

Post room please return to The DAAT – First Floor, Central House Annexe

Impact Assessment and Consultation Form to terminate the First Stop Darlington Substance Use Homelessness Service

Name (Optional):

Age (Optional):

Gender (Optional):

Male/Female/Trans

Are you completing this form yourself? (Please circle /highlight) Yes/ No

If no, please detail who is completing this form for you?

(for example, Relative, Friend, Carer, Care Manager)

Please could you complete the following information to enable the Council to understand your use of the Substance Use Homelessness Service operated by First Stop Darlington:

1) If you/someone you work with use/have used the service, how did the service help you?

Many people who come into contact with the police have also sought advice and support from First Stop. In turn, our Checkpoint colleagues regularly signpost clients to First Stop to assist them with housing in attempt to reduce the risk of reoffending due to being homeless, not receiving benefits etc.

First Stop are also valuable members of our problem solving group which meets on a regular basis to problem solve the issues effecting individuals as well as locations. Their valuable contribution is minuted on numerous occasions over the last 12 months.

Bike Stop, a subsidiary of First Stop, is a significant partner to our Checkpoint Team with between 20-30 referrals being made into the scheme in an attempt to improve life chances by providing clients with skills that can be transferred into the workplace.

2) What would the impact (effect /consequence) be on you/someone you work with if access to this service was reduced? For example, if there were reduced opening hours or days, or staff could spend less time with you/your service user?

If First Stop were to reduce its provision of homelessness support services to some of Darlington's most complex and chaotic people – including those who have vulnerabilities including homelessness, unemployment, no benefits, substance misuse - it is anticipated that there would be increased levels of ASB, vagrancy, begging, shoplifting and criminal damage. This could result in an increase in first entrants to the criminal justice system as those deemed the most vulnerable are left without the necessary support to seek alternative paths to crime.

The Bike Stop scheme is seen as a resounding success and one that if cut will have a significant impact on Checkpoints ability to reduce reoffending.

3) Please use this section to detail any other comments you have about this Budget proposal, or any of the other Council Budget proposals.

Thank you for your time.