

Continuing Non-Statutory Service (Proposed Base Budget Reduction Targets) – Template 3 BOP 051			
Service name WELFARE RIGHTS BBR 116	Service Description – please see below		
	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m
Forecast before savings	1.054	1.054	1.058
Budgeted savings (cumulative)	-0.218	-0.291	-0.291
Planned net expenditure (Approved 2015 net budget)	0.836	0.763	0.767
August 15 monitoring position	0.000		
Demand variations (cumulative)		0.000	0.000
Price variations (cumulative)		-0.001	-0.002
Undeliverable savings (cumulative)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Loss of grant (cumulative)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Revised Resource Requirement	0.836	0.762	0.765
Additional savings target for approval (cumulative)	0.000	-0.124	-0.124
Revised proposed budget	0.836	0.638	0.641
Proposed risk reserve provision (discrete year)		0.000	0.000
Policy Decisions needed to deliver the budgeted savings	Reduce the capacity of the Welfare rights Service by 20% from 01/14/2016, and integrate the activities within the Health, Equity Welfare and Partnerships Service.		
Impact upon service	Potential for a lower level of benefits entitlement accessed by citizens entitled to benefits.		
Actions needed to deliver the target savings	<p>Source other support services e.g. Citizen's Advice Bureau by 31st March 2016</p> <p>Consult on proposal/ structure by 31st December 2015, for implementation as soon as practicable in 2016</p> <p>Statutory consultation process with Trades Unions with respect to potential for redundancies, January 2016.</p>		
Equality Analysis	Click here to view document		

What does this service deliver?

Welfare Rights is a service aimed at ensuring that people are aware of and receiving their maximum entitlement to state welfare benefits. It has been established when the Council pledged to help the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged groups such as families in poverty. The aim is to advise and help Lancashire citizens with their benefits entitlement as increasing benefit income not only helps individuals but also boosts the local economy.

The Welfare Rights service:

- Check what benefits or tax credits people may be entitled to
- Assist with complex benefit application forms
- Advise and represent on all aspects of social security law, including entitlement to benefits, backdating, suspensions and overpayments

- Provide advocacy and representation before social security appeal Tribunals

The service offers free, confidential and impartial and independent advice and support on a whole range of welfare benefits from local bases around the County. In addition to the advice service, proactive campaigns are developed in partnership with other agencies to obtain huge cash gains for people in hard to reach groups such as the very elderly.

In 2014/15, the Welfare Rights Service supported cases which brought £12.87M extra annual benefits for Lancashire residents.