

17 May 2016

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Dear Colleague,

Changes to the Public Health Grant and the Impact on the Devon 3E Child Weight Management Service run by Well UK

I am writing to inform you about an important change to the 3E Child Weight Management Service commissioned by Devon Public Health and run by Well UK. As you may know, the Comprehensive Spending Review announced the Government's intention to reduce the public health grant to local authorities for the next five years. The impact of the grant reduction for Devon has been substantial with a reduction of £2.5m in cash terms in 2016/17 and ongoing reductions in subsequent years.

A public health savings plan has been agreed by Devon County Council. In making these savings, our priority has been to protect public health services and programmes for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Devon. We have therefore had to make some very difficult decisions that will have an impact on other public health services.

3E Child Weight Management Service (for families of overweight children aged 2-5)

Devon Public Health commissioned a weight management service for families of overweight children aged 2-5, which commenced in March 2015. Well UK is the consortium providing this service (called 3E) via local voluntary sector organisations including Westbank, Exeter Community Initiatives and Community Action South West. The service provides families of overweight children aged 2-5 an opportunity to receive 1:1 tailored weight management support.

Due to the financial situation Devon County Council has had to give notice to the service providers Well UK. **The contract for the 3E Child Weight Management Service ends on the 30 July 2016.**

What does that mean for referrals to the 3E Devon Child Weight Management Service?

[Referrals can still be made to 3E via Well UK up until 31 May 2016.](#) Any referrals dated on or before this date will be honoured.

How will we minimise the impact?

From June 2016 the public health nursing service will continue their vitally important work of raising the issue and giving brief advice and brief intervention around weight. Instead of referring families to the 3E service, families should be signposted to resources that may be of help to them. A new pathway will be sent to you in the next two weeks giving you resources and links that you can suggest families might like to use.

A new *Devon Healthy Lifestyle Service* is currently being commissioned and once established (August 2016), will provide information, advice and support to all adults on

Chief Executive Phil Norrey

healthy lifestyles, including healthy weight. While this service is for adults there can be a very positive impact on children when parents are supported to make lifestyle changes. More information about the new Healthy Lifestyle Service will be sent to you following the completion of the tendering process.

Weight Management Training Delivered by Weight Management Centre

Devon County Council Public Health also commissioned a programme of training for clinicians and staff involved in supporting people to address their weight, which commenced in February 2015 and has been run by the Weight Management Centre. Nearly all frontline staff in the Public Health Nursing Service have received training in brief intervention and brief advice. The contract for this training programme comes to an end on 31 October 2016. Until that time there are still training courses available (online and face-to-face) that anyone can make use of.

If you have any queries regarding the changes to 3E Child Weight Management Service in Devon, please contact Sara Gibbs on sara.gibbs@devon.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steven Brown
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH