

DCLG

Date : 6 March 2017
Please ask for : Paul Wildsmith
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Your Reference :
Our Reference : PW/TAB
Document Name : Use of ASC precept 17-18

Dear Sirs

Use of Precept

In reply to your letter of 21 February 2017 I am writing to confirm that Darlington has increased its Council Tax to fund adult social care services in 2017-18.

Darlington Borough's council tax has increased by 4.99% in 2017-18.

I have completed the table below, comparing the changes in in adult social care budgets with those of other non-ringfenced services including and excluding precept.

	2016/17 budget (£m)	Total ASC 2017/18 precept (£m)	2017/18 Budget (£m)	ASC % change 2016/17 to 2017/18 budget excluding <i>precept</i> $((C-B)/A)$
Column	A	B	C	D
Budget for non-ring-fenced services	52.868		48.869	(7.5%)
Budget for Adult Social Care	28.659	1.261	29.537	(1.3%)



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

SILVER AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.

For authorities planning to raise council tax by more than 2% for social care in 2017-18

I certify that the authority will use the funding above 2% to improve the way social care services are delivered in my area, and have set out below how we propose to do so.

Transformation of Adult Social Care In Darlington

Our transformation programme is driven by the need to deliver a modern and sustainable operating model that will deliver the spirit of the Care Act, best value in the use of public resources and personalised outcomes for the people of Darlington.

We are focussed on delivering four strategic objectives- Managing Demand, Maximising Independence, Self-Directed Support, and an Effective and Responsive Social Care Economy.

Our programme is ultimately aimed at delivering a new operating model for Adults Social Care that incorporates 'best in class' approaches to both the management of resources and deliver of front line practice. The intention is to provide the best possible opportunity for the Council to sustainably manage growing demographic pressures on a much reduced budget position.

This work is underpinned by an evidenced based approach that seeks to adopt best practice in Adult Social Care. For example, approaches highlighted by the Adult Social Care Efficiency Programme are being applied as well as best practice identified by the Social Care Institute for Excellence and Think Local Act Personal strategic partnership.

A significant element of our programme, and one that is essential to the achievement of all four strategic objectives, is work to establish, implement and embed a new practice and performance culture across Adult Services. Our new culture embraces strength based (<http://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/assessment-and-eligibility/strengths-based-approach/>) and risk enablement approaches that build personal and community resilience, maximise the use of universal and voluntary sector services, and avoid unnecessary reliance on formal service provision (Developing a Well-being and Strength based Approach Towards Social Work Practice: Changing Culture, TLAP).

Part of the transformation programme is focussed on maximising gains from our previous and current successes. For example, our learning disability improvement programme has already delivered both good outcomes for people and efficiency savings. Our improvements in this area have been supported by learning from Professor John Bolton and it is our intention to roll out and scale up this success across adult services.

Partnership Working and BCF

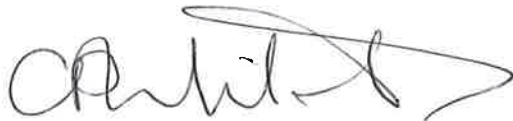
We understand that many of the issues that we face are also system wide pressures and, therefore, a partnership approach is required to ensure that whole system transformation is considered. A central aspect of our approach to improving adult social care is to ensure that we have effective system wide partnerships, which

maximise the reach of public services and give the opportunity for achieving best value from every Darlington Pound that is spent. To this end we are engaged with the core statutory public services, the voluntary sector and local communities.

In Darlington we have used the Better Care Fund to take forward innovative ways of addressing system wide challenges in order to deliver improved outcomes for people. For example, we have in place a co-located Intermediate Care and reablement service, MDT's that include voluntary sector brokerage, plans to test social prescribing and the development of Primary Care Community Hubs. Although DTOC performance is positive in Darlington, as a partnership we are mindful of the Eight High Impact Actions (Local Government Association) and are in the process of piloting Discharge to Assess pathways.

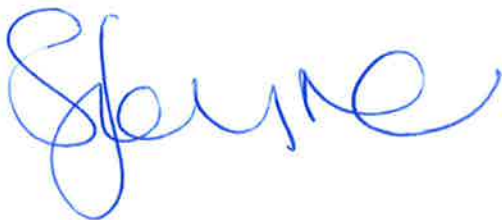
The social care precept assists the Council in fund our Transformation programme and manage the increasing demands on Adult Social Care.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Wildsmith', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

S151 officer

Paul Wildsmith – Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Joyner', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Suzanne Joyner – Director of Children and Adults Services

