

West Sussex County Council

Proposed Executive Decision for **28 September 2018** call-in deadline **5 p.m. on 9 October 2018**

The following proposed decision has been endorsed by the Cabinet Member and will come into effect at the end of the call-in period unless the call-in procedure is activated.

Decision Title & Ref No:	Local Assistance Network (LAN) Funding - AH5 (18/19)
Cabinet Member responsible for Decision	Mrs Jupp - Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
West Sussex Plan priority	A Council that Works for the Community
Electoral Divisions	All Divisions
Key Decision	Yes
Purpose	<p>The Council currently budgets to spend £0.807m providing discretionary assistance to households in crisis situations through the Local Assistance Network (LAN). The LAN is delivered through a partnership with voluntary sector agencies which provide non cash based assistance, very largely on an 'in kind' basis, to households facing hardship as a result of a crisis or emergency.</p> <p>The scheme was launched in 2013 when funding for discretionary welfare provision was transferred from the benefits system to local government and 'ring-fenced' for this purpose. Given that this funding no longer exists the cost of the LAN falls entirely on the Council's base budget. In the current financial context it is not considered sustainable to maintain expenditure on the LAN at the current level and a significant reduction is therefore being proposed. A period of engagement will begin to gather evidence to inform a further Cabinet Member decision in the context of an impact assessment and to establish the priorities for the use of this funding going forward.</p>
Decision	The Cabinet Member for Adults and Health has approved a process of engagement with providers and stakeholders, which may result in a reduction in the budget for the LAN to £200,000 per annum from 2019/20 onwards.
Interest and nature of interest declared	None
Service Contact	Ivan Western, Commissioning Manager Housing & Employment - Tel: 033 022 23740
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Background Papers	See report for details