

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 FEBRUARY 2019

**Question to Alan White, Deputy Leader and
Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing**

By Charlotte Atkins

Question

How have the cuts in public health spending impacted on the ability of the County Council to deliver its health promotion agenda?

Reply

Despite cuts to the Public Health Ring Fenced Grant, the County Council continues to provide an active range of quality health improvement programmes. The change process has been challenging but we are confident that we are delivering good value to citizens and some examples of good practice.

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20, the grant fell by £3m (7.5%), from £40.m to £37.2m.

Drugs and alcohol

The £4.5m savings made from the drug/alcohol contracts has primarily been achieved by redesigning the pathway to focus on core addiction services, while drawing on support from other agencies working with the same client group.

0-19 children's services

We have saved £4.5 million from the Families Health and Wellbeing Service (Health Visiting and School Nursing). This has been achieved through close working with MPFT to develop a new model that seeks to balance public health promotion work and working with families with more complex needs.

Sexual health

The £2.5m saved from sexual health services has been achieved by consolidating a number of contracts with a range of service providers. The economies of scale this process provided has enabled us to continue to provide treatment to all residents presenting to services.

Healthy communities

Around £3.5m has been saved from previous healthy lifestyles contracts. By designing a more targeted approach that focuses on the people who need it most, we have been able to manage the reduction in funding without a similar impact on outcomes.

Wider support

In addition to the core health improvement programme, we also developing a range of new approaches to improving outcomes, including: Supportive communities programme; Partnership opportunities; digital/IAG/ communications.