

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



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| Title of savings proposal | Employment Service - for Carers and individuals with Mental Health needs |
| Reference Number | ADS009 |

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| Executive Directorate | Adult Services |
| Service Directorate | ASC Commissioning |
| Service | |

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| 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)

Somerset Council currently commissions a Carers Employment Support service from Somerset NHS Foundation Trust.

The purpose of this service is to support the unpaid carers of adults with mental ill health to maintain their employment, or where they are not currently working to help them to find or return to work.

The service is commissioned to provide 2 part time staff (0.6 FTE) who work within Community Mental Health Teams and hold a caseload of carers that they support.

The service is commissioned via a Service Level Agreement (SLA) that is due to expire on 31/03/2025 at a cost of £61k including overheads.

Feedback received via Somerset NHS Foundation trust is that the role of this service has been invaluable for carers of people with serious mental illnesses. As at 16/11/2023 the service was supporting 26 carers.

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

The total expenditure on this service is £61k

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| 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? | Ongoing |
| 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 |

Benefits of the proposal

| Tangible Benefits - savings/income £ (pro-rata for part year) | | Intangible benefits (e.g. cost avoidance) |
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| 2023/24 (in-year) | £0.00 | |
| 2024/25 | 34,000 | |
| 2025/26 | 27,000 | |

Delivering the proposal

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| Describe the high level milestones for delivery, including timescales and target delivery date for the saving. |
| By 31/12/2023 Formal decision made to no longer commission Employment Support and notice given on Service Level Agreement |
| By 30/03/2024 all individuals in receipt of this support to have been triaged to identify whether a Carers Assessment is required and if so, the prioritisation of that review |
| By 30/06/2024 all people currently receiving support where a high priority Carers Assessment has been identified as being needed to have had that assessment completed |
| By 30/06/2024 Notice period ends (6 months), the staff are made redundant or redeployed, and the service is terminated |
| By 30/09/2024 all people currently receiving support where a Carers Assessment has been identified as being needed to have had that assessment completed |
| Who are the key people/services involved/required (internal and external). |
| Internal: ASC Commissioning and Contract Management Staff External: Somerset NHS Foundation Trust Management |
| What activity is needed to achieve the saving? |
| Notice to be given on the Service Level Agreement (6 months) and its termination to be managed |
| What are the financial resources required? |
| Officer time and 6 months notice period of contract costs. |
| Are there any limitations or constraints? |
| SLA contract terms and conditions require 6 months' notice to terminate. |
| What is the anticipated impact on service delivery to residents or business? |
| 1) The decommissioning of this service will result in the loss of a service that supports carers to maintain their caring role, which could result in employers losing valued employees. 2) One of the members of staff also works part time to support Somerset NHS Foundation Trust's Mental Health Employment Support Service, which supports adults who have mental ill-health to achieve and maintain employment. As it would be unlikely to be viable for them with the loss of their main employment this would affect those people who they currently support. 3) Somerset NHS Foundation Trust's Carers Assessment Team will likely experience a gap in the resources they offer as a result of their assessments. |

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

| Other implications | |
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| Impact | Number or description |
| Staffing impact (#s) | 2 |
| Redundancy or vacancy? | Redundancy |
| Legal impact | None. While this service is commissioned to support responsibilities under sections 2.16, 6.61, 6.121, 11.40, 11.41, 16.10 of Care & Support Statutory Guidance of Care & Support Statutory Guidance (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance) , this does not state that the Council need to provide of commission this service. |
| Insurance or other impact | None |
| Equalities impact | An EIA has been completed for this proposal |

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?

Carer stress due to no longer receiving support that they need to maintain their unpaid caring role and employment/seek employment, leading increased pressure on, and requests for, other services at additional cost to the Council.

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

Work also needs to take place with universal services, including Job Centre Plus, in preparation for the decommissioning to identify how those people who will lose/not be able to access support from this service.

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