

Changing Futures consultation: background information

Background

Changing Futures is a programme that supports people experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage to improve life experiences, particularly with regards health, care and contact with the criminal justice system. People experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage are defined as people with experience of 3 or more of homelessness, domestic or sexual violence and abuse, mental illness, problematic substance use or contact with the criminal justice system. Changing Futures has run in Nottingham since 2021/22. In 2026, a new programme phase was launched. Since 2021/22, Nottingham City Council has hosted the funding for the programme on behalf of Nottingham City Place-Based Partnership.

Since 2021/22, the funding for Changing Futures has come from a mixture of national and local sources. This funding has been used to fund a range of services in Nottingham. Many of these services are currently funded through contracts that come to a natural end in 2026/27. All funding for the programme is time limited.

Recent changes have been announced to the funding for the programme from 2026/27-2028/29. Overall, these changes mean that the funding for the programme has reduced when compared to 2025/26:

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Funding for Changing Futures	£2.44m	£1.94m	£1.68m	£1.68m

National funders have issued new guidance for the next phase of the Changing Futures programme for the period 2026/27 – 2028/29. This guidance tells local areas to direct funding towards changes to wider system programmes and pathways, as well as on services for individual beneficiaries.

To inform decisions on how Changing Futures funding is spent we have taken into account a range of factors. These factors include national policy, national and local evidence about how best to support people experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage, views from a stakeholder survey and views from engagement activities carried out with professionals and people with lived and living experience of severe and multiple disadvantage.

This document sets out preferred options to use Changing Futures funding from 2026/27 – 2028/29. We would like to hear your views on these options.

Once the consultation closes, we will consider the views expressed and develop a final set of options. These will be agreed by the Nottingham City Place-Based Partnership, and a final decision will be taken via Nottingham City Council Executive Board in September.

1. Changing Futures Main Delivery Service – including Care Navigator Offer, Wraparound Multidisciplinary Team Offer, Peer Support Offer and Lived Experience Offer

What is this service?

This service supports individuals experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage to access services that they are entitled to from across the local system. This includes helping individuals to access housing, healthcare and to engage with criminal justice orders. Support is focussed on building trust as a foundation for engagement.

This service also supports individuals experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage through the coordination of multidisciplinary support, the facilitation of peer support and the facilitation of coproduction and engagement with individuals with lived and living experience of severe and multiple disadvantage.

What changes are we planning?

We would like to continue this service until March 2029 and to work with partners across the system to further develop pathways and interventions enabling people who use the service to access and sustain engagement with longer term support offers across the local system. We would like to further integrate the peer support element of the offer with the care navigator offer.

This service has had a number of additional elements added to it since it began. Some of these elements are considered elsewhere in this consultation document (SMD probation service, Specialist Women's Navigator services). We do not propose to continue the supplementary funding to the main delivery service after its current end date. The Individual Placement Support pilot will be considered at a later date.

The service has underspent historically against its allocated budget for the core main delivery service. We would like to reduce the allocated budget to match the historical spend against the original core budget.

Why do we want to do this?

This service provides flexible capacity to support people experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage who may be struggling to access other services and is a key means to access support for these individuals.

The service also facilitates multiagency support and strategic system support. We would like to strengthen links with wider pathways as part of making sustainable system change.

2. Changing Futures Specialist Women's Navigator Services

What is this service?

These services support women experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage to access services that they are entitled to from across the local system. This includes helping individuals to access housing, healthcare and to engage with criminal justice orders. These services have particular expertise in supporting women who have experienced domestic violence and/or sexual violence. Currently these services sit across multiple contracts and organisations

What changes are we planning?

We would like to recommission these elements as a single service when the current services end, and increase funding.

Why do we want to do this?

These services provide flexible capacity to support women experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage who may be struggling to access other services and is a key front door to support for these individuals. Violence against women and girls is a national priority and there is evidence that specialist gendered interventions improve outcomes for women.

3. Changing Futures Specialist Ethnic Minority Navigator Services

What are these services?

These services support individuals from ethnic minority communities who are experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage to access services that they are entitled to from across the local system. This includes helping individuals to access housing, healthcare and to engage with criminal justice orders. Support is focussed on building trust as a foundation for engagement. These services have particular expertise in supporting individuals from ethnic minority communities.

What changes are we planning?

We would like to combine and increase the funding for offers to support people from ethnic minority communities who are experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage. However, we would like to spend this funding differently when the current services come to an end. We would like to undertake further work with people from ethnic minority communities who are experiencing severe multiple disadvantage to better understand how we can work with them to identify the best options to meet their needs.

Why do we want to do this?

We know that Nottingham is a very diverse community. The current services are very small, and so do not have the capacity to have a large reach into Nottingham's full range of ethnic minority communities. In addition, these services have not been designed to recognise other kinds of trauma that can affect people from ethnic minority communities differently (for example: racism, experiences of displacement for people who are new to the UK) or to outreach into ethnic minority communities to identify and support individuals from ethnic minority communities for whom severe and multiple disadvantage may present differently.

4. Changing Futures Practice Development Unit

What is this service?

This service provides training and development for professionals around issues that affect people experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage.

What changes are we planning?

We would like to continue this service until March 2029. We would like to maintain the original budget for this service and do not plan to increase the budget above this.

Why do we want to do this?

This service provides support to a range of workforces delivering frontline services outside of Changing Futures.

5. Changing Futures Communications service

What is this service?

This service provides communications support to raise awareness of issues affecting people experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage and to coordinate messaging across the programme.

What changes are we planning?

We do not plan to continue this service.

Why do we want to do this?

We would like to raise awareness of issues and coordinate messaging through other mechanisms, without the need for dedicated communications capacity.

6. Changing Futures Independent advocacy service

What is this service?

This service provided advocacy for individuals experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage. This service came to a natural end in June 2026.

What changes are we planning?

We do not plan to continue this service.

Why do we want to do this?

Individuals are able to access similar support from other services in Nottingham. There is stronger evidence that care navigation supports individuals experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage to have improved outcomes than independent advocacy support.

7. Embedded Practitioner Service – Mental Health Services

What is this service?

This service provides support to patients experiencing severe multiple disadvantage who are in contact with specialist mental health services. The service also provides advice to staff in specialist mental health services.

What changes are we planning?

We would like to continue this service until March 2029. We would like to reduce the funding for this service by 50% from January 2027 and seek alternative funding for the remaining 50% to allow the service to continue at current capacity. This approach is in-line with approaches previously taken with other Embedded Practitioner Services within the programme which sought to strengthen the sustainability of the services.

Why do we want to do this?

In order to make this function sustainable in the longer term, other sources of funding are needed. The proposed approach has been successfully implemented with other Embedded Practitioner services that were previously funded in entirety by the programme.

8. Embedded Practitioner Service – Emergency Department

What is this service?

This service provides support to patients experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage who are in contact with the Emergency Department. The service also provides advice to staff in the Emergency Department.

What changes are we planning?

We would like to continue this service until March 2029. We would like to reduce the funding for this service by 50% from January 2027 and seek alternative funding for the remaining 50% to allow the service to continue at current capacity. This approach is in-

line with approaches previously taken with other Embedded Practitioner Services within the programme which sought to strengthen the sustainability of the services.

Why do we want to do this?

In order to make this function sustainable in the longer term, other sources of funding are needed. The proposed approach has been successfully implemented with other Embedded Practitioner services that were previously funded in entirety by the programme.

9. Embedded Practitioner Service – Primary Care

What is this service?

This service provides support to patients experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage who are in contact with primary care. The service also provides advice to staff in primary care.

What changes are we planning?

The future commissioning of this service is being considered by the Integrated Care Board in alignment with other ongoing review work. We do not yet know the outcome of this review.

Why do we want to do this?

We think it is important that this service is reviewed alongside other primary care services that are designed to support individuals experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage in order to strengthen alignment and reduce duplication or gaps where possible.

10. SMD Probation Service – including Embedded Practitioner in Probation and Specialist Probation Navigator

What is this service?

This service provides support to people experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage who are in contact with Probation. The service also provides advice to staff in Probation.

This service also supports individuals experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage who are on Probation to access services that they are entitled to from across the local system. This includes helping individuals to access housing, healthcare and to engage with criminal justice orders. Support is focussed on building trust as a foundation for engagement.

What changes are we planning?

The future commissioning of this service is being considered by East Midlands Probation Service. We do not yet know the outcome of this.

Why do we want to do this?

East Midlands Probation Service currently fund 100% of this service. We think it is important that this service is reviewed alongside other Probation services that are designed to support individuals experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage in order to strengthen alignment and reduce duplication or gaps where possible.

11. Individual Placement Support for SMD Service

What is this service?

This is a pilot service that supports individuals with SMD to enter employment.

What changes are we planning?

We are deferring a decision around this pilot service until later in 2026.

Why do we want to do this?

This pilot service is only very recently commenced, we need longer to assess its effectiveness.