

# REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board

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**Date of Meeting:** 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
**Report of:** Kath O'Dwyer, Executive Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive  
**Subject/Title:** Social Care Precept 16-17

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## 1 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report describes the impact of the social care precept, a 2% increase in council tax valued at £3.5M, which was and continues to be invested into adult social care to benefit our service users and those who care for them.
- 1.2 However the costs of providing care and support for adults in Cheshire East exceeds this additional funding and has necessitated additional investment of over £21m by Cheshire East Council between April 2015 and April 2017 as detailed in the budget book.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board note that the social care precept is welcomed but not sufficient to meet the rising complexities and demands of meeting care and support needs in Cheshire East.

## 3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Council tax is worth approximately £180M in Cheshire East, of which 2% or £3.4M is set aside to be invested in adult social care. This has enabled the council to ensure that there is no charge to carers, free telecare equipment for all residents over 85 who live alone and investment in new information systems to enable joined up care.
- 3.2 However the cost of care is rising due to the national living wage. In April 2017 Cheshire East Council implemented an increase in fees to care providers to ensure the sustainability of the care and support market. The recent [survey](#) of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) found that *'the social care precept this year raises less than two-thirds of the calculated costs of the National Living Wage.'*

- 3.3 Rising demand and complexity for both older people and people with learning disabilities when coupled with a volatile labour market in which health and care professionals are increasingly opting for more lucrative agency and contract work means that adult social care both in Cheshire East, and nationally, face financial challenges.
- 3.4 This pressure is exacerbated by both reductions in central funding to the council and financial deficits for health partners within the borough. Both Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group (ECCCG), South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCCG) and Vale Royal Clinical Commissioning Group (VRCCG) have identified reductions in funding for services from mental health reablement to continuing health care. These actions are illustrative of the severity of the financial outlook for the health and care economy across the borough. In total ECCCG predicts a deficit of £132m<sup>1</sup> across the health and care economy by 2018/19 with similar projections for South and Vale Royal.
- 3.5 Cheshire East Council remains committed to putting our 'residents first' - supporting local people to live well and for longer. To continue to do this, Cheshire East and health and care partners, from commissioners to providers, need to continue to work together to manage our funding focussing on whole system implications.

## **4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

- 4.1 Our ambition is that people live well and for longer. We are mitigating the financial pressures described above, not only via the social care precept, but by changing how we work to ensure that we provide personalised care that maximises independence and wellbeing and hence reduce reliance on public sector support.
- 4.2 Better uses of technology such as the Cheshire Care Record and integrating practice around the people who need care and support in Cheshire East as well as adopting efficient, best practice processes are crucial to achieving this and mitigating the impact of financial pressures

## **5 Background and Options**

- 5.1 n/a

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<sup>1</sup>

<http://modern.gov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s48026/ECCCG%20Financial%20Recovery%20Overview%20090616.pdf>

## **6 Access to Information**

- 6.1 For more information see the Cheshire East Council Tax booklet  
<http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/council-tax/your-cheshire-east-booklet-2016-17.pdf>
- 6.2 Cheshire East Council's budget information is available online here:  
[http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/your\\_council/council\\_finance\\_and\\_governance/cheshire\\_east\\_budget/cheshire\\_east\\_budget.aspx](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/your_council/council_finance_and_governance/cheshire_east_budget/cheshire_east_budget.aspx)  
or type 'budget book' into the search box on [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk)

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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