



Social Policy Debate

What future do you want?

Public Consultation

Department of Social Care
Rheynn Kiarail y Theay

Introduction

- Why are we consulting?
- What is Social Policy?
- What are the principles underpinning this?
 - Welfare is not purely the responsibility of Government
 - The role of Government is to support and enable people to achieve the best they can within the resources available
 - We all have a shared responsibility to support and protect the most vulnerable in our society
- What do we mean by vulnerable?

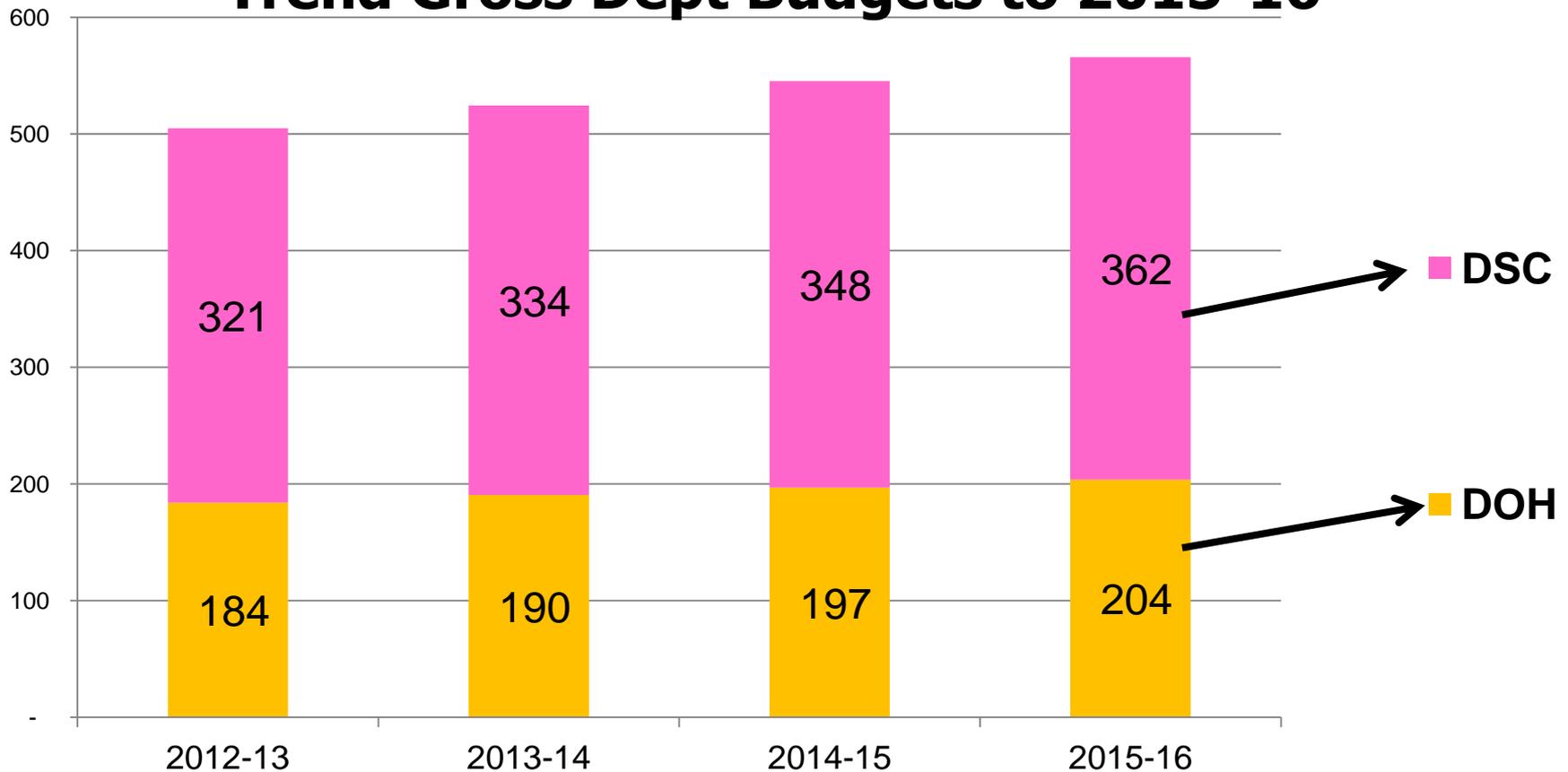
Reform of Social Policy will be crucial if Government is to fulfil its priorities

Net Revenue Budgets for 2012/13:

Department	£m	Change	Share	
Social Care	142.9	4.9%	29.0%	Social Policy 83.7%
Health	125.0	3.0%	25.4%	
Education & Children	95.9	0.2%	19.5%	
Home Affairs	30.9	-2.2%	6.3%	
Community, Culture & Leisure	17.2	-1.0%	3.5%	
Infrastructure	33.0	-4.9%	6.7%	Env. + Infra. 9.8%
Environment, Food & Agriculture	15.0	-1.9%	3.0%	
Treasury	18.2	-4.0%	3.7%	Economy 6.5%
Economic Development	13.9	-7.8%	2.8%	
TOTAL	492.0	1.2%		

Government is serving a changing population – this will only add to spending

Trend Gross Dept Budgets to 2015-16



Government is serving a changing population – this will only add to spending

	Population of the Isle of Man				
	2011 (census)		2041 (projected)		Change
Children Under 16	15,000	18%	16,000	16%	7%
Adults 16 to 65	54,500	64%	56,000	55%	3%
Older people over 65	15,000	18%	29,000	29%	93%
TOTAL	84,500		101,000		20%

Pensioner support ratio	3.6	1.9	-47%
Dependency ratio	1.8	1.2	-31%

Ageing is not the only challenge

- High-dependency groups growing faster than the wider population
 - The **severely disabled** due to medical advances
 - **Vulnerable children and families** due to better detection
 - Those with a **mental health** condition due to improved understanding
- These are more likely to require financial support than other groups
 - DSC: 68 individuals whose care costs over £100,000 a year each
 - DEC: Special needs education can cost £50,000+ a year each
 - Difficult choices will be necessary to meet their needs affordably and sustainably

So: in addition to balancing the budget, we must serve a changing population

- Health and Social Care require additional funds every year for the foreseeable future to serve the ageing population

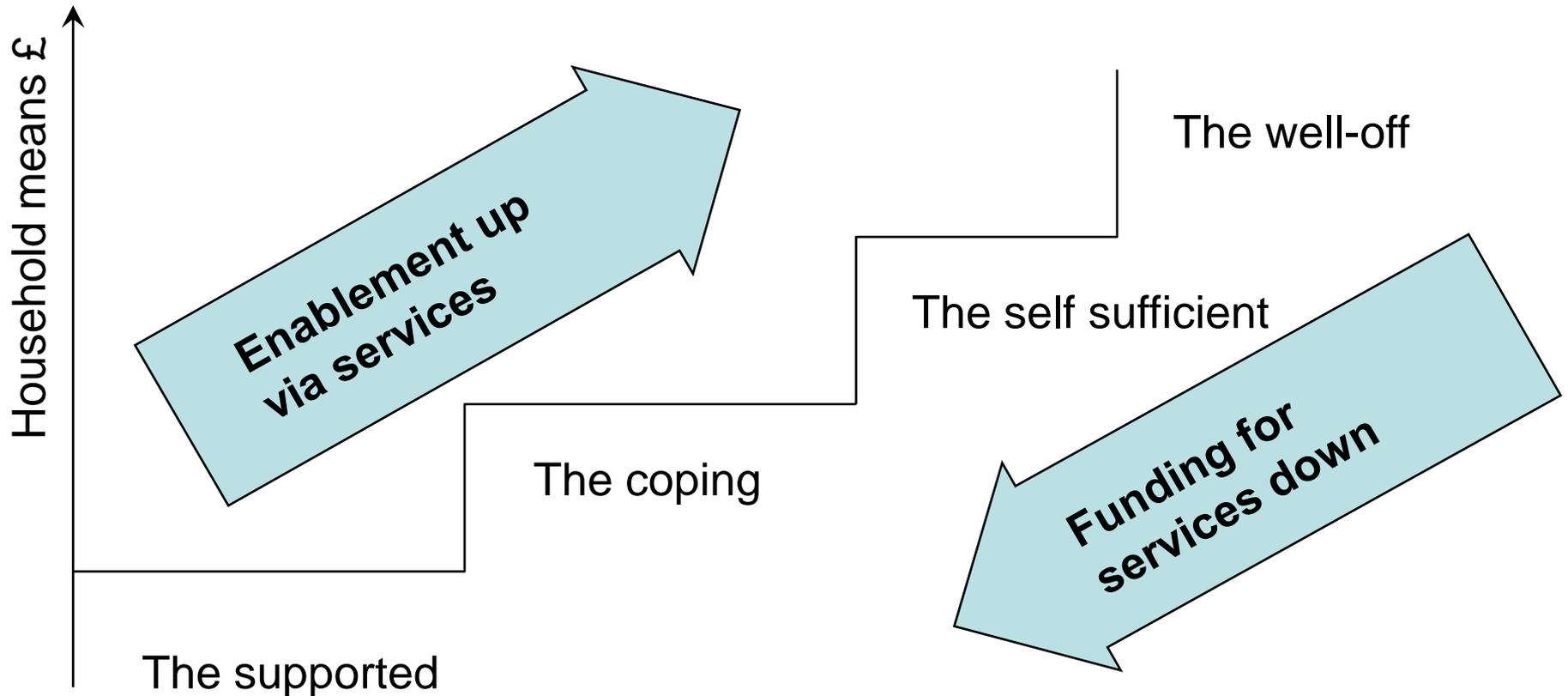
Additional annual funding required by area	£M
Health	4
Social Security	3
Social Services	2
Public sector housing deficiency	1
TOTAL	10

NOTE:
figures
exclude
inflation

- As a result, they risk 'crowding out' all other spending

Health and Social Care as % of Departmental spending	£M
2007/08	44%
2012/13	54%
2015/16 – projection assuming net Government spending reduction of £30m	64%

The Two-way Escalator will be key to addressing these challenges



UP: Help people to be self-sufficient – possible examples

Proposal

Increase home care for older people

Provide more assisted housing for those with learning disabilities

Introduce shared equity for first-time house buyers

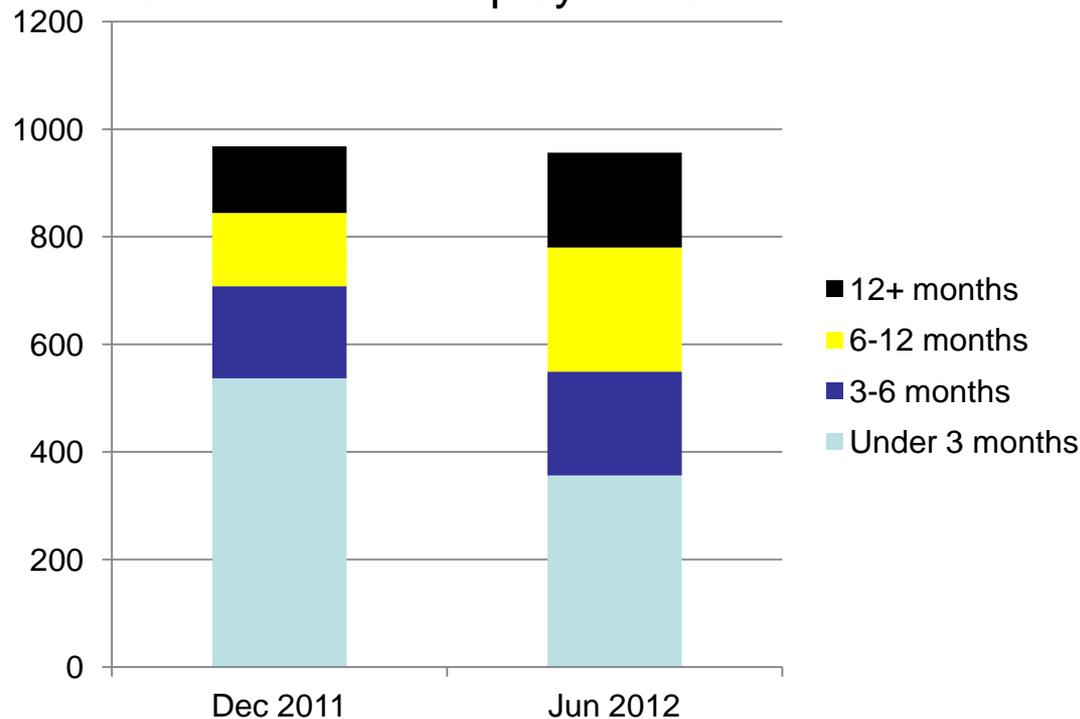
Provide more support for vulnerable families

Provide more assistance for the longer term unemployed

**Given the growing demand for care services,
this could avoid £m's in additional annual costs**

UP: We have a growing long-term unemployment problem that needs action

Number of unemployed by duration of unemployment:



Provide more assistance for the longer term unemployed via:

New social enterprises

More targeted support

Clear timescales for action

Greater use of benefit sanctions

Visibly tackling long-term unemployment will be vital for winning public confidence

UP: Ensure individuals fulfil their social responsibilities – possible examples

Proposal

Greater sanctions for those unemployed failing to seek work

Greater sanctions for those who receive means-tested benefits and/or services who fail to inform us of changes in their income and/or circumstances

More regular clinical assessment of the long-term sick

Greater sanctions for public sector tenants who cause social or other problems

In my experience, the thing that makes people angriest is perceived abuse and/or unfairness in our social policy

Therefore showing the public that it is fair and consistent will be vital

DOWN: Target scarce public resources to those in greatest need – possible examples

Department	Proposal
Social Care	Means-test benefits including child and disability benefits
	Apply fair access and charging policy for social services
	Means-test public sector housing
Health	Means-test prescription charges
	Means-test some travel and accommodation costs
Education	Means-test university tuition fees
DCCL	Means-test free bus travel

This could deliver annual savings of £20-30m

DOWN: The public has already voiced strong support for more means- and needs-testing of public sector housing

Findings of the Housing Review consultation (1,171 respondents):

- **84%** agreed that public sector rents should be linked to a tenant's income
- **68%** agreed that both low income and housing need should be criteria to access public sector housing
- **79%** agreed that tenants should be assessed when first allocated the property and at least every 5 years thereafter

Next steps

Engage in a public consultation on social policy reform	July–September
Publish findings of the consultation	November
Tynwald debate of social policy reform	December
Tynwald approve 3-year Budget	February
Conduct detailed consultations on specific reforms	Through 2013
Implement to achieve necessary savings	2013 onwards

Please Let Us Know Your Views

The consultation document is available at:

www.gov.im/socialcare



The questionnaire is available online at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/iomsocialpolicydebate



Request a hard copy by:

- Telephoning 685129
- Collecting a copy from Tynwald Library, the Welcome Centre at the Sea Terminal or Post Offices across the Island



The consultation closes at **noon on Monday 17 September**