

## Appendix 3a – Consultation response from Preceptors and agencies

### Surrey County Council

Hi Ed

I'm sorry for the lack of response to both your emails you sent about the LCTS. We didn't specifically have any issues with your plans, but the review did spark a discussion internally about the schemes (across Surrey) and how we can bolster support for them and the role SCC should play.

The policy team here have been asked to develop a policy position on this, which I suspect will be shared with all districts and boroughs once finalised.

So apologies once again for the lack of communicating that earlier,  
Lucinda Derry

### Surrey Police

Hi Ed,

Thank you for explaining the potential impact. Like all preceptors we anticipate a difficult year ahead and normally would look to maximise our income. However given that these groups will need extra help, it will also simply your benefits processing and the amount is relatively small we are happy to agree to your proposals.

Yours

Kelvin Menon

**Kelvin Menon CIPFA FCA**

**Chief Finance and Section 151 Officer**

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey

### Citizens Advice

Dear Ed

Many thanks for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to council tax support. We particularly welcome the minimum payment change to £5/week (see below), but you will understand that in the current climate, we can't support any reduction in welfare payments.

Our comments:

#### **Change to other adult resident deductions (non-dependant deductions)**

Replace the four existing weekly deduction rates with a flat rate of £5 for those out of work and £10 for those in work:

We find that our clients often are unable to succeed in getting the non-dependents (particularly adult children) to make up the non dependent deduction. A £5/week increase in the non-dep deduction for council tax would have a significant adverse effect on many in our client group. We would expect the effect to be to increase council tax arrears.

#### **Minimum weekly amount:**

To replace the £10/week minimum payment with £5/week minimum.

This is a particularly welcome change. Even better (of course) would be if there were no minimum payment threshold.

#### **Earning disregards:**

UC claimants have an automatic CTS application made - this would be great - we see a small number of clients who miss out entirely on CTS with thousands of pounds of arrears as a consequence. But as the effect of this change would be to reduce CTS payable, we are unable to support it.

Kind regards

Lorna

Lorna Thomas | Advice Services Manager

**Surrey Welfare Rights**

Hi Ed,

Thank you very much for this. I've forwarded it to our Chief Officer, Maria Zealey, who I am sure will respond.

Best regards,

Ray Savage

Unit Administrator

Surrey Welfare Rights Unit