

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
2016/17 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET – SAVINGS PROPOSAL

1. SERVICE	Housing, Health and Economic Development
2. IMPLEMENTATION DATE:	1/4/16
3. CORPORATE PRIORITY	Working with partners and the community to sustain services of good value Maintaining a sustainable, resilient and efficient organisation
4. TITLE OF PROPOSAL	Reducing the cost of Homelessness provision

<p>5. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:</p> <p><u>Open Door - £5,000 funding</u></p> <p>To help provide a homelessness prevention service, primarily aimed at people who may not ordinarily approach the Council for assistance. The charity provides general housing advice as part of its wider role but specifically through the funding of this scheme, the number of people who have had homelessness prevented via this scheme are:</p> <p>2011/12 = 19 2012/13 = 29 2013/14 = 34 2014/15 = 30</p> <p>Open Door provides a useful service and it is accepted that it would not be an easy decision to remove funding from a local charity. However, Housing Needs staff are specialists in preventing homelessness and would take on these additional cases within existing resources.</p> <p>Per the Trustees' report and financial statements for the year ending 31/3/2015, Colne Open Door Centre Ltd had a balance of £79,839 in unrestricted funds.</p>

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (NET ADDITIONAL SAVINGS)

	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	2018/19 £
Revenue	5,000	0	0
Capital	0	0	0

<p>7. IMPACT ON SERVICE PROVISION, IMPLEMENTATION AND OTHER ISSUES</p> <p><u>Impact on Service Provision</u></p> <p>The reduction to funding of charitable agencies is felt to be significantly preferable to the loss of funding for Housing Needs staff, who are fully trained and specialists in housing advice, housing options work, homelessness prevention and statutory homelessness function.</p> <p>Whilst the loss will likely lead to greater referrals of cases to Housing Needs, staff will deal with any such cases through existing resources.</p>
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Implementation

Implementation would occur from 1st April 2016 and in order to comply with existing service level agreements, 3 months' notice would need to be given to charitable agencies. This would allow sufficient time to adjust to the loss of funding.

Other issues

It is accepted that ending funding for charitable agencies is a difficult and potentially sensitive issue. However, the work undertaken by the charities, whilst useful, is not essential and Housing Needs would deal with the additional workload through existing resources.