

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Date: 25 March 2015
Our ref: HT/HRS

Dear Provider

Re: Funding for Housing Related Support services in Essex.

I am writing to you to clarify the current position regarding funding for Housing Related Support (HRS) services in Essex. We continue to face significant funding challenges to Essex County Council (ECC) budgets but the Council has now set its budget for 2015/16. There are no plans for changes to HRS funding in 2015-16, other than:

- We will continue with planned changes in areas such as Mental Health and Learning Disability over the next year.
- Older People (including Community Alarms) – we will build on work we have already done to work with stakeholders to identify the best way to support vulnerable older people. We intend to have a clear agreed position in place for 2016-17.
- Younger Peoples Services – we will consult with stakeholders and service users with the intention of moving towards recommissioning of services in 2016-17.
- We will continue with planned procurement in areas such as Home Improvement Agencies and Domestic Abuse Community Services.

In all cases, we will be seeking to make best use of our resources to deliver the best outcomes for service users. Wherever possible, we will seek to jointly agree outcomes with partner agencies.

Overall, our intention is that in future the HRS budget will sit with lead commissioners for specific service user groups e.g. Mental Health. There can then be joined-up consideration of the total commissioning spend in those areas.

We hope that this letter will give you some reassurance around the funding position. If you have any questions, please contact Simon Harniess, Head of Commissioning for Vulnerable People simon.harniess@essex.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Taylor', with a horizontal line underneath.

Helen Taylor
Director for Integrated Commissioning and Vulnerable People