

Summary of responses to the consultation on the future direction of Adult Social Care in Cheshire

Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee: 11 March 2009

1. CONSULTATION PROCESS

The public consultation period took place between 17 November 2008 and 16 February 2009.

In order to reach certain groups this consultation process went beyond the traditional, written consultation exercises. As well as public meetings held in East and West Cheshire there were also six roadshow events where a bus staffed by officers representing Cheshire was situated in busy public areas.

2. MEETINGS AND EVENTS

These took place throughout January and February 2009.

Six public consultation meetings were held in Christleton, Macclesfield, Crewe, Winsford, Ellesmere Port and Congleton at which a total of 327 people attended.

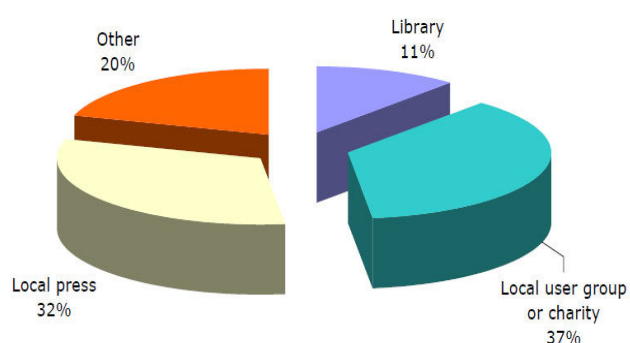
Roadshow events took place in Nantwich, Chester, Ellesmere Port, Macclesfield, Northwich, Congleton and Alsager.

3. DOCUMENT, QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESPONSES

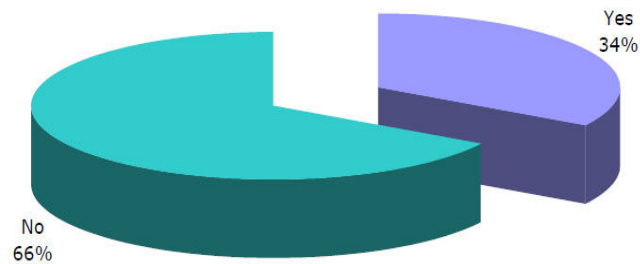
A 16-page consultation document, *Let's Make it Personal in Cheshire*, with a tear out questionnaire and a 12-page shorter version/easy read document was produced. Eighteen thousand copies of the consultation document (including easy read versions) were distributed to members of the Cheshire Older People's Network, charities, libraries, GP surgeries, health promotion networks and members of the consultation team spoke about the consultation in a number of forums; the document was also available on the web. Over 600 responses were received.

The questions asked are shown below along with summarised responses:

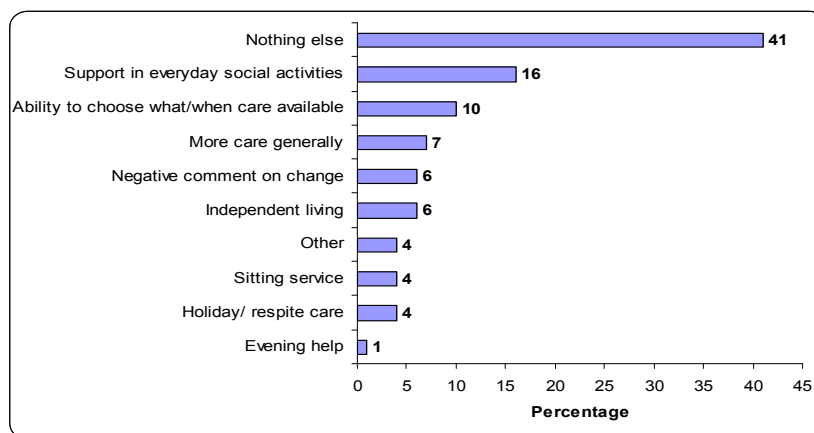
Question 1 - How did you find out about this consultation?



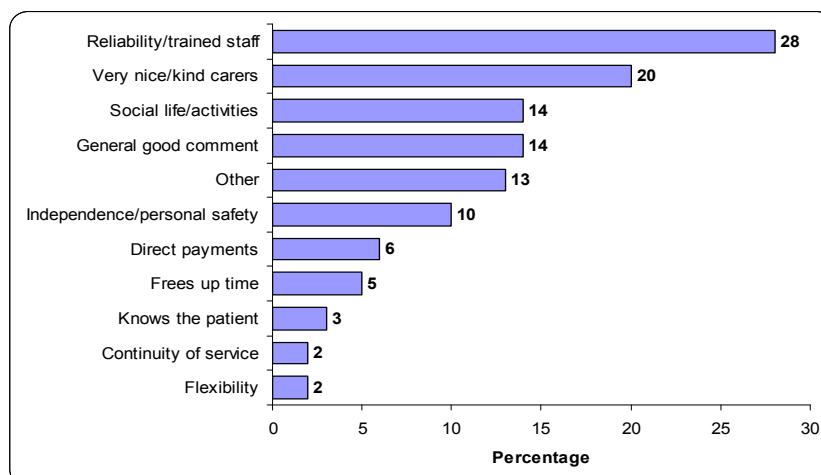
Question 2 - Are you an existing service user or carer?



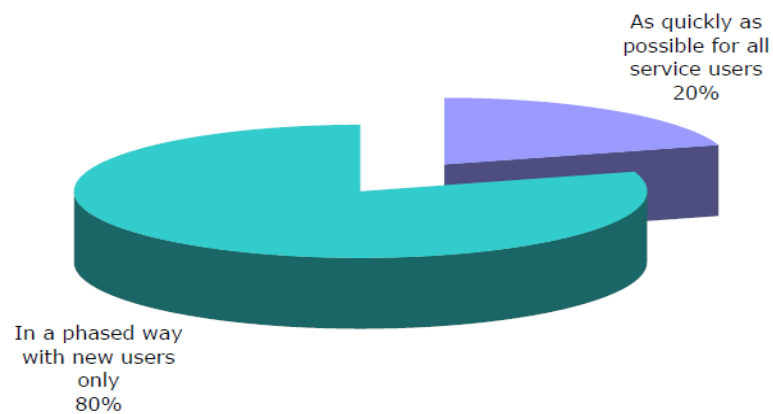
Question 3 - Given that the new proposals will offer more choice on how to meet your needs, is there support which you currently don't get that you would like to spend your Personal Budget on?



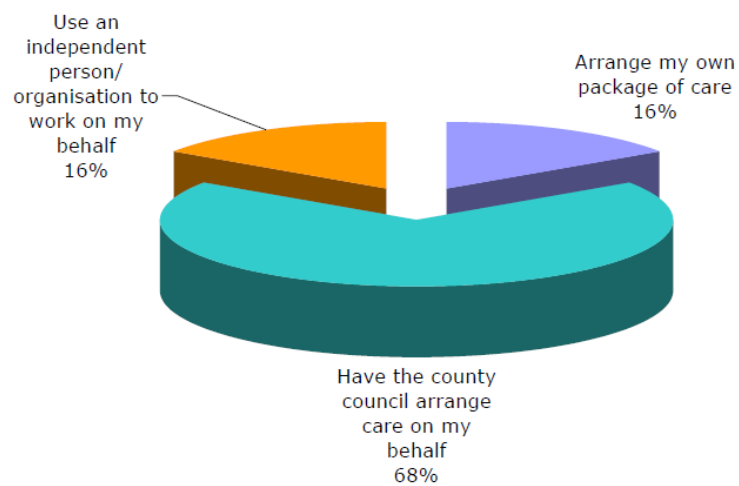
Question 4 - What do you particularly value about the care services we provide at the moment?



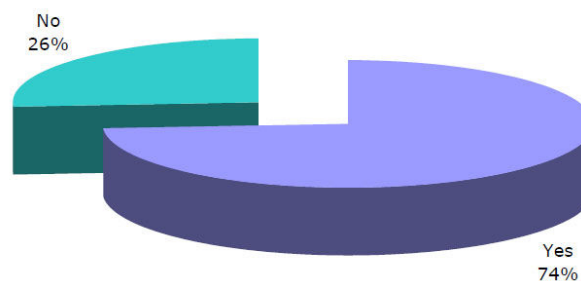
Question 5 - I would prefer to see the proposed new system introduced



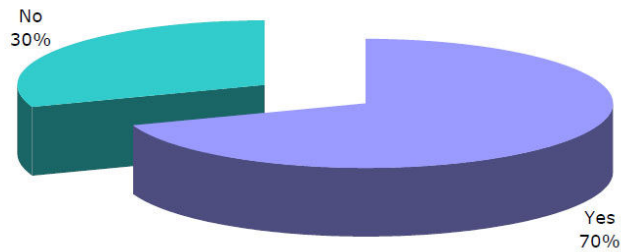
Question 6 - Given the choice I would prefer to



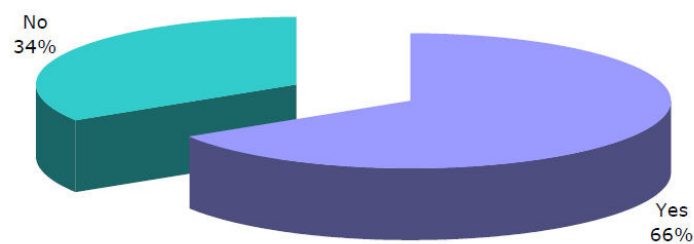
Question 7 - I would welcome a clearer set of prices from the County Council, which will allow me to compare the costs for care services and make the appropriate decisions to suit my circumstances, even if this means that the costs of some elements of a care package may change.



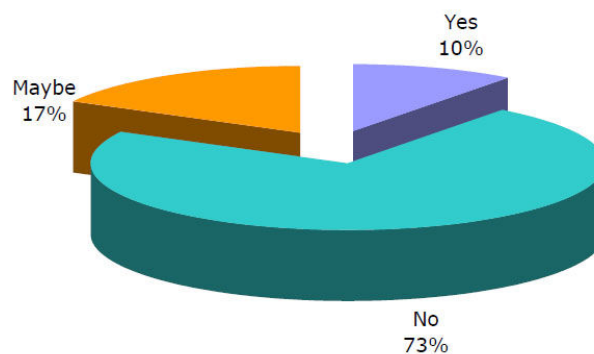
Question 8 - Would you use an offer of 'reablement' services if these were free of charge (up to six weeks)?



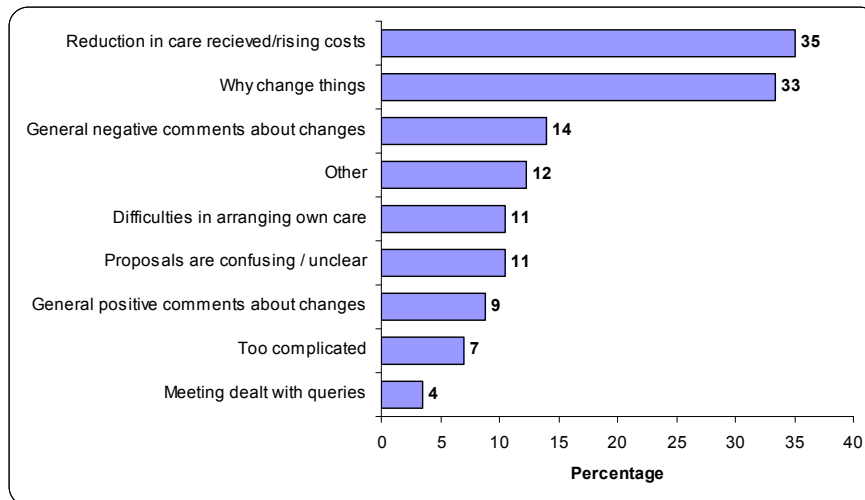
Question 9 - With a Personal Budget your contribution (and the Council's) would not vary month on month. If your needs or services fluctuated by small amounts it is assumed these would even out over time. Would this increased certainty help you to manage your budget?



Question 10 - Do you feel that these changes will affect you unfairly on the basis of your race, gender, disability, sexuality or culture?



Question 11 - Please tell us about any other comments or concerns that you might have regarding these proposals



KEY ISSUES RAISED

Generally, people's concerns can be summarised as follows:

- Pace of Change.
- Support service users will receive in managing their budget.
- Will it mean cuts in service?
- Quality of Services.
- Safeguards.

NEXT STEPS

- Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee to comment and advise.
- Summary of responses to be widely published.
- New councils to receive summary of responses and take account of this consultation exercise in developing new models for Adult Social Care.