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| **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** | **2016/17** | **2017/18** |
|  | **£m** | **£m** | **£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 | Source other support services e.g. Citizen's Advice Bureau by 31st March 2016  Consult on proposal/ structure by 31st December 2015, for implementation as soon as practicable in 2016  Statutory consultation process with Trades Unions with respect to potential for redundancies, January 2016. | | |
| Equality Analysis | [Click here to view document](http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13868&path=0) | | |

**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, pro-active 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.