

**Somerset Council MTFP 2024/25 - 2028/29**  
**Savings Proposal**



Title of savings proposal	Creative Solutions for Complex Adults
Reference Number	ADS004

Executive Directorate	Adult Services
Service Directorate	ASC Commissioning
Service	

Lead member	Cllr Bill Revans - Adult Social Care
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Cost centre name	
Cost centre code	

**Overview of proposal**

**Description of savings proposal (alt+return for new line)**

The creative solutions for complex adults is known in Somerset as the Step Together service and is provided by the Second Step organisation.

The service works with a range of support services, landlords and housing providers to remove barriers and increase access to stable accommodation.

The service supports a core group of adults with complex and multiple needs stemming from a combination of mental health needs, substance misuse and challenging behaviours who are unable to find a sustainable housing solution and find themselves 'stuck in the system'.

- The service:
- reduces unnecessary admissions to hospital, care or prison
  - reduces tenancy breakdown
  - optimises use of all type of housing provisions and tenures
  - prevents needs escalating and supports management of substance misuse and mental needs by linking with other community groups and professionals.

**What will the saving achieve? (alt+return for new line)**

£90k overall saving in 2024/25 resulting from Public Health withdrawing their funding. This will not be a saving to the Adult Social Care (ASC) Budget.  
The service will then be re-commissioned during 2024/25 with a new service at a lower cost beginning on 01/04/2025.

This would reduce the contact value to £730k on extension with the removal of the Public Health funding which gives a shortfall of £178,586 against the providers projected spend for 2024/25 which would result in 6 external staff being made redundant.

Type of saving	Non-LGR - Contract
Which of the 17 key areas does the saving cover?	Adult Services
Is this saving once-off or ongoing?	Once off
Does this impact on either the Council's priorities or another service?	Yes
Are there any policy change requirements? If yes, please provide further information below.	No

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**Benefits of the proposal**

Tangible Benefits - savings/income £ (pro-rata for part year)		Intangible benefits (e.g. cost avoidance)
2023/24 (in-year)	£0.00	
2024/25	420,000	
2025/26	420,000	Ongoing saving to ASC Budget to be determined by recommissioning process

### Delivering the proposal

Describe the high level milestones for delivery, including timescales and target delivery date for the saving.

Existing option to extend this contract by 1 year is agreed with effect from 01/04/2024. Recommissioning process would then begin to commissioning a new service at lower cost with a contract start date of 01/04/2025

Who are the key people/services involved/required (internal and external).

Internal: ASC Commissioning and Contract staff  
External: Second Step

What activity is needed to achieve the saving?

Contract extension agreed and recommissioning process to be undertaken

What are the financial resources required?

None at this stage. Future finding requirements to be identified through the recommissioning process.

Are there any limitations or constraints?

What is the anticipated impact on service delivery to residents or business?

The service supports a small and specific cohort of people. Impacts on the wider system when individuals find themselves in crisis is significant, challenging and costly, and will be impacted further by the freeze on P Cards as part of the Council's cost-saving measures. There are risks of homelessness.

Please note that an equalities impact assessment is required for all proposals.

### Other implications

Impact	Number or description
Staffing impact (#s)	6
Redundancy or vacancy?	Redundancy
Legal impact	None
Insurance or other impact	None
Equalities impact	See attached EIA

Please ensure that you have consulted HR and your Finance Business Partner regarding any staffing savings.

**Risks**

What is the risk status of the proposal?

High

What are the risks associated with this proposal?

If the service received no funding and the extension was not taken forward before a recommissioning exercise could be completed, the impact would be as follows:

- Likely redundancy for all staff, management, clinical, admin and front line (21 staff). Current vacancies within the organisation total 3, and are all front line and Bristol based.
- Ending of support with the associated repeated trauma and loss of relational and trauma informed support , with little alternative options for 216 individuals with complex/ high needs (and certainly none with the same level of knowledge of trauma informed approaches). With other services largely at capacity there would be a struggle to identify agencies that could pick up all clients.
- Possible ending or pausing of Creative Solutions, which supports a further 9 very complex clients including another organisation would need to take forward the work signing housing providers up to the direct match gateway agreement.
- Loss of all new trauma awareness training for external organisations.
- Loss of facilitated external case formulation and reflective space.
- Loss of therapy service for current clients receiving this support for the rough sleepers strategy work would end including our work including lived experience voices in the consultation stages work started on moving organisations across to Transform database would have to be picked up by another organisation.

Are there mitigations or actions that if implemented can reduce those risks?

A 1-year contract extension will allow a planned recommissioning process to take place

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Please send your completed form to your Finance Business Partner for sign-off and submission of request.