

Update from Hampshire County Council – March 2022

Final two weeks to have your say on the County Council's adult social care savings proposals

Hampshire County Council is reminding local residents that they have just under two weeks to give their views on proposals to save £680,000 from its Adult Social Care budget to help meet the County Council's overall budget shortfall of at least £80million by April 2023

The proposed changes, which could contribute £320,000 towards this target, would end:

- the Neighbourhood Care and Support grant scheme
- the Community Based Support grant scheme
- the Rural Connections grant scheme.

These grants are currently provided to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations across Hampshire to support adults to continue to live independently in their communities.

Additionally, a further £360,000 could be contributed by reducing funding for commissioned non-statutory services that support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Homelessness support would continue to receive some £2 million of County Council discretionary funding, focused on prioritising help in accommodation-based settings, and those services that work with the most vulnerable - as well as delivering outreach and community-based support in those areas where accommodation is not available.

The consultation closes at 11:59pm on Monday 21 March 2022

Hampshire County Council's Adults' Health and Care service expects to contribute some £40.6 million to the Local Authority's overall £80 million savings target to April 2023.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/08032022AdultsSP23>

New website rewards Hampshire's Kitchen Heroes who help to save money and the planet

In Food Waste Action Week (7-13 March) a new website - Hampshire Kitchen Heroes - is being launched by Hampshire County Council with the aim of helping residents to save money and the planet with incentives and rewards, for reducing household food waste. Hampshire Kitchen Heroes features over 20 different food waste saving actions. People can earn 'Green Points' by taking steps like checking their fridge before they shop, keeping a food diary of what's being wasted and sharing their favourite recipes using leftovers. These points feed into leader boards allowing people to compete with other residents across the county to be the ultimate Kitchen Hero.

The resident who earns the most 'Green Points' for their actions each month, will win a £20 voucher from a choice of Hampshire-based experiences, Marks and Spencer, Love2Shop or for a donation to be made to a local food bank.

Hampshire Kitchen Heroes is open to all residents in the Hampshire County Council local authority area - sign up at: hampshirekitchenheroes.co.uk

In addition to the new website, the Council's Smart Living team is seeking residents' views on food waste through its annual survey via Smart Living's Facebook or Twitter channels.

Led, by the charity WRAP, Food Waste Action Week is a platform to highlight the issue and encourage people to take action to halt global food waste by 2030.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/07032022hampshirekitchenheroes>

Standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Ukraine

As conflict in Ukraine continues into another week, Hampshire County Council has expressed solidarity with the nation's people – and stated its preparedness to support the UK Government if called on to help the unfolding humanitarian crisis

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Hampshire County Council, in common with the rest of the country, is watching the concerning situation in Ukraine and stands in solidarity with the Ukrainian people and communities affected by this conflict. Should Government seek our support, we will assist as needed - building on our experience of supporting refugees and evacuees from previous conflicts.

How you can help

It is anticipated that Government may announce such plans early next week, including details of any mechanism for registering interest in supporting individual families – and we will highlight these on our dedicated webpages: www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine. These webpages are being updated on a regular basis to ensure we keep the public well informed about the steps we are taking with our partners across Hampshire to support those seeking refuge, and how they can help.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/28022022Ukraine>

Majority of Hampshire pupils offered preferred choice of secondary school

More than 98 per cent of parents in Hampshire have been offered a place for their child, at one of their three preferred choices for a secondary school in September 2022

Of those who applied for a Year 7 place (for September 2022) by the application deadline, more than 92 per cent have been offered a place at their first choice school. The County Council received 14,982 on-time applications this year – an increase of 499 applications compared to the number received for places in September 2021 (14,483).

Pupils who did not secure a place at one of their chosen schools have been allocated a place at their catchment school or the next nearest available school. Parents have the right to appeal in these situations and their child's name will be added to the waiting list for their preferred schools. Places do become available owing to parents changing their mind, or families moving home.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/01032022secondarieschoolplaces>

Living with COVID – advice for Hampshire residents

With self-isolation rules ended on Thursday 24 February, Hampshire County Council is encouraging people to be clear on what they need to do to keep well, as England returns to near normal life after two years of COVID pandemic restrictions.

“As we all look forward to a brighter future, it is important to remember that COVID-19 can still pose a risk - particularly to the vulnerable - and for this reason, continuing to follow safe behaviour advice is the right choice to help limit any further spread of the virus and ensure people keep well.”

SAFE BEHAVIOURS ADVICE

- Getting vaccinated and boosted offers the best protection against COVID-19 - it reduces the risk of getting seriously ill and of spreading it to others.
- Let in fresh air when indoors.
- Consider wearing a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet.
- If you can, stay at home if you feel unwell.
- Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds or more.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/220223endofselfisolationrules>

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