it themselves.

2) As a consequence older people may opt out of the service

If older people are not able to pay for support then they may opt out of the service and this may increase their risk of coming to harm in the home, with a consequent risk of an increase in numbers of older people needing more costly interventions.

⁵ Homeless Link (2014) The unhealthy state of homelessness. Health audit results 2014

2d. Mitigations (Where you have identified an impact, what can be done to reduce or mitigate the impact?)

Accommodation Based Services

<p>Increase in homelessness, rough sleeping and sofa surfing</p>	<p>Main Maintaining and improving throughput levels in the accommodation based services may mitigate some of the risk of increased homelessness, if services are able to assist people to move through services quicker and still retain a positive result. However, it should be noted that 245 people moved through these services and achieved a positive outcome in 2014/15, this level of performance will not be achievable from 47 spaces.</p> <p>The Council proposes that all referrals and assessments should continue to be managed by the Single Point of Access based at Housing Advice. This ensures that all people referred for supported housing have access to the full range of housing and support options available and that vacancies are filled quickly and appropriately. It should also ensure a fair distribution of risk between services.</p> <p>Maintaining the Single Point of Access enables a comparison of demand over time. This will help the Council to assess the impact of the changes and the extent and type of unmet need it creates.</p> <p>The Council proposes to work with Threshold, Foundation and Greystones to develop a case management system to ensure that any barriers to progress for service users are addressed and overcome by a multi-agency approach. A case management approach will also ensure that most vulnerable service users are not excluded from services.</p> <p>The Council has also committed to continue providing the Tameside Resettlement Scheme which provides packages of essential household items to households moving out of temporary accommodation, supported housing and from insecure living situations. The scheme may also provide rent in advance and removal costs. This support helps to speed up the move on process.</p>
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Tenancy Support Services

<p>Reduction of ability to access appropriate housing</p>	<p>The Council proposes that the generic tenancy support service provided by Adullam will continue to provide housing related support to all client groups, including those with physical and sensory disability, who are not eligible for services under the Care Act. This group may also receive low level support and assistance by the Council's Health and Well-Being team.</p> <p>Those who are eligible under the Care Act will be supported by care co-ordinators</p>
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Sheltered Housing Services

<p>Older people may not be able to afford to pay for support</p>	<p>Registered Providers will commission the lowest cost alarm provision available to them, in most cases this is less than £2 per week.</p>
<p>Older people may opt out of services</p>	<p>Tenants living in sheltered schemes will have access to a scheme co-ordinator who may or may not be based on site this will mitigate the risks for some older people, but will not apply to those living in the community without a scheme manager.</p>

2e. Evidence Sources
Quarterly performance returns – funded services Research reports: ¹ Lankelly Chase Foundation, Hard Edges pub 2015 and Homeless Link (2014) The unhealthy state of homelessness. Health audit results 2014 Quarterly monitoring of homelessness presentations Annual rough sleepers count Consultation via the Big Conversation and focus groups with strategic stakeholders and service users

2f. Monitoring progress		
Issue / Action	Lead officer	Timescale
Impact on demand for supported housing – measured through Single Point of Access	<i>Linsey Bell</i>	<i>Quarterly</i>
Impact on homelessness preventions – measured through quarterly monitoring	<i>Diane Barkley</i>	<i>Quarterly</i>
Performance on throughput from schemes – supported by case management approach to overcome barriers	<i>Linsey Bell</i>	<i>Quarterly</i>
Any adverse effects where older people decide not to purchase an alarm system for themselves – requests for information from Registered Providers	<i>Linsey Bell</i>	<i>Annual</i>
Signature of Service Unit Manager		Date
Signature of Assistant Executive Director		Date

APPENDIX 2

Sheltered Schemes affected by the current proposals

Registered Providers	Scheme name	
	With a manager	Alarm provision only
Johnnie Johnson	Park House, Droylsden M43 6DX	
	St Georges House, Stalybridge SK15 1AT	
	Woodford Court, Droylsden M43 7BJ	
	Stanmore House, Audenshaw M34 5GW	
	Trenchard Court, Droylsden M43 6JF	
		Rochford House, M34 5BL
		Cranwell Court, M43 7BH
Your Housing	Ogden Court, Hyde SK14 2RD	
		Taylor Gardens SK14 2PB
		Surma Court SK14 1DH
		Meadowfield Court – SK14 4SA
		Birchfield Mews – SK14 1SA
		Kensington Court SK14 5RB
		Millwood Terrace – SK14 1SE
		Netherlow Court SK14 1ND
		Station Close SK14 1SF
		Perrin Street SK14 1JE
		Stamford Drive, SK15 1QU
		Shepley Street, SK14 2RL
		St Georges Court, SK14 1JW
Regenda	Denton St Lawrence, Denton M34 6BA	
	Heylee Ashton OL7 0JF	
	Fairthorne Grange, Ashton OL7 0JS	
Accent	Blandford Court, Stalybridge SK15 1AQ	
		Amber Gardens, SK16 4LY
		Astley Gardens, SK16 4QE
		Cockerhill, SK15 1AH
		Cranbrook Gardens, OL7 9AA
		Ogden Square,
		Old Brow Court. OL5 0AZ
		Warrington Street, Cheetham Gdns, SK15 2LG
	Wordsworth Crescent.OL7 9SX	
Contour		St Annes Court 2, St Annes Road,

Homes		M34 5DS
		Tame Street, M34 3HP
Peak Valley		Kennedy Square, SK14 6QW
		Deerwood Vale, SK14 3PF
		Cheriton Close
		Fields Farm Road Hattersley, SK14 3NP
		Chapman Road, SK14 3PN
		Ashburton Close
		Underwood Road
Guinness Northern Counties	Beck House, SK14 3LX	
	Landor Court, M34 2WR	
Riverside ECHG		Grosvenor Gardens, 1 High St SK15 2DR
	Emmanuel Court,	
Housing 21	Joseph Jennings	
	Chesworth Court	
Places for People		Various individual addresses
Irwell Valley Housing Association		Various individual addresses
Mosscafe		Various individual addresses
Total contract values 15/16	£0.095m	

APPENDIX 3



SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE IN TAMESIDE: ACCOMMODATION BASED SERVICE CONSULTATION

We want to hear your views. This information will only be used as part of the consultation and will not be used or processed for any other purpose. Thank you for joining in our Big Conversation.

Name:

Address 1:

Address 2:

Town:

Postcode:

Email Address:

QUESTIONS

If the Council decides to reduce funding for supported housing for homeless people in Tameside how this will affect you?

2. Please tick the box that best describes your interest in this issue? (Please tick one box only)

- A resident of Greystones, Foundation or Threshold
- A resident of another homelessness project
- A former resident of a homelessness project
- A friend or relative of a homelessness project resident (Go to Q6)
- A member of the public (Go to Q6)
- A Tameside Council employee (Go to Q6)
- An employee of Greystones, Foundation Housing or Threshold (Go to Q6)
- A community or voluntary group (Go to Q6)
- A partner organisation (Go to Q6)
- A business /private organisation (Go to Q6)
- Other (please specify below) (Go to Q6)

3. Which supported housing services have you used in Tameside? (Please tick all that apply)

- Gibson Terrace
- Lyne View
- Waterton Lane

- Women's refuge
- Vernon House
- Enville Place
- Stamford Villa
- Westbrook
- Mottram Road
- Greystones
- Ambleside
- Newton Street
- Whiteacre Road
- Wellington Road
- Market Street
- Wickham House
- Other (please state where this was)

4. Did the service help you? (Please **tick one box only**)

- Yes
- No (**Go to Q6**)

5. **From the list below, please indicate the ways in which the service has helped you? (Please tick all that apply) *It helped me to.....***

- Find somewhere to live
- Sort out my benefits
- Manage my money
- Get into college
- Find opportunities to volunteer
- Use local services, for example, libraries, sports centre
- Get a job
- Improve my health by registering with a GP
- Find a dentist
- Make contact with my family
- Get help for my drug use
- Get help with my alcohol use
- Work better with other services I am involved with, for example, Social Services Lifeline, Probation etc.
- It helped me in other ways (please specify below)

6. **If the Council reduces funding for supported housing for homeless people, will this affect any of the following directly? (Please tick all that apply)**

- You
- Your friends
- Members of your family

None of the above (**Go to Q8**)

7. **If funding for supported housing for homeless people is reduced, how will this affect you, your friends or family members as indicated in Q6? (Please specify below)**

8. **Do you have any other comments you wish to make about the future of supported housing for homeless people in Tameside? (Please specify below)**

ABOUT YOU

9. **Are you.....?**

Male

Female

10. **What is your age? (Please state)**

11. **What is your postcode? (Please state)**

12. **What is your ethnic group? (Please tick one box only)**

White

English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British

Irish

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Any other White background (Please specify)

Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic backgrounds (Please specify)

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

African

Caribbean

- Any other Black / African / Caribbean background (Please specify)

Asian / Asian British

- Indian
 Pakistani
 Bangladeshi
 Chinese
 Any other Asian background (Please specify)

Other ethnic group

- Arab
 Any other ethnic group (Please specify)

13. Are your day-to day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? This may include problems related to old age. (Please tick one box only)

- Yes, limited a lot
 Yes, limited a little
 No

14. Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either: (Please tick one box only)

- Long term physical or mental ill-health / disability?
 - Problems due to old age?
- No
 Yes, 1-19 hours a week
 Yes, 20-49 hours a week
 Yes, 50 or more a week

HOW DECISIONS WILL BE MADE

Once the consultation is complete all feedback will be collated, anonymised and analysed. This will then help us to ensure your feedback is taken into account when shaping the Council's actions. A report will then be developed which will be considered by the Council in February 2016 when a final decision will be made.



SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE IN TAMESIDE: TENANCY SUPPORT SERVICE CONSULTATION

We want to hear your views. This information will only be used as part of the consultation and will not be used or processed for any other purpose. Thank you for joining in our Big Conversation.

Name:

Address 1:

Address 2:

Town:

Postcode:

Email Address:

QUESTIONS

If the Council decides to reduce funding for supported housing for homeless people in Tameside how will this affect you?

2. Please tick the box that best describes your interest in this issue? (Please tick one box only)

- A customer of Adullam Floating Support Service
- A customer of the Tameside Disability Housing Support Service
- A resident of a homelessness project
- A friend or relative of a homelessness project resident
- A member of the public
- A Tameside Council employee
- An employee of Adullam Floating Support Service or Tameside Disability Housing Support Service
- A community or voluntary group
- A partner organisation
- A business /private organisation
- Other (please specify below)

3. Have you used services provided by the following organisations? (Please tick all that apply)

- Tameside Disability Housing Support Service

- Adullam Floating Support Service
- Neither of these services (**Go to Q6**)

4. Did the service help you? (Please tick one box only)

- Yes
- No (**Go to Q6**)

5. From the list below, please indicate the ways in which the service has helped you? (Please tick all that apply)

It helped me to.....

- Find somewhere to live
- Manage my home better e.g. pay my bills, report repairs, and get on with my neighbours.
- Sort out my benefits
- Manage my money
- Get into college
- Find opportunities to volunteer
- Use local services, for example, libraries, sports centre
- Get a job
- Improve my health by registering with a GP
- Find a dentist
- Make contact with my family
- Get help for my drug use
- Get help with my alcohol use
- Get adaptations I need to make my life easier e.g. making the doorways in my house wider so that I can move about; altering the height of the kitchen worksurfaces.
- Work better with other services I am involved with, for example, Social Services Lifeline, Probation etc.
- It helped me in other ways (please specify below)

6. If the Council reduces funding for tenancy support service, will this affect any of the following directly? (Please tick all that apply)

- You
- Your friends
- Members of your family
- None of the above (**Go to Q8**)

7. If funding for tenancy support services is reduced, how will this affect you, your friends or family members as indicated in Q6? (Please specify below)

8. Do you have any other comments you wish to make about the future of tenancy support services in Tameside? (Please specify below)

ABOUT YOU

9. Are you.....?

Male

Female

10. What is your age? (Please state)

11. What is your postcode? (Please state)

12. What is your ethnic group? (Please tick one box only)

White

English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British

Irish

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Any other White background (Please specify)

Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic backgrounds (Please specify)

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

African

Caribbean

- Any other Black / African / Caribbean background (Please specify)

Asian / Asian British

- Indian
 Pakistani
 Bangladeshi
 Chinese
 Any other Asian background (Please specify)

Other ethnic group

- Arab
 Any other ethnic group (Please specify)

13. Are your day-to day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? This may include problems related to old age. (Please tick one box only)

- Yes, limited a lot
 Yes, limited a little
 No

14. Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either: (Please tick one box only)

- Long term physical or mental ill-health / disability?
- Problems due to old age?

- No
 Yes, 1-19 hours a week
 Yes, 20-49 hours a week
 Yes, 50 or more a week

HOW DECISIONS WILL BE MADE

Once the consultation is complete all feedback will be collated, anonymised and analysed. This will then help us to ensure your feedback is taken into account when shaping the Council's actions. A report will then be developed which will be considered by the Council in February 2016 when a final decision will be made.



SUPPORTING PEOPLE ALARM SERVICE CONSULTATION

We want to hear your views. This information will only be used as part of the consultation and will not be used or processed for any other purpose. Thank you for joining in our Big Conversation.

Name:

Address 1:

Address 2:

Town:

Postcode:

Email Address:

QUESTIONS

Q1. Please indicate which of the following best describes your interest in this consultation (Please tick one box only):

- I have an alarm provided by my Registered Housing Provider (Go to Q2)
- A carer (Go to Q3)
- A member of the public who does not use the alarm service provided by a Registered Housing Provider (Go to Q3)
- A Council staff member (Go to Q3)
- A Registered Housing Provider staff member (Go to Q3)
- A community or voluntary group (please specify below) (Go to Q3)
- A partner organisation (please specify below) (Go to Q3)
- A business /private organisation (please specify below) (Go to Q3)
- Other (please specify below) (Go to Q3)

Q2. Which of the following is your Registered Housing Provider? (Please tick one box only):

- Johnnie Johnson
- Your Housing
- Regenda
- Accent
- Contour Homes
- Peak Valley
- Guinness Northern Counties
- Riverside ECHG
- Housing 21
- Places for People
- Irwell Valley Housing Association
- Mosscares

Q3 Do you have any comments you wish to make about the proposal to end the funding currently paid to Registered Housing providers which helps to pay for the alarm service for tenants in receipt of Housing Benefit? (Please state in the box below)

ABOUT YOU

Q4 Are you.....?

- Male Female

Q5 What is your age? (Please state)

Q6 What is your postcode? (Please state)

Q7 What is your ethnic group? (Please tick one box only)

White

- English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
 Irish
 Gypsy or Irish Traveller
 Any other White background (Please specify)

Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups

- White and Black Caribbean
 White and Black African
 White and Asian
 Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic backgrounds (Please specify)

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

- African
 Caribbean
 Any other Black / African / Caribbean background (Please specify)

Asian / Asian British

- Indian
 Pakistani
 Bangladeshi
 Chinese
 Any other Asian background (Please specify)

Other ethnic group

- Arab

Any other ethnic group (Please specify)

Q8 Are your day-to day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? This may include problems related to old age. (Please tick one box only)

- Yes, limited a lot
- Yes, limited a little
- No

Q9 Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either: (Please tick one box only)

- Long term physical or mental ill-health / disability?
- Problems due to old age?
- No
- Yes, 1-19 hours a week
- Yes, 20-49 hours a week
- Yes, 50 or more a week

HOW DECISIONS WILL BE MADE

Once the consultation is complete all feedback will be collated, anonymised and analysed. This will then help us to ensure your feedback is taken into account when shaping the Council's actions. A report will then be developed which will be considered by the Council in February 2016 when a final decision will be made.

APPENDIX 4

Free Text from the Big Conversation

Accommodation Based Survey

From the list below, please indicate the ways in which the service has helped you? (Please tick all that apply) It helped me in other ways (please specify below)
Confidence, got me into a Gym to improve my fitness. Improved me in general, the way I think, helped me to face my issues head on.
Foundation have provided me with a stable living environment I am now in college so I no longer offend or have a drugs habit I have become more confident as your self-esteem can drop when you are homeless
Gave me confidence to adapt back into the community
Gave me more confidence and social skills.
Gave me support with my mental health issues, helped me keep appointments with my drug workers and referred me to the Learning Disability Team.
Greystones has given me help with my offending.
Greystones has helped me build confidence and still gives me access to my support network. They have taught me how to do everyday things that I couldn't do before.
Greystones has helped me to learn to take care of myself and enabled me to socialise with people. They have given me the confidence to go out more and meet others.
Greystones has supported me with my mental health issues
Greystones have helped me to get a referral with the mental health team as I suffer greatly with depression and also other under lined problems from my past
Greystones helped me become involved with CLI by helping me to complete a referral.
Helped increase my confidence and to communicate and socialise with others
Helped me sort out my works pension
Helped me with my memory troubles which are alcohol related dementia. I have been referred to the services for extra support
Helped with my relationship
I feel more independent and confident since moving into supported accommodation. I have never lived on my own previous to coming here.
I get more help with Foundation and lots of staff interaction. There was no interaction at Gibson Terrace. Foundation listen then act -Foundation deliver
I have severe memory problems (alcohol related dementia) and Greystones have helped me to reorganise routines so that I find it easier to remember important things. They have also referred me to the memory clinic.
I suffer from memory loss and am a stroke survivor. I only manage with a routine and staff are helping me with my memory. Doctors have told me that my memory can be improved with certain exercises which I am being helped with.
I was homeless without options as an ex-serviceman on the verge of suicide and with nowhere to turn to until Greystones helped me to gradually engage and address my ongoing mental and physical health programs, my accommodation and my monetary problems. Greystones has engaged with me over the past 12 years and have provided constant and ongoing support, medical aid and financial/housing advice. I would have been incarcerated in a mental health facility or would have committed suicide without the ongoing invaluable support service provided by Greystones and all of the staff.
I would have nowhere to live
It has helped boost my confidence
It has helped me immensely with my confidence and self-esteem. Enabling me to carry out tasks that I wouldn't have been able to do without the help of foundation.
It has helped me with mental health problems
It has taken away my worry of where I am going to sleep way or my next fix from as I am now actively engaged with Lifeline and I see a Doctor so I now take my antidepressants.

It helps remove me from the situation with other users It provides me with security and stability It gives me access to all the services I need to help me
Prevented me from becoming homeless
sort myself out my attitude, and helped with my head
Stopped me getting into trouble helped me get my life back on track Helped me feel safe and secure
The services have given me stability and time to reflect and make better decisions
They have helped me greatly with my health, and gave me support with my memory difficulties (e.g. referral to memory clinic). I have had valuable help in my recovery from alcoholism with twice weekly meetings and one to one support. I have had a lot of help with my communication problems, and can now relate much better and more confidently with others.
They have helped me with my hearing disability
To become more independent.
to gain confidence and the ability to live on my own
While going through the court they supported me, this enabled me to have letter access to my daughter, and this is more than I have had in 5 years. Thank you, Foundation Tameside.

If funding for supported housing for homeless people is reduced, how will this affect you, your friends or family members? (Please specify below)
A cut in funding would lead to many people being homeless. Many of these would be vulnerable adults with addictions, learning disabilities and mental health issues. As a member of this community, I feel the impact on Tameside would be enormous in terms of the suffering of those who don't have the support they need, and having people on the streets trying to cope with mental health issues and alcohol/drug addictions to feed. These people would be a risk to themselves and others, creating problems in public places and placing an extra strain on the services, Police, Ambulance etc. The cost overall would be far greater than any savings made.
All the hard work that I myself and Foundation have done will go back to square one.
All the work that Foundation have done with me will have been a waste of time, all the hope and confidence that I have been given will have been a waste. This would probably mean that I will lose contact with my children if I don't find suitable accommodation after the reduction in services.
Before Greystones I was in and out of hospital with depression and my mental health problems I also suffered from an alcohol addiction. this service has helped me address my alcohol problems by attending the AA meetings weekly, they have also helped me to get involved in my community by volunteering and helped me to register with outside agencies and get in to collage I have completed a computer course, math and English all to better my future chances of getting a job when I feel well enough. losing this service would mean me and a lot of my friends who rely on these services would become homeless
Before I accessed this service I was street homeless for over 2 years which resulted in me getting frost bite in my feet and I lost 5 of my toes and now have mobility problems. Due to me being on the streets I turned to alcohol and since being at Greystones I have addressed my alcohol problems and registered with a GP as I still suffer with pains in my feet when the weather turns cold. if these services closed I would be back on the streets which just the thought of that scares me I was victim to numerous assaults while trying to sleep on the streets and I would rather die than go back there
Crime goes up, people would stay in abusive relationship, mess my head, people would end up taking drugs and alcohol
Health will go worse. Possible offending behaviour
Housing and health
Housing and mental health
Housing, depression
I am 57 year old and have physical health problems if this service was not available then I would probably die because I have chest problems and would not be able to cope on the streets. I also suffer with my mental health and Greystones help me massively with this on a daily basis. Not only me but my friends here at Greystones would also become homeless as a lot don't have anyone else to turn to. Do you not think there are enough people who are homeless in Tameside

and you would just be adding to this figure never mind taking away a service that so many people rely on including the people that come in off the streets to use the IMPACT service
I am an employee of Tameside Housing Advice and I often suggest supported housing as an option for clients who have found themselves facing homelessness but have never held their own tenancy. My clients really benefit from the support provided and it sets them up for running a successful tenancy in the future.
I am currently street homeless and rely on Greystones IMACT service during the week for showers meals help with my benefits and some were warm to sit. If this service was not available I would not have had the help to sort out my benefits as I have had a major head injury which has left me with the mental age of an 8 yr. old in most areas and would not know where to turn. I would not have any money for food or somewhere to stay. I have had no help really from housing advice on my own until I became involved with Greystones.
I can't imagine what will happen if places like this are closed down. A lot of folks will not cope and just be left to fend for themselves which will be fatal. I need regular medical attention which is not possible without support
I could become street homeless like I have been previously People do anything to keep themselves safe so I could possibly reoffend or turn to drugs/ alcohol I have been suicidal before I never want to go back to feeling like that
I don't know where I would go if I didn't have the room here at Stamford Villa, I would probably be on the streets.
I had been in and out of hospital before Greystones, I have suffered with an alcohol problem for many years and with the help of Greystones I and now on track with my recovery. if this service was not available I would probably be in hospital or dead
I have brain damage caused by alcoholism and I would not survive without the daily help I get. I have to take many tablets for my condition and could not remember when and how many to take or whether I had already taken them. I would not be able to keep appointments and with my very poor physical condition I would not live long outside in winter. My family could not cope with me being at risk and probably would not know where I am.
I have had a chronic alcohol problem for many years and this has left me with physical and mental health problems. Before Greystones I was in a bad way and in hospital. if this service was not here I would probably be dead
I have just moved out, but without the help, my drinking would of increased and I would not have gained my own property
I have lived in so many supported places and Greystones have helped me so much, they helped me get into detox for my alcohol addiction and I have not had a drink for over 7 months I had tried rehab and detox in the past in other accommodation but never had the follow up support like I have at Greystones. I am now living in my own accommodation with support still from Greystones and other agencies that Greystones set up for me before I moved out. Greystones also helped me to better manage my finances by getting help for me though client finance as I have numerous mental health illnesses and struggle to manage my money. all this would not be possible if I did not have the support from this services
I have lived in supported housing before moving into Greystones since being at Greystones I have addressed my alcohol problem and mental health problems. I have seen so much good come out of this service whether it be getting involved in the community giving back or helping people to achieve their own goals in life I would really contemplate taking my own life
I have mobility problems and also struggle with a alcohol addiction if this place closed then I would be homeless and would rather kill myself than ever live on the streets again
I have worked in this field for 4 years and have seen many changes in the service. Further reduction in the funding of the service that will result in job cuts and or increased responsibilities under the current roles will result in staff being under more pressure and stress and have an impact on their mental health
I lived at Greystones in the main house for 1 year while I addressed my alcohol addiction and got help and support with my physical health I have a lot of health problems and have to take a lot of medication I have also lived on the streets before and do not think I would cope if I had to return there. Greystones has helped me address issues and I am now living in a less supported house run by Greystones and have support there if and when I need it

<p>I the funding was cut I would become homeless and have no were else to turn. My parents are elderly and then knowing that I am getting the support I need from Greystones takes a massive weight off their shoulders. Along with me there will be 42 homeless men just from the Greystones project alone which I do not understand why it makes sense to you to close services that play such a massive part in the Tameside area. I have bipolar and have been known to attempt suicide recently and in the past I am coping ok with the support of Greystones staff but if I was to be made homeless I have no clue what would happen to me I would probably end up dead</p>
<p>I will be at risk of redundancy which will impact on my family</p>
<p>I will be homeless and I will end up sofa surfing with family and friends</p>
<p>I will be homeless with nowhere to go and I will be back sofa surfing between different friends</p>
<p>I will be homeless. This time of year I would consider taking my own life. Greystones is a fantastic facility currently assisted by the local council. Prior to living here, I have exhausted all other options of help from friends and family and they would be afraid for me if I were to be street homeless.</p>
<p>I will be unable to provide vital accommodation for those that fall outside of the strict criteria of homelessness. This will result in more of our customers having to resort to living as street homeless. The absence of supported accommodation in order to move on into a tenancy of their own when a person is willing and able to engage to do so, takes away that small avenue of opportunity and the access to achieve this. It will not affect those that are NOT willing and able but greatly will those are choose to embrace the help as it will not be there. The effect on staff delivering at the front line of homelessness will also be greatly affected as they will not be able to assist customers that present in the way that we have previously, the options will be hugely reduced.</p>
<p>I will be without support for mental health, physical health and housing problems. I will be probably revert without support to the state that I existed in before Greystones.</p>
<p>I will end up living in a tent again and have no means of contacting my children or grandchildren</p>
<p>I will end up with nowhere to live, there will be less support due to short staff and temps</p>
<p>I will have nowhere to stay and the friends I have met through the service will also be on the streets. I feel safe now I am in supported accommodation and this would really affect me.</p>
<p>I work for a drugs and alcohol agency, so work with a particularly marginalised group in society. A reducing certainly in supported housing will make it just that more difficult to engage this group back into wider communities. I actively encourage clients to re-join so called normal society, and safe supported accommodation underpins this.</p>
<p>I work for the Homeless Prevention Service - this will have an impact on me and my colleagues. Supported Housing is an invaluable housing option used to prevent homelessness and to allow our customers to gain experience in maintaining a tenancy before moving onto settled accommodation. This is often a stipulation used by housing providers as a gateway for some customers to becoming their tenants. Without it, some people will never get the chance to obtain and maintain a tenancy.</p>
<p>I would be homeless and would have to rely on family to live</p>
<p>I would be homeless and would not have the support that I am getting currently, this would affect my family as well.</p>
<p>I would be homeless, I would turn back to drugs and alcohol. Crime would be rife because people would have to steel to support habits and survive. I would struggle continuing with outside services and medication and this would affect my mental health as I suffer from depression and anxiety</p>
<p>I would be looking more to my family for support and this would place a strain on them. I would almost certainly have no home and would be very vulnerable</p>
<p>I would be made homeless along with a lot of people here within the 3 houses and also IMPACT, which can have a lot of people using the service through the day. I have been a heroin addict for so many years and with the help from staff I am sticking to my drug programme, and my using has reduced a lot. I believe that Tameside would be overrun with homeless people, crime would go through the roof, hospitals over run and Tameside would not be a very pleasant place to live any more. I personally know that Tameside already has a massive problem with homeless people in and around Tameside as I used to be one of them so if supported accommodation was to close the amount of homeless people would be disgusting. I would probably try to get into the hospital</p>

for a bed in the warm or take my own life, I would rather die than go back to sleeping on the streets as it is such a dangerous place to be, and completely changed me as a person, a person I did not want to be.
I would be street homeless I would fall out of treatment I would offend I would be an added pressure to my family
I would be street homeless and end up in prison
I would become homeless if the service was to close, I also have a heroin addiction which with the help of my support worker I am now on a drug reduction programme which I have been trying to do on my own for over 15 yrs. If the support of Greystones was no longer available I would resort back to my own ways as this is all I have ever known and I would end up with the same group of people that I have been avoiding since moving in to Greystones. I also would try to take my own life as I have no family long term physical and mental health problems and struggle with self-harming every day. Tameside would be over-run with homeless people and the amount of money that the council would spend on extra staffing of services would be a waste of money when places like Greystones lower these expenses every year
I would end up back sleeping on the streets
I would have no security, no home, no hope
I would have nowhere to live and couldn't manage due to my mental health problems. My family and friends would not know that I was settled and safe. I would also lose contact with my family.
I would have nowhere to live and no means to find anywhere. I have diabetes and would be unable to control it with no home
I would have nowhere to live, would probably live somewhere with bad influences which could drive me back to drinking
I would have problems with my depression and anxieties. Even though I have been helped with my confidence, I still have a long way to go and need the security and support that is given me at present. The thought of being homeless scares me.
I would have to go back sofa surfing or be on the streets. I need support to help me cope with my disability. My friends and family would have to try to find room for me even though they are pushed themselves. The results of cuts would be terrible for me. The thought scares me.
I would not be able to have access to my daughter. My family would be constantly worried about my safety I would be at risk of re offending I would be at risk of disengaging with services I would be at risk of disengaging with college My life has really turned around since I have been with Foundation as they focus on my strengths not what has gone wrong.
I would put pressure on my family and friends to stay with them which would break down my relationships.
I wouldn't be able to communicate with my mother, I would miss appointments, and I wouldn't eat properly. I would also be homeless and my mental health would suffer. My mother would be distressed to think I was on the streets and not safe.
I'd have nowhere to live and it would have mental affects
If funding was reduced I fear I would turn to criminality to survive which is not what I want.
If funding were cut, people like me would struggle to find somewhere to live on their own. At 67 I would not survive without a home in winter. I have managed to address my drinking, but know that without the help I get that would soon change. On the street it would be much harder not to drink.
If Greystones was no more I would be homeless and on my own with no help, my parents are elderly and I have had no help really from other agencies in the past
If it is reduced, it would mean that I would not get the help I need. Something would have to go, whether its staff or food or rooms. I make good use of what is provided by the council, because I am grateful that it is there. To lose it would be a very bad thing for me, as I am just beginning to get my life together.
If the budget is cut I would be living hand to mouth and would go back to stealing and drinking. As someone who has been homeless before I say that life is not worth living when you have no home. The local area would suffer because there will be lots of people thieving and breaking in places to sleep.

If the funding is cut for supported housing this would leave 42 males without accommodation within the Ashton area, this is not including the homeless that come to use the IMPACT service on a daily basis. This figure is just for the people that live at Greystones, 213 and Cote Royd. This would then create an increase in homeless people in and around the Tameside area, a lot of these people suffer from mental health, drugs, alcohol or both addictions which leaves these people open to vulnerable situations. I believe that crime rates would increase due to these people not having the support and help when dealing with benefits and or referrals. I believe that there would be an increase in public disorders due to these people being homeless, which would in turn increase the amount of policing, Hospital admissions, Housing associations and the council in general in and around the Tameside area.

If the funding was cut I would be left homeless and only have my mum to turn to but she is ill of health and lives in assisted living so could not live with her. I have a heroin addiction and since being at Greystones I have now started and am sticking to my drug programme. Greystones has allowed me to stay away from people who are a bad influence and have kept me safe. If I did not have the option of this service I would more than likely resort to crime to survive and I have in the past tried to kill myself when I was street homeless in the past. Greystones have got me involved in other agencies such as CLI you give me opportunities to get involved in outside groups

If the funding was reduce I would be homeless, I also have no family in this area as I am from Ireland and cannot return there so would have no one to turn to for help. I also suffer with a drug addiction which Greystones has been helping me to address, and I know that if this support stopped I would return back to my old habit's which more than likely would result in me going back to prison. I have been institutionalised for most of my life and have struggled to settle back into society, Greystones have been helping me to re gain life skills by giving me a fresh start and an opportunity to change my life. If Greystones was not around I would probably take my own life as I have tried this in the past when I was sleeping rough.

If there are cuts this could mean that I lose the flat that I have and I won't get the support I need to get my own independent flat.

If this service was no longer I would become Homeless and not just me but everyone else that lives here, I do not have any family that I can rely on for help. I struggle with my physical health daily and at the moment. I have had problems with alcohol and with the help of staff at Greystones I attend the AA meeting mon and fri which helps me a lot. I do not understand why you think it would be beneficial to close services that provide so much help to others and help the council by keeping crime rates down and public disorders to a minimum. The people here do not offend and thrive off the support of the staff. If these services closed the increase in hospital admissions and street police would increase.

If this was reduced I would have nowhere to live and would end up homeless. I get help and support where I live at the moment and without this I feel I would end up back on the streets and my drinking and drug taking would get worse. I have had great support from Greystones and would feel lost without them.

If you cut funding I may find myself on the street due to mental health issues. I take a lot of medication which I would not be safe with. As a consequence, I might well turn back to alcohol that I have been free from for many years. I would lose contact with my psychiatric team which would be a disaster.

It could render me homeless, which would affect my family and friends because they may have to sacrifice their own situation to help me.

It goes right to the core of the community Without supported housing I'm not going to my doctors so not taking my antidepressant and I'm back to being suicidal, I'm offending to fund my drugs habit, I'm a worry to my family. In supported housing I'm have a sense of worth and belonging -I can wash my clothes so my self-esteem goes up, I have facilities to wash and cook, I work with services and I have for once in my life a good support network. I am actually moving on in a planned positive way TODAY and that is all down to supported housing and ME

It will devastate me as I now have a safe, nice place to live. If the funding was reduced I would be worried that I would end up homeless and on the streets of Ashton as I have nowhere else to go. It would affect my friends as well as I would not be able to live near them and I may end up with no friends. I think I would start drinking heavily again, like I used to do. It would completely devastate my life that I have today.

It will make me feel sad, I'm not sure what I will do if I lose my home that I currently live, my family will be sad and worried.
It will reduce much needed support that I receive. The service gives my family the much need reassurance of knowing that I receive all the help and support, that I have great fully needed through foundation.
It will severely impact on my family, as they would try to support me financially and could never manage that. They would also have to support me day by day with my failing memory
It would affect me because I would be homeless and my family would worry. I wouldn't have been able to access my benefits without the help.
It would affect me massively as I would probably be homeless and on the streets of Tameside and start drinking heavily every day like I used to. I would get myself arrested to stay out of the bad weather.
It would demoralise me, I wouldn't be able to afford food to fulfil my needs, and I would be homeless. It would be very hard and a burden on my mum who would feel she would have to tackle me in, which she wouldn't be able to manage.
It would have a domino effect on everything
It would probably make me homeless which means I would start drinking again and taking drugs. I would probably start committing crime again to fund my drinking and drugs. I would start braking into cars and houses and would be sleeping rough in the Tameside area. I think that the progress I have made in supported housing would all go back to square one.
Its helping me find my feet and got me from feeling depressed
job cuts
Job loss to myself
Losing funding for supported housing will drastically reduce my ability to offer a chance for socially excluded customers to rebuild their lives and have a realistic opportunity to gain accommodation and resettle positively into their communities.
lots and lots of homeless the impact will be very bad on all Tameside residents
May be loss of job also more people having to sleep on street
My family and friends would be very worried about me, not knowing whether I have a roof above my head. If there wasn't a place like Greystones, my depression would spiral out of control and I would have no support.
My family will be in turmoil with worry, my mother would lose sleep not knowing where I am. My mental health would suffer and increase my anxieties to unmanageable levels. It may also cause me to self-harm once again.
My friends and family would be very concerned about my welfare. It would be very unlikely that I would gain a tenancy or manage to maintain it without support. I would find it very difficult to manage financially and my problems with memory would put me in a very vulnerable position. I am afraid that I wouldn't be able to stay abstinent and my recovery would suffer as a result of losing my support.
My mental health would get worse and be a burden on the health system
My mother is already ill and worrying about me would put another strain on her. My family sometimes fall out over my taking drugs and I'm afraid I might start using again without the security and support
My post could be at risk of redundancy. This would impact on myself and my family in terms of economic security.
Myself and my friends will be on the streets. I have mental health issues and this will really affect me
Often people with the most Complex Needs end up rough sleeping and on the margins of society. This in turn can cause untold harm not only to the person but the community in general. If we are trying to build strong communities in Tameside we need to help people get back into the community and play their part. The money that can be saved by housing someone when they are rough sleeping and have issues, far outweighs the money that would be spent on crime, health etc. as Tameside is faced with more cuts it seems sensible to fund preventative services rather than crisis services which cost far more. It affects my family because they use those same services and because these are people in their own community.
possible redundancy

Put pressure on me mentally, which will have a knock on effect for my friends and family.
Street Homeless No Support Risk of offending would increase Disengage with services (Lifeline)
The impact this would have on me personally is that I feel I it would have a really big effect on my life as at the moment I feel like I have a secure, warm and comfortable place to live, and this may be taken away from me if the funding was not available. I do not know where I would go and where I would live. I have previously worked in such places where vulnerable people need help and support and I feel a lot of my friends will also be affected by this in a bad way.
The impact will be felt by the customers that we advise and assist at THA as well as a likely increase in street homeless in Tameside.
The service charges will increase and staff cuts will be made, thus meaning less support for residents
There would be a good possibility that I would relapse and go back to drinking. My family would be very concerned about my welfare and safety
This will affect me because I have managed to stay out of trouble since I have had a decent place to live. I have stayed away from bad influences thanks to the advice and guidance I get here. Without this, I'm sure I would go off the rails again. This would cause my family a lot of upset and stress.
This will affect me in a really big way as I would have nowhere to stay and the help and support I get now would all stop. My whole lifestyle would change for the worse. I feel as though I now have a secure and safe place to live which would be taken away from me if the funding was reduced. I do not know where I would be able to go.
This will have a dramatic effect on me personally as an employee and the health and safety issues that could be compromised at Greystones. It could also result in more homelessness in Tameside with more member of the community being street homeless. These people would possibly have more complex needs and be a greater risk to society.
This will impact on my family because I have found somewhere where I have the support to change my life, and to lose this would place a great deal of worry, not to mention a burden on them.
This would affect me as I could lose my home and end up homeless again
Unable to prevent single people from sleeping on the streets which will have a detrimental effect on their health, mental health, housing, work opportunities
Whilst at Greystones, I have things in place to keep my anxieties and mental health under control. Any funding removed could jeopardise these and leave me vulnerable and potentially homeless.
Will reduce the services available to single homeless people who are not eligible for assistance under homelessness legislation. This will lead to single people sleeping rough
Without this service I would be on the streets without anyone else to turn to I have only just find some were that accepts me and is willing to give me support which I need desperately at the moment
would make me homeless so it would be harder to find work so I would commit crime to get sent back to jail so I would be fed and have somewhere to live

Do you have any other comments you wish to make about the future of supported housing for homeless people in Tameside? (Please specify below)
A civilized society should look after its vulnerable
A lot of these people do not know where to turn for help and so supported accommodation is vital to these people. A lot homeless people suffer from learning disabilities and or mental health problems were would these people turn is supported accommodation was no longer available for them?, as a lot of them slip through the net. I believe that a lot of the people would result to crime to fund their addictions or just for basic survival which would increase court and prison admissions which is a waste of a lot of money.
All the support that foundation have given their customers over the years will have been a waste of time, the customers will end up where they started on the street and committing crime.
All the support that I have had, and the hope that I could move may not happen if Foundation are reduced.

<p>As homelessness Prevention Officer I see daily the effect being homeless has on people. For a lot of people I see, supported housing is their only option for accommodation and give them initial support to get back on their feet. Many of the single homeless people I see have problems with drugs, alcohol and offending and supported housing has had a positive impact on their lives and helped them into a tenancy that they are able to maintain and break the cycle of offending and homelessness. If supported housing is cut further I am concerned that ASB etc. will increase and a rise in street homelessness in Tameside</p>
<p>As a Homelessness Prevention Officer we have strongly relied on supported housing accommodation to accommodate single people who do not meet homelessness legislation. This has reduced the number of single people sleeping rough and also given them the skills to ensure they maintain their own housing. A homeless person faces obstacles in regard to employment and also their lack of housing has a huge impact on their mental health and overall wellbeing. Supported housing accommodation has had a significant part in assisting single homeless people secure housing and this has also impacted on their employment prospects, health, misuse of alcohol/drugs and criminality.</p>
<p>as a resident of Tameside I do not want to see homeless on my streets and having problems in my town centres</p>
<p>Crime would go up, people would take drugs to cope. There could be more pregnancy</p>
<p>Cuts to these services will leave some of Tameside's most vulnerable people without the specialised support they need to get back on their feet.</p>
<p>Cutting accommodation based services would greatly reduce the assistance offered to the vulnerable, often former care leavers or individuals with additional needs who are struggling to cope with their day to day lives. Supported accommodation is a means of assisting the vulnerable to become tenancy ready so they are able to sustain any future housing.</p>
<p>Don't cut the funding. This service is needed in Tameside.</p>
<p>Don't end the Foundation service -it helps ALOT!</p>
<p>Foundation have help me in many ways, hopefully I will move into my own flat. If there are cuts then Foundation will not be able to help other people, like me.</p>
<p>Foundation provide Supported Housing in Tameside and we have been assessed as a level A service. Our commitment to multi agency working has positively impacted on reducing crime, reducing presentations at A&E and led to sustained independent living. Such is our housing expertise we are now subcontractors in the new Drug & Alcohol Service and cuts to our service may undermine this new contract. Foundation take an asset based approach to support planning whilst ensuring effective risk management. Also alongside pilots such as the one set up with Job Centre Plus we support our customers wherever possible to enter into volunteering or paid work as part of their journey. We feel strongly that this assists customers with their reintegration into the community and breaks the previous revolving door of homelessness. It is very clear listening to our customers that cuts to supported housing could have potentially devastating consequences to individuals, families and the wider community-potentially an increase in street homelessness, increase in crime, increase in customers accessing medical attention, increase in ASB etc. Cuts to services would result in staff with an expertise in this area potentially being made redundant.</p>
<p>Foundation Tameside and the Staff have done more for me than anyone has in a long time.</p>
<p>Funding for supported housing must not be cut. People like me have contributed to a system which is supposed to help us if we need it. How is it right for it then to be taken away? As much money as is needed should be spent on housing vulnerable people.</p>
<p>Government policy seems to be hitting the already vulnerable. Government cuts in services, but still having to pay full price for those services.</p>
<p>Greystones have helped me so much and don't deserve to have their funding cut. If that were to happen, there would be many people like me on the streets</p>
<p>I am very concerned about the already vastly underfunded and lack of supported housing for homeless people in Tameside. Homeless people get very little support and the organisations that are helping have already had their funds cut to a point that they are really struggling. I can't see how cutting the budget like this will help. This will cause more suffering and may be proven to be a more expensive route to take in the long run.</p>
<p>I believe it's a necessity at the moment, not only for myself but for many others that I know that have used this service</p>

I can't imagine what will happen if spending on supported accommodation is reduced. The people that need the service will be left on their own. They will have been abandoned by the people they look to help them. It is so very important that this service is not cut, if anything funding should be increased. There is not enough spaces as it is.
I do not understand how the council can justify cuts to services when the demand is ever increasing. What will happen to these people?
I don't believe these cuts should happen. I would lose any support I have, I could end up living on the streets again,
I don't understand why you would want to cut back on a service that does so much good for the residents, homeless people and the community
I don't want the funding to be cut as I think this will affect Tameside in a bad way. A lot of vulnerable people will be affected and people will be homeless. This will mean that crime will increase and the police and hospitals and housing will all be affected.
I feel the places in supported housing is vital for the well-being of every community, for people to have the support they need. This support enhances everyone's life because it keeps certain issues under control and prevents them from impacting on the community in general. I also believe that a community can be judged by the way it takes care of the vulnerable. I certainly would pay more tax to live in a society that has a social conscience.
I feel there is a need for supported housing provision in Tameside. Without safe affordable accommodation and support many of the most vulnerable people in our community could experience further trauma. Supported Housing provision has shown to be successful in reducing crime, increasing engagement with substance mis-use services and in reducing A&E presentations. This has a positive financial impact on costs to the local authority. Foundation is a QAF level A service which provides a wealth of experience and positive outcomes for customers, a reduction in this service will reduce the number of people who can benefit from this support.
I feel there is not enough supported places for people like myself, and other addicts. I can't say enough how necessary places like this are, to help people become better members of the community.
I have never had anyone give me any opportunities to try and get my life back, due to my past no one has ever given me the time of day staff at Greystones have not judged me and welcomed me with open arms. I personally know that the crime rate would increase and the amount of homeless people in Tameside would not be acceptable.
I hope Greystones gets the support from Tameside council in the future
I hope that Tameside comes to the right decision and the cuts that are going to come into effect are not going to have an overall negative and reduced service and support, that I receive through foundation. Because housing support is an invaluable service that is needed in Tameside.
I hope that the funding doesn't get cut as I think this is a really important service that Tameside cannot afford to lose. The impact on the area and the police, hospitals and housing would be greatly increased. There would be more homeless people on the streets and crime I feel would increase. I think the future for Tameside with no supported housing is very poor.
I need this service. and there is no were that helps people of my age
I struggle to believe that you would think of taking away services that save Tameside so much money in the long run
I think for supported housing to have a better future it should have staff who have a bit more knowledge about the job
I think if the funding was cut this would affect Tameside and other communities as service users of supported accommodation would be on the streets drinking, stealing, fighting and breaking into cars and houses. I think supported accommodation provides a lot of help and does a lot of good for people.
I think it is disgusting that you would even think about closing this service I have seen so many people succeed with the help of places like Greystone's
I think it is great that there are places like this for the homeless to get them off the streets
I think it is so important that housing for homeless people is provided, otherwise we will be on the street. With mental health and a heart condition I could die.
I think it would be a crime if you cut the funding, as it has taken me years to get where I am, after living on the street for years. All the progress I have made in the recent past will all be lost.

I think more money should go into these services not taken away Tameside would have big problems if places like this closed so many homeless people already
I think places like Greystones are extremely important. If there were not supported housing, people would be more likely to be homeless, as many of them are unable to live alone.
I think supported housing is greatly needed, and at the moment there still isn't enough. There are many people, including myself who would not survive being on the streets and people would die, especially in winter.
I think supported housing is vital, as there are many people who need it. It shouldn't be cut, if anything, spending needs to be increased.
I think that it is vital that vulnerable and sometimes at risk people especially young people in Tameside are able to access supported accommodation services. This is because many young people are faced with becoming homeless, have never lived alone and have no or limited skills in managing a sole tenancy. These accommodations offer valuable direct daily support to enable people to build their confidence/address their current support needs and improve personal skills needed to then resettle into the wider communities and given the opportunity to sustain positive tenancies. For many people this transition allows them to further improve their chances of better prospects with education, health, employment and family life. Without these supported accommodations to offer interim support when most needed these people would face homelessness and hardship with risk of impacting on their social and economic well-being. The government really does need to invest into early prevention initiatives such as funding supported accommodations so that people do not become further isolated and then can lead chaotic lifestyles which will impact/cost more on public services to intervene.
I think that supported housing in Tameside is needed, and to reduce the funding and reduce the availability of the service would have a really bad knock on effect on the area and the community. There would be more homeless people, which would lead to more crime and possibly violence.
I think the future for Tameside if supported housing for homeless people is cut would be detrimental. It is a service that is needed in this area and if this is reduced it would only have negative effects for the community. Where would all the people who live in supported accommodation now go to?
I think things have improved over the past couple of years and they are just getting it right and now they are at risk
I understand the financial pressures but it is likely to cause more costly problems for the system in the future
I want supported housing to continue and more people to be offered the opportunities I have grabbed and am taking Foundation are doing a good job don't let services like this end
I will be unable to provide vital accommodation for those that fall outside of the strict criteria of homelessness. This will result in more of our customers having to resort to living as street homeless. The absence of supported accommodation in order to move on into a tenancy of their own when a person is willing and able to engage to do so, takes away that small avenue of opportunity and the access to achieve this. It will not affect those that are NOT willing and able but greatly will those are choose to embrace the help as it will not be there. The effect on staff delivering at the front line of homelessness will also be greatly affected as they will not be able to assist customers that present in the way that we have previously, the options will be hugely reduced.
I worry that more people could become homeless, suffer physical and mental problems and have no means of help and support.
If supported housing was reduced I think this would have a massive effect on Tameside. A lot of my friends live in this sort of accommodation and I cannot believe that this help and support may not be there in the future. I think it would mean that a lot of people like myself who rely on these places would end up homeless with nowhere to go. I cannot understand why Tameside would want to stop or reduce this important and needed service.
If there was not enough funding, there would be nowhere for homeless people to go.
If these services closed I ask you where would you house everyone? there is already a massive homeless issue in Tameside that I see every day as Greystones have the IMPACT service for homeless to come in off the streets and get help and support finding accommodation this whole idea just baffles me

If these services closed people would have no where to go for help as other agencies are already over run and have waiting lists which would increase. Homeless people off the streets would have no where to go.
If this support is cut, some of the most vulnerable people in our community will be left with no other options. Those with children may well have them removed by the local authority therefore increasing the welfare bill in that area. Desperate people sometimes act in desperation which could impact on crime locally. Mental health services which are already stretched to capacity will struggle with more complex cases. In my opinion the suicide rate will soar as people struggle to cope with the situation they find themselves in. Tameside may well become known as an area of high deprivation which would reflect badly on the council having new office buildings currently being built. Those in recovery from addiction problems need as an integral part of their recovery a stable home; if the council wishes to be seen to be doing their part to support the national drug strategy which is recovery focussed, they will think very carefully and listen to people's opinions before cutting this vital service. Nobody wants to walk around the borough and see people sleeping rough, or the mentally ill, the disadvantaged and those fleeing violence left without help and support and somewhere safe to go while they try to rebuild their lives.
In view of the current proposals, I would be extremely concerned about the future for myself and others in a similar situation.
It helped me kick-start my life which would not have happened but for supported accommodation. I believe it is very important for people like myself, and also for the community
It helps people to get housed when they found it difficult to do it by themselves.
It is an essential service for the people of Tameside
It is an essential service. I work at the heart of homelessness in Tameside so I fully understand how valuable this service is. I have extremely close links with supported housing and work closely with them to move customers on to general needs tenancies.
It is an important service in times of austerity. We as a society must take a shared responsibility for those that struggle to function for varying and complex reasons. It is short-sighted and reactionary to cut services to those that feel disempowered and increasingly cast aside in the current climate.
It is imperative for the welfare and safety of not just homeless people but the wider community to continue with supported housing. Without supported housing there will be a domino effect which will impact negatively on the wider community. Taking away supported housing would take away the education to the general public.
It is imperative that these services are maintained and sustained
It is of utmost importance for my future that supported housing continues to be funded.
It would be a shame to lose the supported accommodation places, there should be more.
Keep funding Foundation -they make a real difference
loss of service, will affect lots of homeless people in the borough
more people will be homeless and on the streets if they have no family and friends
My concern is written from an advice perspective. If accommodation based services reduce, there is an increased likelihood that there will be more people sofa surfing. My experience is that people who sofa surf often have problems with their benefits as they have no fixed abode. This can de-stabilise the support from friends putting them up and can also de-stabilise their benefit situation.
Nobody should be homeless in this day and age. Usually homelessness happens to people with problems either substance misuse or mental health problems and just housing them as general needs housing does not address these issues and so the revolving door saga starts, which is no good for the person and certainly no good financially.
people like me and many in Tameside need this service to continue
people need these services
People would be stuck for somewhere to go. more crime, living on streets, people turn to drink and drugs
People would start going out robbing cause can't claim benefits, been chucked on street, start going to do drugs and alcohol, burglary of houses, sheds to find items to sell and places to sleep.
Please do not make any cuts to Foundation-they listen, are non-judgemental and better than the others

<p>Q3 - not a great question and/or options for responses. This does affect Emmaus Mossley (i.e. a linked provision) but this survey is obviously directed towards individuals rather than groups, charities, etc.</p>
<p>Supported accommodation is so important for people like me who would not cope without support. It would be fatal for me to be homeless with my ill health and memory so bad I wouldn't be able to remember appointments or find my way around.</p>
<p>Supported housing is a vital tool for homelessness prevention for women and men in The Tameside area</p>
<p>Supported Housing is an essential tool for people of Tameside, alleviating homelessness whilst offering opportunities for customers to rebuild often troubled lives</p>
<p>Supported housing is imperative for my well- being and it would be a disaster for funding to be cut</p>
<p>Supported housing is needed very much by people who are not able to live on their own. What will happen to them when there is nowhere for them to go.</p>
<p>Supported housing is so very important that funding should never be cut. The future for supported housing is very bleak if the money gets cut, because there are not enough rooms already. Many of the people who use this service would be out in the community with their problems, so the local society would have to put up with all the trouble.</p>
<p>Supported housing offers customers who aren't tenancy ready or customers that wouldn't cope in a tenancy without initial life skills, without it there would be many more people specifically young adults becoming homeless.</p>
<p>Supported housing provide a key preventative service for many vulnerable people in the borough which then benefits the work other agencies are doing with that person. Supported housing can help at times when people are in a crisis situation or are in danger of becoming so and thereby save the public purse from having to making costlier interventions if the person has to go into custody or hospital.</p>
<p>that it needs not to cut as more people will be on the streets and homeless and vulnerable</p>
<p>There should be more supported housing, because there are many more people like me</p>
<p>There would be nowhere for people with difficulties to turn to, and they would be left to fend for themselves</p>
<p>These places need to continue the support they provide because since I lived at Greystones I have not had any alcohol for over 5 months now, I have been doing some volunteering, I am currently doing my math and English to better my future and help me get a job all this is with the help of Greystones</p>
<p>these service need to continue because they help so many people like me who have never had the opportunity from other agencies or help</p>
<p>These services are needed and are a big part of what keeps people like me safe and gives us opportunities that others have not given us before. it makes no sense to me why you would cut the funding and put people like us in dangerous situations on the streets we are after all human beings and deserve to be treated like everyone else not judged because a few of us lost our way in life. If you take away these services then you are taking away our opportunity to build our lives again for the better.</p>
<p>These services are needed as there are not enough as it is.</p>
<p>these services need to be in place because if they are not this would increase crime in the Tameside area also hospital would be over-crowded and police forces over worked</p>
<p>These services need to continue as there are no other places like it in Tameside, Greystones is about helping people to overcome challenges in their lives to be able to start a fresh life out in the community. I have seen so many people achieve so much through the help of staff at Greystones</p>
<p>They should support people as much as they can, otherwise your just going to have people on the street with nowhere to go.</p>
<p>This service is extremely valuable for vulnerable clients in our community. Cuts in this area would have a dramatic effect on the most vulnerable people in our society. Services are already stretched and cases of street homelessness would increase. Foundation particularly meet the needs of some of the most complex individuals - cuts would have a big impact on these people.</p>
<p>this service needs to continue too many of my friends and myself would become homeless and revert back to our old ways to survive</p>

This service helps people like me become a member of society again and help us to break down barriers that have prevented us from moving on and coping managing our own accommodation.
Try to take the money from other places where it is not needed as much
Watching current news coverage, especially with our Prime Minister (David Cameron) telling other MP's about the current mental health sufferers and is keen to give as much support and funding as possible. I feel it's a shame
We deserve the right to be housed and treated as equals
We have to have supported places for people to get their life back together again. If we don't have a chance to improve ourselves, the community will get worse and local people would be affected by the homeless and crime.
we need help
we need it as other people will be homeless and they may not have anyone or anywhere to go
We need the supported accommodation beds, if these are cut it will have a big impact on homelessness in the borough
We need to continue to fund supported living as much as possible. It is a lifeline for many and has indeed saved lives. Taking away the support for the most vulnerable will have a very detrimental effect on Tameside and I'm sure that the mortality rate will rise as a result of these cuts to funding. It is abhorrent that their funding is even being considered to be cut. Many people are now being made homeless due to no fault of their own, and many have either mental health issues or substance issues. Please would you consider not to cut from this vital area as I feel it will only cost you more in the long run.
Why would the council cut the money to house men in trouble? Where are they going to get homes from. Supported housing should be increased not cut. How will the public feel with all the homeless people on their doorstep
Without Foundation I would be on my I like how Foundation work, mutual respect from all staff. Foundation staff listen to my concerns.
Without Greystones as a waypoint there is no support for males over 40 with mental health, alcohol and drug abuse problems. If it closes there will be a massive increase in visible homelessness within Tameside and that in itself is unacceptable.
Without homeless accommodation, there will be more and more people living on the streets, crime will increase, also people using substances will increase
Without the service we have now, the residents in Greystones won't have what they need to improve themselves. Things will just get worse for them and everyone else involved. I can't think of a worse thing to cut apart from children's services.
Without this service Tameside is going to be a horrible place to live as there would be so many homeless people roaming the streets.

Tenancy Support Survey

From the list below, please indicate the ways in which the service has helped you? (Please tick all that apply) It helped me in other ways (please specify below)
Both services assist greatly with the statutory and non-statutory homeless customers that we engage with at Housing advice. These services have worked jointly with us to either prevent homelessness or to assist into housing. Without these services there will be an increase of customers whose tenancy could have been salvaged with the correct Intervention.
I can't emphasise how crucial having a housing support worker service is. Particularly the disability housing support workers. As the Housing Occupational Therapist, who works very closely with them, they provide essential support with completing the on line application forms , ensuring service users are prepared for rehousing and rent arrears are being addressed. Working alongside the applicants from start to finish of the rehousing process. Identifying applicant's disability needs to actioning referrals to me to ensure that short and long term physical/mental health needs are met. Co-ordinating complex moves. Our service users are often housebound, elderly and physically restricted as to what they can do for themselves. Without the housing support service all the above would not be possible.
I have not received support directly but it has helped my customers with all of the above. Sometimes our nominations to housing providers are subject to customers receiving floating

support, which means it is an essential service.
It has helped me assist people who access the service I work for. I have referred into tenancy support services, they have helped people retain their tenancies or supported people to cope with move into a tenancy. I feel both disability support and Adullam floating support have been instrumental in homelessness prevention, this has in turn been a financial gain to TMBC by reducing the cost of dealing with a homelessness application including temporary accommodation costs etc.
It helped me to meet new friends, furnish my flat, helped me with my personal hygiene and improved my confidence
They have given me the start I needed to live my life crime free. Thank you for all your help
To get out of the house and have a purpose
We are refugees from Afghanistan and can't speak English. We did not know anything when we came to England
If funding for tenancy support services is reduced, how will this affect you, your friends or family members? (Please specify below)
As I have a limited amount of knowledge of the housing system this would contribute to making my situation around rehousing much more difficult
Both services assist greatly with the statutory and non-statutory homeless customers that we engage with at Housing advice. These services have worked jointly with us to either prevent homelessness or to assist into housing. Without these services there will be an increase of customers whose tenancy could have been salvaged with the correct Intervention. There will be a large gap in services that can work with us to alleviate the strain of our own service and the customer themselves.
I have been homeless before and there is a possibility it could happen again and me and my baby will have nowhere to live
I will be at risk of unemployment which will have an effect on not only myself but also my family. We have already suffered severe cuts in our service and to cut this service even more would have a detrimental effect on all the service users we support to prevent homelessness.
I will go back on the street, lose my kids, not be able to find work, start using again
I will not have the support to keep me in a safe home. This would have a knock on effect for my family because they will worry about my well being
I will not know what to do or how to find the help I need. I could end up on the street again
I would have no help with housing
I would have not help or support and would also put strain on my family not knowing where I am
I would not be able to afford to live
I would not get the help and support I need
If Adullam wasn't here I would of struggled to find accommodation and manage my money so I would of ended up homeless
If I didn't have any support I would not know where to start, as I have been in these situations before and didn't know what to do
If I hadn't received services I would have ended it! My children would be without a mum. Had nowhere to live and be homeless
It is hard enough as it is, cutting funding will make things impossible forcing people into a life they don't want to live but have to make ends meet
It will affect me as a professional working for the Homelessness Prevention Service, and my colleagues. We rely on this service as a negotiation tool for moving people into independent tenancies - some housing providers will not accept tenants without it. It empowers and enables a lot of our customers to gain invaluable experience, knowledge and skills to obtain and maintain tenancies. Losing some or all of this service would have a negative impact on homelessness in Tameside.
maybe without support people would end their own life and people would have nowhere to turn to
no one to help
Now I have received support through the service I am volunteering with the service to give something back to the community - I would no longer be able to do this
People would be homeless. A higher rate of people getting evicted

See answer to question 5. There is no other service which has the level of understanding of housing/health/social care needs, knowledge about rehousing/ tenancy issues and the skills to facilitate service users to improve their quality of lives.
Seriously bad because I'm a single parent and need support
Together with funding cuts to Supported Housing reducing funding to tenancy support will dramatically affect homelessness by increasing the possibility of tenants with limited skills losing accommodation
We would not have been able to secure obtain accommodation claim the correct benefits find schooling without Floating Support guiding us in the right direction to other services

Do you have any other comments you wish to make about the future of tenancy support services in Tameside? (Please specify below)

As previous I am extremely concerned as to where all these vulnerable people will go for support regarding their housing issues which often result in eviction. Prevention work is essential during these very difficult times but I feel people will be reaching crisis point and have no services to go to.
Crime rate would go sky high and prisons would have a problem
From an advice perspective my service both refers to floating support services and receives referrals from. If there are less people who will be supported to remain in their homes, I am concerned there will be an increase in homelessness. This may increase demand on my service which is also experiencing a cut in its budget
I am doing really well because of Adullam. My worker has been brilliant I am volunteering and enjoying it
I feel that it is very important to have these services to help people like me that have just been released from prison
I feel that the support offered by Adullam is vital for the Tameside community. I have realized this when I have found myself almost at a dead end with my situation. Adullam have provided me with specific information and guidance concerning my very difficult situation. I strongly feel that this service should continue
I feel this is a very important service because people will have no support when they face homelessness. I can't say how important this service is to me because the help I've been given from Adullam turned by life around and how can I put this into words? I am now starting my Matt 25 course as well as looking to volunteer. This way I can give back some support that Adullam gave me.
I feel very depressed that the council are complying with these uncalled for cuts to vital services. Maybe Tame side Council should get their leader to write to Cameron and ask if he will offer him the same access to advice that he offered to the Council Leader of his constituency in Oxford.
I have had great help
I just hope it will continue in the future
I represent the Cheshire & Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Company (CGM CRC). We supervise offenders in the community who pose a low or medium risk. Many of our service users access both the Floating Support Services and the Accommodation Based Services. We see this service as a critical one in the prevention of individuals needs escalating beyond the current level, which whilst already severe, does not require an acute service. We predict with confidence that the cuts to these services will have a direct impact on other acute public services. Specifically in criminal justice, we know that accommodation is the single most important factor in preventing someone reoffending and going on to live a pro-social life. Without access to accommodation, or services that assists individuals to maintain accommodation, they will resort to further criminal activities to support their complex and multiple needs. Criminal activities and non-compliance invariably lead to further prosecution or indeed recall to prison.
I think that Adullam is a great help for the community and has been for me, this service directly helps to keep people away from committing crime by helping people to find homes which makes for a stable and settled life
If they had more funding more people can be helped
It is an important service we need to keep

It should definitely stay it is a good service they was there for me when nobody else was. If I had a hat I would take it off to them.
People like us would be homeless and very vulnerable in this country
Please, please, please, please do not eliminate this service. Without it the Tameside housing register cannot function. Staff are already stretched and the quality of service will significantly reduce. There will be a knock on effect with outcome of nominations if the support is not there.
Services need to stay, 1 billion percent
Support services are important for vulnerable customers
Tenancy support is an essential next step for customers leaving supported accommodation to build on the skills they have learned and maximise the sustainability of any settled accommodation-reducing the " revolving door of homelessness"
Tenancy support, in an era of Universal Credit, 'spare-room subsidy' and Work Programme Initiatives is surely more important than ever before. We cannot remove the support provided to vulnerable people in a time where the vast majority are unsure of process, support and reassurance. We have to show some humanity and find a way to continue to support those that are most vulnerable in our society.
The reduction of these services will affect the customers I deal with on a day to day basis, the most vulnerable who are at threat of homelessness.
These are extremely important services as they are helping people. If I had not received support from this service I would have most likely become homeless as I was on the verge of being evicted from my previous address
This service is essential for a lot of people who may not get housed without it
This service is incredibly valuable, and valued by our service and our customers. It is a necessary service and we could not be without it.
Will have no one to help. I would lose my home if my Adullam worker was not here to help

Sheltered Housing Survey

Do you have any comments you wish to make about the proposal to end the funding currently paid to Registered Housing providers which helps to pay for the alarm service for tenants in receipt of Housing Benefit? (Please state in the box below)
Alarm service is paid for by myself
All the tenants have the alarm service- this includes those who are self-funders. Therefore it will be an additional cost to all. As the system is integral to the scheme, tenants will not be able to 'opt out' and therefore will have no choice but to pay for the service. So many service shaves been eroded for the elderly that it is a shame that another one is pending. However, I do appreciate that cuts have to be made but I would hope that there will be no more for the elderly.
Annoyed funding maybe lost.
Any increase would be too expensive therefore not happy if funding ended.
Are you discriminating against me? Do you not want me to use this pathetic remote alarm.
As I only have pension credits it would be hard to find the extra money to pay for the alarm
As long as it is not too much
AS long as they don't keep putting the price up
As we no longer have a full time scheme manager I consider the alarm system essential and I will gladly pay for it
At this stage we would propose to deal with funding cut by passing on the cost of the alarm service to our tenants as a service charge which would not be eligible for housing benefit. We will review and address any concerns raised by tenants as part of the consultation process.
Completed with daughter,.... Would like unit switched off, not because of charge but because of mum's illness. Increasingly confused & unit can cause anxiety and she may not even know what the unit is for.
Currently pay full rent & SP charge so there would be no change. May have to consider not paying for the service in the future if the cost increased too much.
Disgusting
Do not agree
Do not use it but will pay

Feels frustrated that has to pay for a service that is needed after working all her life but will pay it
From what I've seen at ... a lot of the benefits given to the claimants goes on beer and cigarettes
Full HB, tenant said that the warden call is a good thing to have and is a life line, so if had to pay she would pay, tenant hasn't used unit yet
Happy to pay small amount.
Happy to subscribe for this service
I am 68 years old and claim benefits I like the pull cord alarm system and value it being available. Many of my neighbours remove or tie the cord out of reach. They are stupid in my book.
I am a full paying tenant but if I had to pay more I would do. This is a much needed service
I am absolutely appalled at the fact that disabled and elderly people are being targeted yet again for cutbacks We have worked all our lives paid our dues but are the first to lose out every time. There always seems plenty in the pot for sending abroad and putting refugees in hotels with all mod cons i.e. swimming pools, saunas, etc. etc. look after us for a change.
I am disgusted that you have to target the elderly for these cuts, most have worked all their life paying all their contributions and tax, then when you get older and come to live somewhere with some security and peace of mind for your safety in the home, you want to take that away unless pay EXTRA again. I have never claimed benefits in my life now you don't want me to feel safe in my own home.
I am happy to pay the extra amount for my safety and security. I am pleased that Accent are keeping their housing morality in intending to keep on warden. Although I agree this seems less of a consultation and more being told what is going to happen - the decision has already been made.
I am lucky I don't have to rely on it but I know a lot of people who do. In the case of elderly people they would be very vulnerable without some people who not be able to pay privately.
I am not in receipt of Housing benefit but I understand from your leaflet that if you cut your contribution towards the cost of the alarm system I may have to contribute in the form of an increased rent or service charge of up to £2 per week. If this happens I could stand this charge personally but there may be others who can't. It may well put them into the group who will end up having to ask for housing benefit. Whereas previously they haven't needed this financial help. It is a dilemma and I can understand the difficulties facing the Council
I am not in receipt of Housing Benefit I pay full rent and Council Tax. I do not need the service at present but may need it as I get older.
I appreciate the need for savings due to spending cuts by this cruel uncaring government but I would be more than happy to support savings if there was a reduction in funding rather than an ending of funding. Either way I do not blame the Council and will you support your decision on completion of the review.
I can manage without the service at the moment but due to my health problems, which are not expected to improve, I may need the service in the future.
I can't justify the £34 per week charge just for the alarm. We had meetings to resolve the charge before you agreed to pay. We were told that our manager would help to reduce the payment. Then instead of reducing the £30 charge they up it to £34. I can't afford to pay the charge and I can't afford to move. What I'm unable to understand is what the other £32 is for if it's only going to be £2 per week.
I certainly benefit from having the alarm service. It makes me feel safe, knowing that I get to speak to someone and if anything did happen within my flat I know I can get help/support from it immediately
I do not require the alarm system as I have telephones in easy access
I do not use this but they say I must have it
I do not want my funding to end. I have enough problems having to look after my wife 24x7 without having to worry about my Housing Benefit funding stopped, I put in 50 years working paying in full and the wife worked 47 years. What was it all for?
I do not want this help to stop, regarding the pull cord
I don't agree we should pay for this service as we already pay for services and rent at a high rate also because we live in sheltered accommodation which should provide emergency pull cords that's why we live in this situation.

I don't have any issues as there are quite a few residents in our unit of flats that are younger old people and we don't need the facilities provided. Something has to give to be able to carry on with funding other things that are more important
I don't use the alarm as I have carers coming in to look after me.
I don't want it to end, as it makes me feel safe and secure in my flat
I feel much safer knowing that they are there for me just by pulling the cord.
I find the £1 charge for my alarm is totally unfair I am on Pension Credit and can only just afford to live. I have to be careful on my electric and my food bill so I can survive without going into debt so an extra £1 a week is a very lot to me.
I have lived here for 10 years and have always had the unit paid for by TMBC. I am in no position to reconsider moving as I am 84 yrs. of age. I need the unit to alert that I'm in need of help
I have lived in my property for over 6 yrs. and HB have always paid my rent and SPC. I am a single person on limited benefits and not in a position to consider rehousing as I need the support of my neighbour who acts as a carer and I also need the unit in the event of an emergency
I have no need to use the alarm service
I have reached an age and my health is not what it was so an alarm service would have been useful and would have provided me with extra security. But I am afraid that I am not sure I could pay any extra than what I pay at the moment
I have used the response alarm in the past. I am diabetic and taking stroke medication as I have had a couple of strokes in the past. I also suffer medicated depression
I have very bad health and disability no family, no help just me on my own. I'm used to it as it was in the 60s when we had nothing. I am very limited regarding my disability in every way, on my own, no family just me. I understand the cut backs but I get no help what so ever now so this just adds to this.
I honestly feel that people who are very ill or vulnerable should have some form of alarm to made someone aware that they need assistance.
I need the alarm, will pay for the service
I need the service whoever pays for it because of my illness
I need the Warden control unit, worried about the cost if it gets too high
I need this service as I am registered blind and partially deaf. This is my lifeline and I came to this housing for this support and will find it difficult to fund for myself.
I need this service I would be lost without it and will struggle to pay or afford it.
I pay £1.58 per week in my rent for the alarm
I think it is a vital piece of assistance for disabled and mental health problem people. I have no objection in paying for this service.
I think it is disgusting. Again the elderly are being affected by the cuts. I came here purposely because of the provision of the care call service. I am a pensioner on my won like so many on this site and need the security of knowing that at the push of a button or pull of a cord that I can get help if I need it. It's a struggle to pay for utilities on a pension now. £4 per month is not so much to other people (younger) but to pensioners it is. I am totally against this.
I think it is unfair and unacceptable particularly for those who are most vulnerable like aged pensioners, they rely on these services and it is unfair and counterproductive to stop them
I think it should be free to people on benefits as they have problems with mobility so the alarm is vital. I have had several falls and rely on the alarm, as it is quite expensive.
I think this could have been done another way without supporting people alarm service being used for cut backs
I think you should provide the service for tenants who have carers and for those who have major issues with their health. As for myself i's had no cause to use the service since I moved into the property
I understand that Tameside Council has to make cutbacks because of the funding cuts from the Government, but I disagree that the old, infirm and children's services always have to be targeted. If all cuts mentioned in the recent letter are implemented the Council and those supporting staff will have nothing to do. Reduce the number of paid Council officials and save money that way.

I understand why the Council will /may stop funding to landlords for the alarms. However I will worry for myself and many of the deaf community as like me I am profoundly deaf with no speech. I live alone with no family to support me. If I needed support / emergency services how would I raise the alarm. I really cannot be without that line of help. Even though the alarm/intercom system is based for hearing people if I ever need to use it help will come.
I use the alarm service only when it is necessary. I have never had to use it yet.
I want to keep my alarm
I want to keep the service
I was under the impression that when I accepted the bungalow the costs for the unit would always be covered by TMBC and to start asking for this to be paid for by myself after 10 years is unacceptable and to ask me to consider moving at my time of life is an unreasonable request
I would be happy to pay for this wonderful service
I would be prepared to do without call alarm service because I have family that live near me, I understand not everyone has family to call on
If I have to start paying for the service I would wish for it to be taken out or turned off. I am really concerned about the service and not willing to have to pay for something I have never used.
If is no more than £2 per week it is a good idea
If the funding has been taken away then I think the people who really do need it I am sure they will pay for it themselves, maybe with some help from their family.
If we had a choice of having the alarm taken out or turned off that would be fine. The only problem would be if the old or disabled person was alone then it could be a problem.
In 5 years my wife and I have never needed to use this service, I think it is a service under used and not needed by most residents
In my opinion provision of an alarm service is absolutely vital and the proposal to end funding currently paid to Registered Providers could result in emergency medical treatment being denied. Over the past two years I have needed urgent medical treatment of 5 occasions mostly during the night and my pendant alarm has been my god send. Please think very carefully about withdrawing the funding for this very important service.
It is a waste of time complaining cause you will do it anyway
It makes you feel confident that you can get hold of someone in an emergency although fortunately I have never had to use it.
It will only have a knock on effect to other services such as police, ambulance and fire
It won't affect me as the system has not worked for over 16 years
my wife is my carer
Never used the alarm only set off by accident
No
No but it is stupid
No concerns if there is an increase.
No concerns if there is an increase.
No concerns re any payment increase.
No cuts to funding please! No
No we need the alarm system to be operational and I am willing to carry on paying for it
None
None at all! Cuts are having to be done!
Not concerned about funding stopping happy to pay.
not happy and can't afford it and don't use it
Not happy as do not use it but will have to pay it
Not happy as do not use it but will have to pay it
Not happy would rather not pay but will have to pay it
Not in receipt of HB so pay in full already. Has to have the service so will be willing to pay charge if need be.
Not in receipt of HB, so already paying for equipment. Ok if cost increases slightly but may need to reconsider if cost increases a lot.
Ok paying a weekly charge of £1-2 but if this were to increase in the future to £5-10 then wouldn't be able to afford it. Pays partial rent and almost full Council Tax (bar £1) so already on

a strict budget.
Ok with having to pay
Older and vulnerable people need the security of alarm especially for those whose family live distant away or have no family.
Older people don't like change its hard to get your head around it. I prefer it to stay as it is, my main worry would I be poorer
On full HB, tenant said she would have no problems paying for the warden call unit , the unit makes her feel safe, tenant hasn't used the unit yet
One of our carers told us Accent were not providing the call out systems 4 months ago and advised us to go with the Council paid system which we did.
Pay full rent - no HB received so pay for SPC anyway. OK paying for service at the moment. May need to reconsider if charges increase a lot though.
Pays £1.21/week at the moment but would be concerned if cost increased a lot as may not be able to afford.
Pays full rent, happy to pay as feels safe with unit in property
She will pay
Supporting People's alarm service is a lifeline to some people such as myself. Withdrawing this funding is hitting the most vulnerable people who are an easy target.
Tenant is on full HB and pays for a unit from Tameside already, tenant not bothered if has to pay for warden call unit
Tenant is on full HB, if they need to pay would pay to keep the unit but depends on how much this would be each week, tenants have not used the unit yet
Tenant on full HB not used the unit, feels safe with unit in property and not bothered if has to pay
tenant on full HB, has used the unit once, depends on how much the cost would be each week
Tenant pays £25 towards her rent the rest is HB, has never used the unit but doesn't mind if she has to pay as she it makes her feel safe
tenant pays £60 per week towards rent and the rest is HB, not used the unit yet, warden call makes the tenant feel safe and doesn't mind paying
Tenant pays full rent has never used the unit and would rather not pay for the unit if he didn't have too
tenant pays full rent, and is happy to pay if needs too, as she needs the unit
Tenant pays full rent, never used warden call unit, doesn't know how he feels regarding having to pay for the unit
tenant pays full rent, not used the unit yet, tenant feels safe when own her own with the warden call unit, will pay if needs too
tenant pays some rent rest HB not had to use the unit yet, will pay depending on how much it will be
The end of funding. Who do we pay it to. The date and direct debit start?
The service should be funded for residents by the Council
The service should remain in place for those that are in need as in some cases it's a form of security and only means of contact in case of emergency
The way things are going nobody can afford to live with all the costs - cuts everything goes up and we are getting less and less for what we pay. £104.69 per week for a bed sit now it's going to cost more there will be more people homeless.
This is an excellent service providing so much needed help for vulnerable people. I am not in receipt of housing benefit and willingly pay for support charges. It would be such a pity to bring this service to a close. I think we would see an increase in admittance to hospital.
This is disgraceful only on incapacity benefit, not a pensioner but cannot afford this. I live on my own no family near so this was my reason for moving in here for security.
This is very sad indeed
This is written for me by my daughter. I live alone and I am as independent as I can be with the help of my family. The alarm system makes me feel much less vulnerable, in the case of an emergency. My family know if I can't contact them I am able to use the alarm. I feel I am being deprived of an independent life, by the loss of the alarm system. Which is very cost effective for

<p>the local council or government. I feel it is unfair for elderly people to have to pay for this facility in sheltered housing.</p>
<p>This most appreciated service is a life saver for me. I understand the situation and await further information. I.e. do I have an option enabling me to continue having the services or is this service going to end? At this stage I presume it is still a proposal under discussion</p>
<p>This service is for the elderly and sick and therefore should not be withdrawn. My father is 79 years old and has had a stroke and a heart attack. He relies on this service as a life saver. Why have millions been spent on a new market ground when there isn't any money in the pot for vital services. It doesn't ring true. Just like the Government you are hitting the wrong people, these same people who voted you into power.</p>
<p>To dispose of the alarm would be detrimental to me as an 87 year old resident with only one daughter living locally although she works away often.</p>
<p>To Emma Varnam, Head of Stronger Communities. Where on fixed income do we find an extra £2 per week If some people cancel this service because of having to find the extra money they must vulnerable people, i.e. OAPs are likely to be at risk because no one will be checking on them for days especially if they have no relatives Publicity in the media about people being found dead is going to increase - who takes responsibility for this?</p>
<p>Twice the pendant has saved me in very stressful situations. I have heart condition, diabetes, kidney problems. I need the pendant for my safety knowing someone will call if and when I need help. I have lived in my flat for 2.5 years and for the first time I feel safe and secure in the knowledge that at the press of a button I will be heard and looked after.</p>
<p>Understandable cuts need to be made but targeting the vulnerable is wrong.</p>
<p>We are part HB - TMBC have always paid for this service for us and we are not happy if we have to pay for the service we need. We cannot look at moving as we were waiting for years to get a bungalow due to poor health</p>
<p>We current pay £1.58 per week included in our rent of £81.13 per week. This increases to £83.60 per week 9/11/15. We do not receive any housing benefit of any kind and also pay full council tax. The only thing we receive from Government is our state pension</p>
<p>We currently pay the SPC changes as we are not in receipt of HB. Hopefully the monies we pay will not increase due to the cutbacks</p>
<p>we do not have housing benefit</p>
<p>We need this service, it would be nice if we could keep this service for free.</p>
<p>We should have this service in this housing for free</p>
<p>What will you do when you run out of people to kick? I feel you are supporting the Conservative Government in their ideological cuts by attacking the disabled.</p>
<p>Whilst the cost may only be up to £2pw, to expect me to start paying for this service is unacceptable, however as I need this service I will have to pay for it as I don't want to be rehoused.</p>
<p>Why do we have to pay for this service when we personally do not want the service. Those that do not want the service should be able to have it disconnected. Next tenancy moving in if they want the alarm let them have it connected. Just like changing your energy provider Also redirect the funding Alcoholics and Drug Addicts to pay for funding for Registered housing providers. I personally do not require the service I am my wife's alarm if she needs help.</p>
<p>Why is it always the elderly, the poor who get nothing from this government</p>
<p>Why should we pay for this service? living her is essential to me</p>
<p>Will it actually make any difference what I say, I have to pay to keep safe in my own home then of course I would pay up, and thanks to the people who paid it for me before.</p>
<p>Without this security alarm and smoke alarm I would be really concerned like the rest of the senior citizens what live in the street.</p>
<p>Would reluctantly accept increase.</p>
<p>Wouldn't be prepared to pay supporting people charge and want unit disconnected if TMBC aren't paying for it.</p>
<p>Yes some older or infirm people will feel more insecure because of this.</p>

