

Reference Number: FOI-101004484398

Response provided under: Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request and Response:

- 1) As Council Tax has taken a rise to cover Adult Social Care, the same as last year, can you be more specific as to where these funds go?**

The social care precept for 2019/20 was approved by Full Council in February 2019. The 2% increase to council tax equates to funding of £6.262m to support Adult Social Care. The funding is not directly attributed to specific costs or services, but contributes to total inflationary and demographic pressures of £14.095m which have been approved as part of the budget setting process. This includes pressures such as provider contractual price inflation, demographic growth and transition of complex clients from Children's services in Adult Social Care. Further detail around pressures was reported to Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2019, as part of the budget setting process:

The main report is contained within the 'Information Pack – Cabinet 210312' PDF which you can access via the link below:

<https://democracy.cornwall.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=577&MId=4137&Ver=4>

Budget Detail information can be accessed via the link below:

<https://democracy.cornwall.gov.uk/documents/s118955/Budget%202019-20%20and%20Medium%20Term%20Financial%20Plan%202019-23%20Appendix%201%20Latest%20Budget%20Proposals%20and%20MTF%20P.pdf>

In recent years, the delivery of Adult Social Care services in Cornwall has become increasingly challenging for a range of reasons. As noted above, demographic pressures are placing increasing demand on NHS and Adult Social Care services, and this demand is set to increase to a level where present models of service delivery will not be able to meet them.

Cornwall Council (in partnership with NHS organisations, and colleagues from the private, voluntary and community sectors) has prioritised several measures to address some of the presenting challenges, and is using the available resources (including that gained from the social care precept) to finance them.

- Work to develop integrated locality-based health, care and wellbeing services is underway. These intend to deliver care closer to people's homes, and to help people to remain as independent as they can for as long as they can.
- Work with the same partners to address significant pressures in the Urgent Care system is ongoing. Additional resource has been committed to ensure that people get discharged from hospital in a timely manner, and are given the necessary support to enable them to regain their strength and confidence, and to return home safely.
- Like many areas of the country, Cornwall has problems employing and retaining sufficient numbers of workers of all levels to deliver health and social care to the people of the county. To address this, Cornwall Council has a Fair Cost of Care policy, and has gained accreditation by the Living Wage Foundation (LWF) by ensuring that all directly employed workers and those employed by contracted organisations are paid the LWF minimum rate of £9 per hour. This has entailed significant cost increases for the Council in 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.

Information provided by: Adult Social Care

Date of response: 6th June 2019