

A close-up photograph of a single water droplet falling into a pool of water, creating concentric ripples. The background is a deep blue gradient.

Voluntary and Community Sector Prevention Impact Assessment

Shropshire Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly, September 2017



The Impact Assessment

Background

In June 2017 a prevention impact assessment was designed by Shropshire VCS Assembly. The impact assessment was undertaken to determine the impact of proposed cuts to Shropshire Council's Adult Services Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) prevention budget. Prevention contracts were red rated (put at high risk of ending) within Shropshire Council's Budget Proposals in 2015 due to the significant reduction in the national budget awarded to local authorities. Reluctant to make these cuts, Shropshire Council used its reserves to offer a 2 year extension on existing VCSE prevention contracts awarded through Adult Services. However, Shropshire Council's budget pressures remain. Ongoing government cuts will leave Shropshire Council with approximately one quarter of the funding that paid for over 150 services in 2015. By 2020 the £44m revenue support grant (money that is paid to councils each year to help provide services) will end.

Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) faces similar budget pressures with well documented financial challenges. Shropshire CCG currently supports a range of VCSE prevention services through contracts and its grants programme. Uncertainty over the CCG grants programme was another key driver towards completion of an impact assessment. Although Shropshire Council and Shropshire CCG do not fully fund many VCSE services, where they contribute in part, that contribution can be vital to service continuation unless other forms of income can be found.

The VCSE sector currently faces multiple challenges. Not only has public sector investment reduced but research suggests that:

- There are fewer grant pots and competition for funding has increased. One example is Big Lottery: it has less to award because fewer people are buying lottery tickets.
- Low interest rates mean charitable foundations are not generating income on their assets.
- People are less likely to donate to local charities (with well-known national charities receiving a large proportion of all VCSE donations made).
- Fewer people are volunteering long term.
- The cost of running services has increased (e.g. bigger utility bills, rising rents for accommodation).
- Employment costs have also increased with the National Minimum and Living Wages and employer pension costs. Contract values have not seen inflationary increases to reflect such costs.
- Demand for VCSE prevention services has increased dramatically (for many reasons, examples include the impact of Welfare Reform). One example includes Age UK Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin's Benefits Advice services with a 37% increase in demand and 20% reduction in funding over 4 years.

In order to assist Shropshire Council and Shropshire CCG with the difficult decisions ahead, Shropshire VCS Assembly has worked to gather information on local prevention services. The impact assessment is accompanied by a VCSE Prevention Prospectus and Prevention Report, both highlighting local services, providing cases studies and drawing attention to key issues in need of consideration within future decision making.

Methodology

Shropshire VCS Assembly invited organisations to take part in the impact assessment through its weekly newsletter and targeted organisations working as part of the Health and Social Care Forum, the Disability Forum, Mental Health Forum and the CAAN partnership. In total 17 organisations expressed an interest in the impact assessment and 15 organisations completed an impact assessment document.

The impact assessment considers different types/methods of delivering prevention and aims to establish:

- 1) Current provision and investment of staff and volunteer time
- 2) Risk of services being lost and the impact
- 3) Risk of services being reduced and the likely nature of any reductions

Data and text responses from all 15 organisations were combined in one overall spreadsheet. Establishing a view across 15 organisations offering a broad range of preventative services and activities is challenging. The VCS Assembly recognises that the best way to gather information is on an individual service basis and that discussions between public sector commissioners and VCSE managers is the most effective method of gathering information and assessing impact. However, the impact assessment, providing accumulative data can offer another layer of information. It is recommended that this impact assessment is not read in isolation but considered alongside the VCSE Prevention Prospectus. The Prospectus provides more detailed information on the services provided by the organisations included within the research.

Shropshire's Voluntary Sector

Shropshire is home to 1,662 registered charities and approximately 1,127 very small and informal community groups. VCSE organisations work across all areas of service delivery from education and environment to arts, sports and criminal justice. Approximately 23% of Shropshire's VCSE sector organisations work more specifically within the field of health and wellbeing. Many more VCSE organisations indirectly provide health and wellbeing outcomes through their work, for example environmental volunteering, although categorised as 'environmental' can significantly improve mental health and wellbeing as well as increase levels of physical activity.

The Prevention Prospectus considers voluntary sector organisations and the contribution of volunteers and unpaid carers. Voluntary sector organisations provide the essential support necessary to enable people to volunteer and care for others.

Organisations Included in the Impact Assessment

The organisations covered within the Prevention Impact Assessment and featured in more detail within the VCS Prevention Prospectus are listed below. Many of these are larger organisations (although Shropshire's VCSE sector is predominantly classed as small or micro organisations, not medium or large by national standards). Many of those listed are also heavily involved in partnership working within Shropshire's health and social care sector and most are contracted service delivery organisations.

Organisations included in the Prevention Impact Assessment are:

- Age UK Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin
- Taking Part
- Citizens Advice Shropshire
- Oswestry Community Action -Qube
- Through the Doorway to Healthy Living
- Shropshire RCC (Wise and Well)
- Alzheimer's Society
- Peer Counselling and Advocacy Service (PCAS)
- Headway Shropshire
- Mayfair Centre (The Strettons Mayfair Trust)
- Marches Energy Agency (MEA)
- Confide Counselling Service
- Shrewsbury Dial-A-Ride
- Shropshire Disability Network (SDN)
- A4U

Case studies only – see Prevention Prospectus for more information.

- Fairness. Respect, Equality, Shropshire (FRESH)
- Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service

Service Provision

18 areas of prevention service delivery were assessed within the impact assessment. The following pages provide examples of activity for each of those 18 areas (health interventions and health and wellbeing activities have been combined within the example table). This information helps highlight the range of provision delivered by the 15 organisations.

The Impact Assessment Results

Page 8 onwards highlights the results of the impact assessment. The findings cover the human and financial resources currently being invested and the risk that those resources will reduce or be lost within the next 12 months.

A number of quotes have been picked from the completed impact assessments and included on page 13. These quotes add some context to the results but it is recommended that the Shropshire and VCSE context included within the Prevention Prospectus is used to develop a more detailed understanding of why VCSE organisations have concerns for their beneficiaries and the future of the services they provide.

Services Provided

Examples	
Social activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCC - Gusto is a membership group for older people run by a staff member at RCC who compiles a diary of activities that the members can then participate in. • RCC - Musketeers & Maidens is a membership group designed to enable adults with physical disabilities to meet as a group (following the closure of a SC day care centre). • RCC - Care & Share Groups enables family carers or members with early stage dementia to have peer support information and some respite to attend a group twice monthly • SDN - Coffee mornings, quiz nights, members' meetings all provide social opportunities. • Age UK - 23 OPEL day centres are spread across the county. These meet one day a week to provide social stimulation and support for frail older people. Between 20- 25% have dementia. • Mayfair Centre - The community café is social place for people to meet but it also has a hot meals delivery service for people who can't cook for themselves. • Alzheimer's Society - Dementia Cafes in Oswestry and Ludlow offer an informal learning environment to deliver information about dementia, practical tips about coping with dementia and social networking opportunities. • Qube -Tuesday Club is a weekly social group for people who are lonely and isolated. Qube also run painting/art, health groups and a shared reading group. • Taking Part - The Escape Night social event at the Hive and a night club experience at the Buttermarket.
Physical wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCC - Sight Loss Opp Groups are held for members with sight loss so they are able to experience activities such as cycling, rowing, horse-riding and receive information and advice to support them in their independent living. • RCC - Classes and activities are provided by the Association of Shropshire Exercise Teachers and Boccia clubs are coming together for an annual tournament. • Age UK - A range of activities are in place including walking groups, Extend, men's fitness, reading groups, stitch and mix, walking football, Zumba, singing groups, lunch clubs and afternoon teas. • Mayfair Centre -11 exercise classes are held for all levels of ability plus 5 Walking for Health groups a week at varying levels to enable participation from all. • Headway - The rehab service, seated exercise, Boccia and yoga sessions. • Through the Doorway - Each week in term-time there are 2 Tai Chi classes, 2 yoga classes, an Extend class and a Pilates class. • Qube - Non Impact Aerobics (NIA) Dance, Yoga, Tai Chi, Alexander Technique, Boccia, Pilates. • A4U –The Autism Hub offers physical activities with a focus on health improvement to enable independent living.
Mindfulness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alzheimer's Society - Weekly singing for the brain in Bridgnorth, Shrewsbury and Market Drayton. Weekly Art Therapy in Shrewsbury. • Through the Doorway - Be Good to Yourself courses. • Qube - Mindfulness, hypnotherapy, art therapy, arts projects.
Drop in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age UK - 5 Diamond drop ins for people with a dementia and their carers. • Citizen's Advice Shropshire – Drop in sessions for generalist advice 5 days a week across 11 outreaches. This adds up to 55.5 hours of advice. • Qube - Arts groups and a weekly social group. • A4U - Shropshire Autism Hub has 2 members of staff and 4 volunteers supporting drop ins. The sessions aim to provide support for independent living, income maximisation and management, health improvements, relationship support and social development
Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCC - Effective hearing programmes empower participants to manage their hearing loss. • Mayfair Centre - Arts, crafts and IT learning sessions. • Headway - The rehab service reading group and IT group. • Alzheimer's Society - Carer Information and Support Programme (CRISP) - two programmes run twice a year. Each programme is 3 or 4 weekly sessions provided to carers in order to provide information in an understandable format • Through the Doorway - Cooking 4 Life courses. • Qube - Computers for beginners, social media, arts courses. • A4U –The Autism Hub provides IT facilities and learning opportunities supported by 12 volunteers. • Taking Part - A Mental health Capacity Act card and You Tube video in conjunction with Shropshire Joint Training and the Social Care Institute for Excellence with endorsement from Baroness Finlay, Chair of the National Mental Capacity Forum.

Examples	
Employment Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qube - A partner within Building Better Opportunities. Volunteering to gain confidence and skills to move towards employment. • RCC - A Building Better Opportunities partner providing a supported volunteering programme. • Headway - A partner within Building Better Opportunities. Work placements at the Rehab and Reablement Centre in Shrewsbury. • Through The Doorway - Offers courses to increase self confidence and esteem, improve lifestyle choices and encourage people towards employment.
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen's Advice Shropshire - 6% (334) of generalist service provision is information only. Leaflets and fact sheets are also available in each office. The website has over 60,000 page visits a year and the online information site has had 216,871 visits a year (total of 147,297 unique devices). Of the specialist projects 30% (667) enquiries are information only. • MEA - Fuel poverty and tariff switching through Age UK day centres with funding from the British Energy Saving Network. • Qube - Signposting from all services and Oswestry Local Directory (a local directory of services for social prescribing and signposting).
Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCC - Wise and Well days are held such as diabetes awareness events to give support and information for people to remain independent and engaged in communities and understand their health condition better. • Headway - Provision of a range of advice through the outreach service. • Citizen's Advice Shropshire - There are two parts to CAS service provision. 1) The generalist service providing face to face advice and a telephone advice service 5 days a week 2) Specialist services providing targeted advice 5 days a week. The general advice service provides advice across 16 advice areas e.g. debt, benefits, consumer advice, housing, education, employment, financial services and capability, health and community care, immigration, legal, relationship and family, tax, transport, utilities, discrimination. Specialist projects cover Information, Advice and Support (IAS) for 0 to 25 year olds (education, health and social care issues); and the specialist debt and money advice and pension guidance. • Alzheimer's Society - Home visiting provides information, practical advice and person centred support in living with dementia and preparing for the future. The advice is provided following clear assessment of needs, builds upon existing networks, brings expertise to the person with dementia and carers, and preserves familiarity and continuity where possible for individuals. This is the alternative to a crisis management approach which leads to a poorer quality of life. • Age UK Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin - 2,000 enquiries a month are supported via the Shrewsbury office and over 10,000 factsheets and booklets are distributed. • A4U - Working as part of CAAN to offer disability advice staff members support 450 people.
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCAS - Independent advocacy for all adults with any disability including multiple disabilities and complex needs. • Taking Part - Independent advocacy including Care Act advocacy. • Age UK - Advocacy focused on the needs of older people. • Citizen's Advice Shropshire - Provides a single point of referral for advocacy under the Care Act. • A4U - Advocacy is provided as part of the CAAN partnership.
Benefits advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age UK - The Benefits Team offers advice and information on all aspects of welfare benefits for those over retirement age, including checking entitlement. Home visits are available. Age UK assist with unsuccessful claims and help overpayment issues. • Citizen's Advice Shropshire - 26% (5,917) of total issues are benefits related and this accounts for 2,865 unique clients.
Support in the home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCC - Good Neighbour groups are run by volunteers and developed and supported by RCC staff members to reach those who are isolated. Transport to medical appointments is provided. • RCC - Hearing loss volunteers support the frail and elderly and clients unable to leave their homes to access hearing support services. • Age UK - The Help at Home scheme provides support to enable older people to live independently in their own homes. This includes a volunteer element and benefits advice. • Mayfair Centre - CoCo befriending support service helps with jobs such as paper work and enables people to access community activities. • Headway - Acquired Brain Injury Care and Support (ABICS) domiciliary care. • Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride - Volunteers carry passengers shopping into their houses/kitchens. • Qube - Supported shopping/home delivery.

	Examples
Access to facilities/outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayfair Centre - Ring and Ride provides door to door transport for people not able to use public transport and with no access to a car. This includes socially isolated, and those with physical and mental issues that impact on the ability to travel independently. • Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride - Through community transport Dial-a-Ride regularly provides access to 2 walking for health groups, a minimum of 5 social groups and 3 support groups. • Qube - Community transport for people living in the Oswestry and surrounding areas in North Shropshire. • Taking Part - Coffee and chat groups provides advocacy and support for adults with learning disabilities across the county.
Meetings/support groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayfair Centre - A venue for support groups and assistance to set up. Currently there are 7 groups covering cancer, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), arthritis, Parkinson's, stroke, Alzheimer's and carers. • Citizen's Advice Shropshire - Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS/IS) organises and attends a variety of groups of parents. In the period of April 2016 - March 2017 IASS / IS attended 23 family groups and 7 events. • Alzheimer's Society - Peer support groups in Church Stretton, Whitchurch and Shrewsbury. These provide a learning environment that provides information about dementia, practical tips about coping with dementia, experiential learning and social networking opportunities. • Taking Part - Taking Part offers meetings for 'Write to Know and Right to Speak'.
Health interventions and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confide - Counselling for improved mental health and well-being, increased autonomy and independence. • RCC - Hearing aid repair clinics at 10 venues, including care homes and the See & Hear van. • Taking Part - Annual Health Checks and Patient Passport for clients with learning disabilities.
Partnership groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDN and Taking Part - Part of the Inclusively Fit Project Steering Board. • Alzheimer's Society- Currently Chairs the Health & Social Care Economy Steering Group for Dementia. People with dementia and carers are members of this group and are supported by a volunteer to attend and contribute. Also part of the Dementia Action Alliance. • Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride - A lead within the Community Transport Consortium (Qube and the Mayfair Centre are members).
Safeguarding support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAAN partners—Safeguarding support is provided through the CAAN partnership. • Taking Part - Taking Part works with the Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board. Taking Part is a member of the Learning and Development Sub Group. As a member of the group Taking Part considers wider VCS involvement (working as a member of the Shropshire VCS Assembly) and the needs of clients to make safeguarding personal.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age UK - Ongoing recruitment of volunteers means there are over 850 volunteers in 950 roles and recruitment is constant to meet growing demand. • Mayfair Centre -Day care and day opportunities for adults with learning difficulties. • Alzheimer's Society -Service User Review Panels (SURPS) provide opportunities for people with dementia to have a voice. People can influence decisions that have to be made by service providers, or policy makers. There is a group in Market Drayton • Through the Doorway - Mini Music offers music and movement sessions for parents or carers of pre-school children. Children learn both to listen to music and participate in music-making using a variety of age-appropriate instruments and other materials, games, songs, dances and movements. The aim is to increase children's readiness for school and to encourage children to be active, thereby helping to tackle childhood obesity. • A4U- Acts as an agent for Shropshire Council, providing premise management and day to day operational management and development of Louise House as a Health & Social Care Wellbeing Centre.

Findings

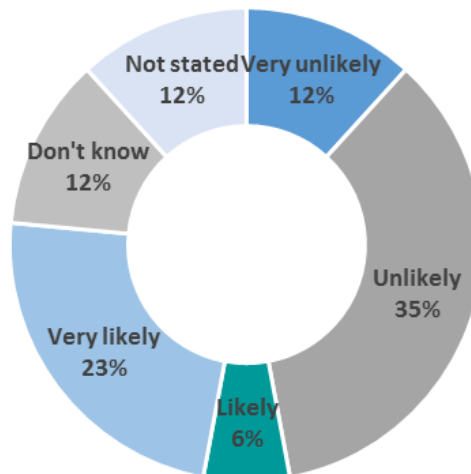
17 Organisations completed the impact assessment.

Of those, **15** completed the detail for each area of service (**2** provided organisational level information only).

£1.98 million

The annual value of volunteer time contributed each year by the 15 organisations. The monthly value is £165,262.

Risk of whole service closure if one contract is lost in the next 12 months



22,035

The total number of volunteer hours per month for all the services combined.

498

The total number of paid staff supporting the delivery of preventative services.

29,990

The number of staff hours contributed each month by the 15 organisations completing the detailed impact assessment.

41,339



The total number of beneficiaries supported by 15 preventative services.

26,588

People considered high risk/vulnerable are supported by the 15 organisations.



Advice is the type of prevention service accessed by the most beneficiaries followed by drop in support, information and support in the home.

Scale of prevention activity and services provided

The table below highlights services and activity types provided by 15 VCSE organisations. This insight into prevention activities is important and suggests the significant scale and diversity of preventative action across the wider VCSE sector .



	Number of staff employed for service/ activity	Number of staff hours (per month)	Number of volunteers*	Volunteer hours (per month)	Number of beneficiaries supported	Number of vulnerable/ high risk adults supported
Social activities e.g. clubs	31	2238	333	8698	2190	2230
Physical wellbeing e.g. walking groups	15	319	49	93	1004	453
Mindfulness e.g. therapy, relaxation	13	345	33	284	174	131
Drop in sessions	20	1772	102	3397	6437	751
Learning e.g. IT classes, reading groups	25	102	16	178	613	534
Employment Support	4	341	35	160	570	540
Information provision	10	2302	60.2	1185	2360	2250
Advice provision	47	4473	124	2084	9321	1635
Advocacy	19	3908	100	1077	1418	2088
Benefits advice	5	340	27	272	207	900
Support in the home	237	8555	292	972	2240	2220
Access to facilities/ outreach	11	1214	74	2243	1255	1723
Meetings and support groups	14	814	11	9	1005	423
Health interventions	4	289	233	534	693	693
Health and wellbeing activities e.g. diabetes awareness	7	301	76	522	350	150
Partnership groups	13	1526	27	211	1005	1003
Safeguarding support	17	1026	16	56	1102	1102
Other (music, volunteer services etc.)	6	129	18	60	9395	7762
Total	498	29,990	1626	22,035	41,339	26,588

Local partnerships supported by the 15 VCSE organisations.....



Delivery Partnerships

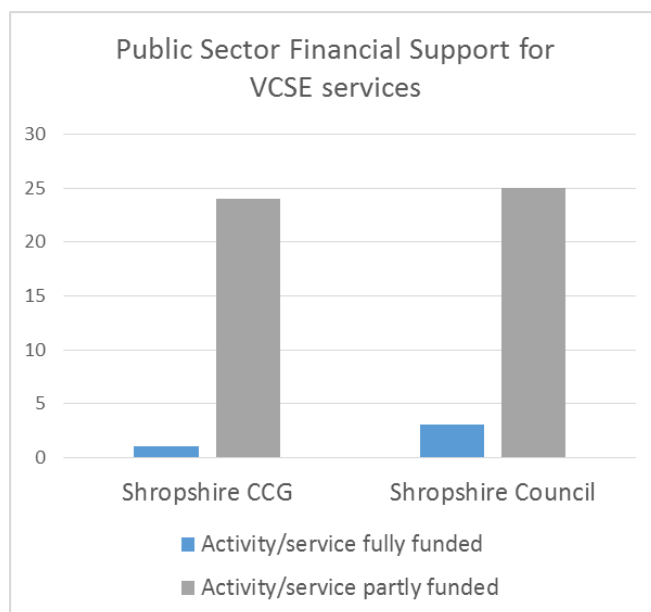
- Building Better Opportunities
- Community Advice & Advocacy Network (CAAN)
- IASS
- Dementia Action Alliance
- Social Prescribing
- Pension Wise Partnership (Citizen's Advice)
- Community Transport Consortium

Forums and Cross-Sector Partnerships

- Health and Social Care Forum
- Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly
- Mental Health Forum
- Disability Forum
- Shropshire Older People's Assembly
- Hard of Hearing Forum
- Shropshire Hate Crime Reporting Group
- Integrated Community health for people with learning disabilities
- Learning Disabilities Partnership Board
- Learning Disabilities Service User Forum
- LD Central Advisory Group
- Making Safeguarding Personal advisory group
- Care Act Advocacy
- Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board and sub groups
- Autism Partnership Board
- Autism and ABI Floating Support Steering Group

Note: other local partnerships are supported through membership of the VCS Assembly

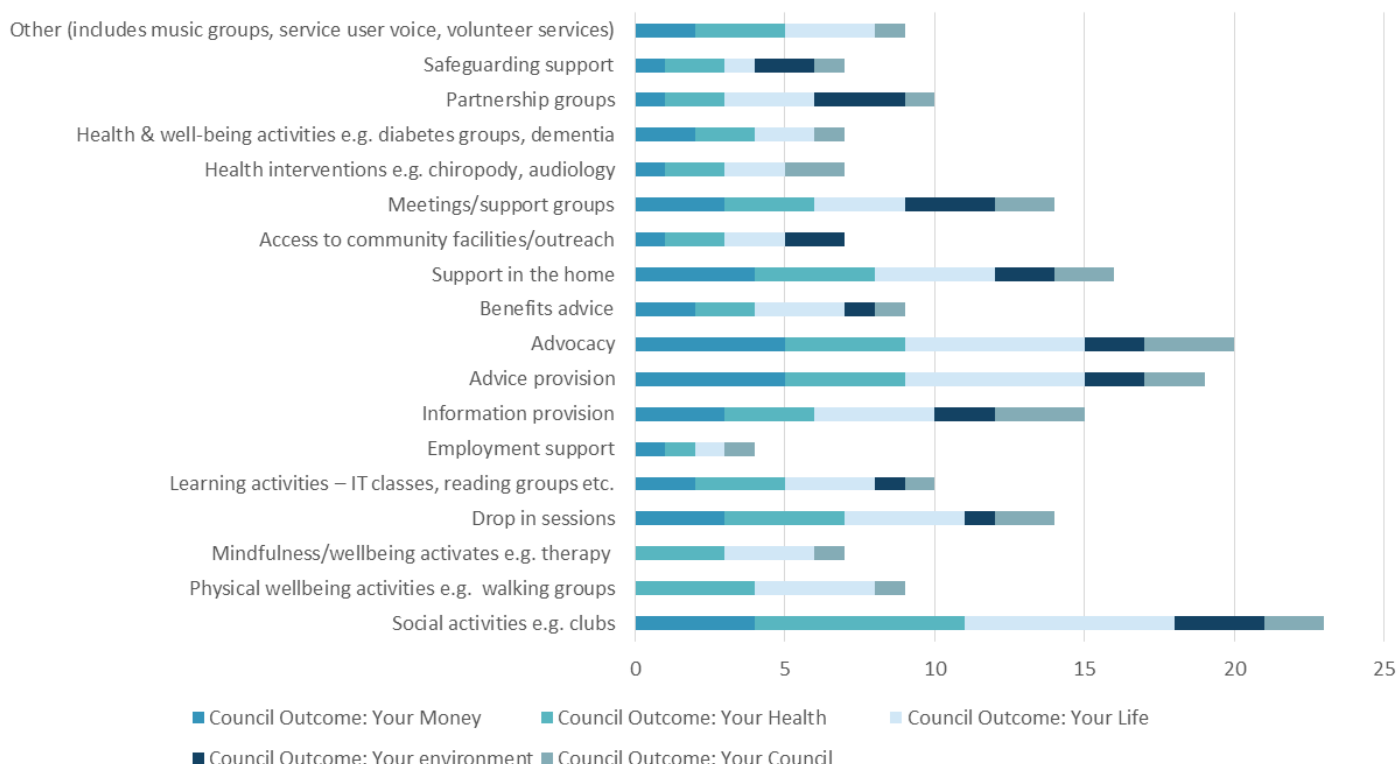
Very few VCSE preventative services and activities are fully funded by Shropshire Council or Shropshire CCG



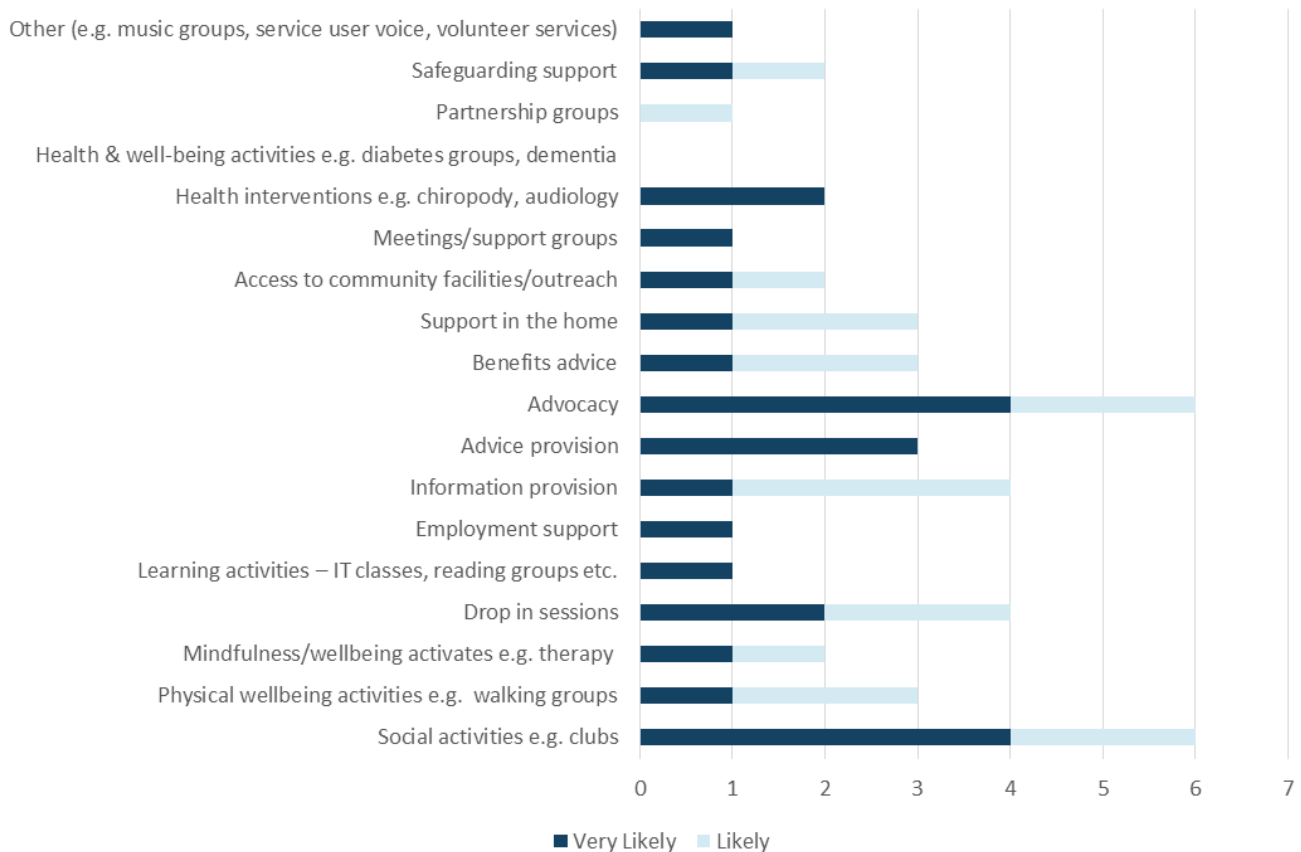
79

The number of preventative services/activities delivered by the 15 organisations. Each of them also contributes social value.

Number of Activities/Services Delivering Council Outcomes



Likelihood that the service/activity could end if a proportion of income is lost in the next 12 months



57%

Of the 79 preventative services/activities delivered by the 15 organisations are considered at risk in the next 12 months (either likely or very likely to close or reduce in scale).

If some investment in prevention is lost in Shropshire, of the 79 preventative services/activities.....

15

Could see eligibility criteria change

58

Could see reduced opening times

20

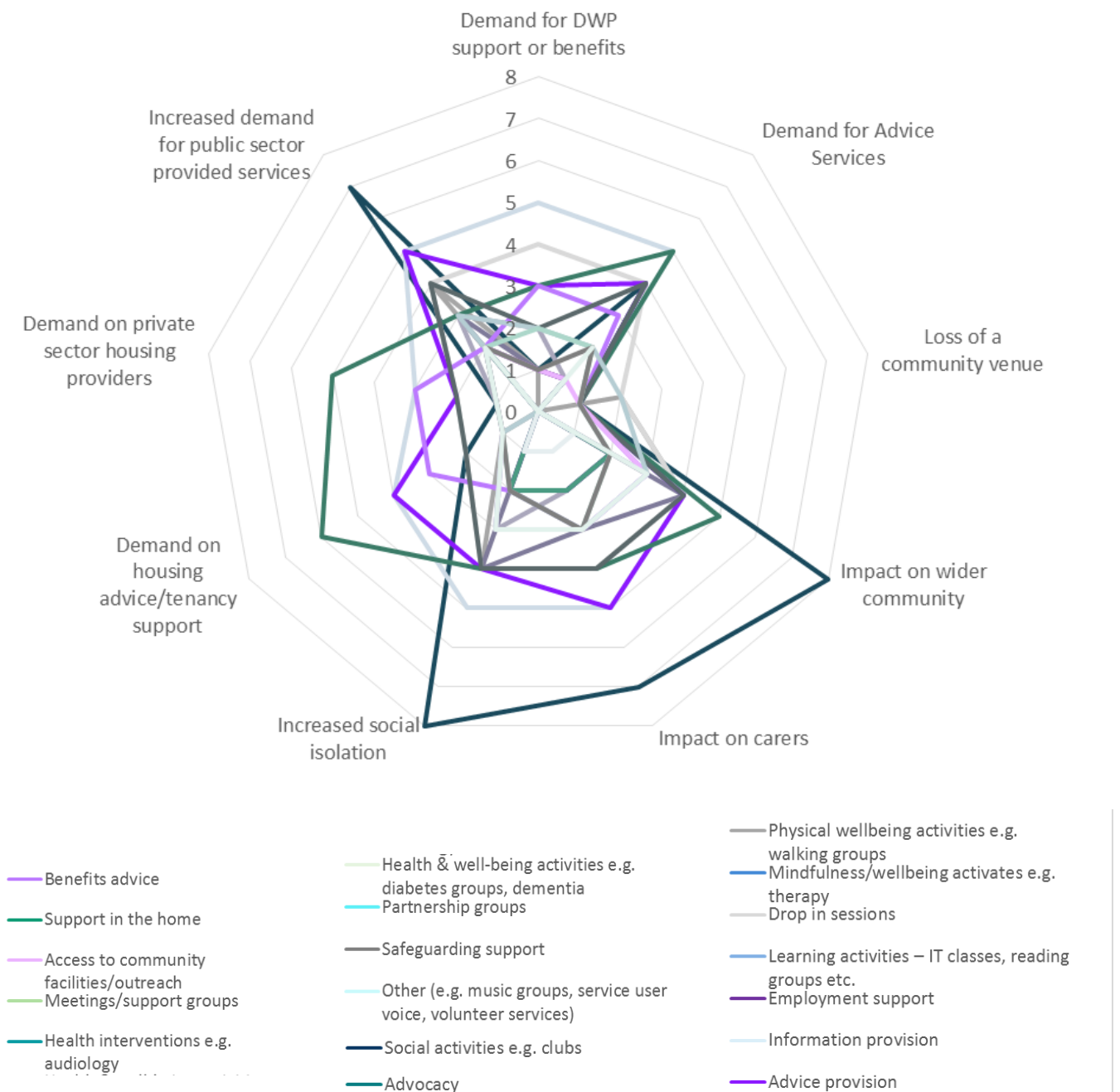
Would cut back on the range of activities provided

2

Service locations could be lost



Potential impact of service/activity loss



In the chart above 8 represents a high risk and 0 a low risk.

The chart above shows that the 15 VCSE organisations involved in the impact assessment believe that the loss of social activities will have the most widespread impact on other services and the community, in particular leading to social isolation, an impact on carers, an impact on the wider community and generating increased demand for public sector services.

The loss of information services and advice services are considered to be the areas of delivery that would generate the most significant impact on carers if lost. Loss of advocacy support is considered likely to increase demand on advice and housing services.

Of all the different impacts considered should VCSE preventative services be lost, those with the highest scores across all service/activity types were: impact on carers, increased social isolation, impact on the wider community and increased demand for public sector services.

Quotes

"We can help with issues concerning housing, residential and nursing homes, either helping to understand the funding and assessment procedure, or challenging issues when residents and their families disagree with decisions made by authorities, utilities such as water, gas and electricity. That independent advice is important in Shropshire."

"The preventative work that the teams engage in is a vital part of the support offered for the most vulnerable adults in this sparsely populated county. Taking the information and support to the market towns and rurally isolated communities is important. This work has been predominately funded by Shropshire Council with extra monies to deliver this derived from small grant pots and donations from attendees and fraternity organisations".

"We help to reduce repeat referrals to A&E, the Police, Children's Services and Adult Services....and this reduces cost to the public purse..."

"Without ongoing funding volunteers to support services would reduce so activities would decline over a period of time."

"If funding reduces we would have to reduce the number of sessions we run each week."

"Our members with sight loss are now able to experience activities such as cycling, rowing, horse-riding and receive information and advice to support them in their independent living."

"Without us people with disabilities might not get the benefits to which they are entitled."

"Without our services people with disabilities would not have access to the information they need to help them retain some level of fitness and social inclusion."

"There is no other provision locally with the expert knowledge of our client group. We have managed to successfully provide a wide coverage across the county. Without us there would be no Experts by Experience provision."

"Without support people could become isolated again."

"Without resources we would need to decrease the area served (currently Central and South Shropshire), so no service in the Ludlow, Clee Hill, Burford, Clun Valley and Craven Arms area. We would also reduce the services offered in the Shrewsbury 'rural' areas."

"These are people who do not have the confidence to come into town to access activities and do not have any other activities in their villages."

"If we lost investment for this service the most vulnerable clients would be put at most risk."

"Providing the opportunity for peer support is important to help problem solving. Seeing an issue before it becomes a crisis. Spotting a safeguarding issue..."

"We help people and families stay well, stay connected to others, stay strong, and carry on living at home."

"Community transport supports people to remain in their own homes and enables them to retain their independence."

"If we can't keep going a specialist service would be lost to Shropshire."

Summary Findings

1. The 3 pages of example services/ activities and the table provided on page 9 highlight the diversity and breadth of support delivered by just a small proportion of Shropshire's VCSE sector.
2. Approximately 79 different services and activities are provided by the 15 organisations.
3. 498 paid members of staff from the 15 VCSE organisations, support each of the 18 areas of prevention activity covered within the impact assessment.
4. In total, the 15 organisations provide 29,990 hours of staff time per month and the remainder of service provision is carried out by volunteers. This is just a fraction of VCSE support with 1,662 registered VCSE organisations in Shropshire.
5. The volunteer time contributed by the 15 organisations is worth £165,262 every month and approximately £1.98 million a year based on the national minimum wage.
6. 5 of the 17 VCSE leads involved in the project (2 provided organisation level data only) believe that it is very likely or likely their whole service could end in the next 12 months if just one contract is lost.
7. The 15 organisations support 41,339 beneficiaries (although some beneficiaries are likely to benefit from multiple services so double counting is likely).
8. The 15 organisations support 26,588 people living in Shropshire who are frail, vulnerable and considered at high risk. These organisations do work with those with greater levels of need and provide many secondary and tertiary preventative services (smaller groups tend to focus more on primary prevention).
9. The ratio of paid staff to beneficiaries is 1:83, highlighting the demand VCSE services experience.
10. Interestingly, the 15 organisations consider that it is the social support they provide that has the greatest impact on individuals, carers, the wider community and public sector organisations.
11. The prevention work of the VCSE sector is well integrated in Shropshire. The 15 organisations are members of 23 delivery partnerships and forums (this would be more if organisations had included the partnerships they sit on to represent Shropshire's VCS Assembly).
12. The VCSE organisations recognise the impact they have upon strategic outcomes. All areas of prevention are thought to impact on Shropshire Council's 4 strategic outcomes. Social activities are considered to have the greatest impact across all 4 outcomes (Your Health, Your Life, Your Environment, Your Council).
13. Shropshire Council and Shropshire CCG are important sources of investment in prevention in Shropshire but it is rare that services are fully funded by the Public Sector. Most organisations are relying on other sources of investment to supplement public sector income such as grants from charitable trusts and national funders, fundraising activity and donations to a lesser degree.
14. 57% of all the preventative activities and services currently delivered (approximately 45 activities) are considered to be at risk or reduction or closure within the next 12 months. This could be a reflection of the uncertainty around public sector investment.
15. The types of prevention most at risk are social activities, advocacy and information provision.
16. If investment into the VCSE reduces, the 15 organisations believe 58 activities/services could see reduced opening times, 20 a reduction in range/scope and 15 a change in eligibility criteria.
17. The 15 VCSE organisations believe that the loss of social activities will have the most widespread impact in particular leading to social isolation, an impact on carers, an impact on the wider community and generating increased demand for public sector services.
18. Of all the different impacts considered should VCSE preventative services be lost, those with the highest scores across all service/activity types were: impact on carers, increased social isolation, impact on the wider community and increased demand for public sector services.
19. The quotes included in the report highlight the fact that VCSE organisations are embedded in the social fabric of Shropshire and if lost as a result of current challenges (see VCS Prevention Prospectus for details), the impact will be wide-ranging and affect individuals, carers, communities and the public sector.





Collated by Shropshire's Council's Feedback and Insight Team on behalf of Shropshire VCS Assembly

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