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HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (REVIEWS)

MODERNISATION OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE - TASK AND FINISH GROUP

DATE: TUESDAY 24 AUGUST 2010
TIME: 3.00 PM
**PLACE: COUNCIL HOUSE (NEXT TO THE CIVIC CENTRE)
PLYMOUTH**

Committee Members–
Councillor Ricketts, Chair
Councillor Coker, Vice Chair
Councillors Bowie, Delbridge and Viney

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.

Members and Officers are requested to sign the attendance list at the meeting.

**BARRY KEEL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (REVIEWS)

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by panel members.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of items on this agenda.

3. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

To receive reports on business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

4. INTRODUCTION

The panel will receive an introduction on the background to the proposals.

5. MODERNISATION OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE - REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

The group will receive information on the proposals and consultation activity to date.

5a Project Initiation Document for the scrutiny item **(Pages 1 - 4)**

5b Cabinet Reports of the 13 July 2010 **(Pages 5 - 34)**

5c Timetable for review **(Pages 35 - 36)**

Request for Scrutiny Work Programme Item

1	Title of Work Programme Item	Modernisation of Adult Social Care
2	Responsible Director (s)	Director for Community Services, Carole Burgoyne
3	Responsible Officer Tel No.	Pam Marsden Assistant Director for Community Services (Adult Social Care) 307344
4	Aim	<p>With regard to proposed changes to services for older people provided from Frank Cowl House, Stirling House and Lakeside; proposed services changes involving Welby and Colwil Lodge and proposed changes to charges for non-residential adult social care services the review panel will:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and form an initial view of proposals at the beginning of the consultation period. • Consider results of the 12 week consultation period. • Review position regarding proposals and make recommendations to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel in light of consultation results.
5	Objectives	<p>To review the proposals in relation to the modernisation of older people's services against the Council's short-term agenda and long-term vision for the future care and support of older people.</p> <p>To examine the changes proposed to Adult Social Care Charging policy and its impact on service users.</p> <p>To review proposals around changing the future model of short breaks for people with a learning disability.</p> <p>To review the consultation process for the three proposed service changes to ensure that all stakeholders have had sufficient opportunity to respond to consultation activity and their views are taken into account.</p> <p>To review financial and resource implications (including staffing and land) with regard to the proposals.</p> <p>To review the impact on the overall health objectives of the city.</p> <p>To review how the proposals impact on the vision for Plymouth to become "one of Europe's finest, most vibrant waterfront cities, where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone."</p>

	Benefits	The review will raise awareness across the city as to whether the proposals will deliver fair and equitable outcomes for services for service users and staff.
	Beneficiaries	Adult social care service users and Carers. Staff Plymouth City Council and its Partners Local Community
6	Criteria for Choosing Topics	Area of potential risk i.e. corporate responsibility Issue of service users, public concern and interest, service delivery i.e. Interest of the public Level of impact, i.e. impact for specific communities (vulnerable)
7	Scope	Services identified as provided at Frank Cowl House, Stirling House, Lakeside, Welby and Colwill as outlined in Cabinet reports of the 13 July 2010. The discretionary elements of the fairer charging policy as outlined in the Cabinet report of the 13 July 2010.
	Exclusions	Other Adult Social Care services provided from other facilities in Plymouth. Other charging policies not contained within the cabinet report of the 13 July 2010 and non discretionary elements of the fairer charging policy.
8	Programme Dates	August – October

	Draft Timescales -	Milestones	Target Date for Achievement	Responsible Officer
		Initial meeting of review panel	August	Ross Jago
		Visit to Frank Cowl House / New extra care facility	August/September	Ross Jago
		Visit to Welby and Colwill	August/September	Ross Jago
		4 session review panel over 2 weeks	August/September	Ross Jago
		Session 1 Proposals over Frank Cowl House		
		Session 2 Proposals Regarding Welby		
		Session 3 Proposals regarding Fairer Charging Policy		
		Session 4 Recommendations		
		Final report to Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel	29 October 2010	

9	Links to other projects or initiatives / plans	<p>All three proposals link to the Council's corporate objectives outlined in Corporate Improvement Priority 3 (helping people to live independently) and Corporate Improvement Priority 14 (Providing better value for money)</p> <p>Cabinet paper (ref: C 61 05/06 29/11/05) "Residential Care: Proposals to modernise older peoples' services 2005-2015."</p> <p>Department of Health Putting People First: a shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social Care (2007)</p> <p>Department of Health Fairer Contributions Guidance: Calculating an Individual's Contribution to their personal budget (2009)</p> <p>Department of Health fairer charging policies for home care and other non-residential social services: guidance for Councils with Social Services responsibilities (2003)</p> <p>Putting People First Strategy</p> <p>Valuing People Now</p>
10	Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel	Health and Adult Social Care
11	Lead Officer for Panel	Giles Perritt
12	Reporting arrangements	<p>Health OSP – 29 October 2010</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Chairman's Approval</p> <p>Cabinet – 16th November 2010</p>
13	Resources	<p>Staff time</p> <p>Some costs associated with visits from the panel's budget.</p>
14	Budget implications	It is anticipated funding will be identified within existing budgets.
15	Risk analysis	Not proceeding with this review would mean that proposals would not receive adequate scrutiny before being considered at Cabinet.
16	Project Plan / Actions	Project plan to be prepared by panel

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: Modernisation of Short Break Services for People with a Learning Disability

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 13 July 2010

Cabinet Member: Councillor Monahan

CMT Member: Director for Community Services

Author: Pam Marsden, Assistant Director (Adult Social Care)
Community Services

Contact: Tel: 01752 307344
e-mail: pamela.marsden@plymouth.gov.uk

Ref:

Part: I

Executive Summary:

This report is seeking approval to engage users, carers and other stakeholders in a consultation around the future model for short break services for people with a learning disability.

In the light of both Putting People First strategy and Valuing People Now, we need to promote and support independence and offer a much wider range of alternatives for short breaks. By April 2011, Adult Social Care should have 30% of all service users with a personal budget. This will enable people to choose alternatives to the current residential short break services they receive.

We have two respite in-house units, Colwill and Welby offering a city wide service. Welby Respite Unit is in an outdated building and is not fully DDA compliant. People with complex physical disability needs cannot be supported at the unit. Colwill is a purpose-built facility.

We have been successful in a bid for a Capital Grant to modernise Colwill, which gives us the opportunity to reconfigure our current provision.

Corporate Plan 2010-2013:

This report links directly to the Council's corporate objectives around supporting users and carers and promoting independence. It links to Corporate Improvement Priority 3 (Helping People to Live Independently) and Corporate Improvement Priority 14 (Providing Better Value for Money).

**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
Including finance, human, IT and land**

The proposals around Welby will lead directly to budget savings whilst ensuring no decrease in the amount of short breaks available. We estimate that the full year financial saving will be approximately £350k.

Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.

Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed. This will be reviewed and updated fully during the consultation process.

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that:-

1. Consultation commence with service users and carers (using advocacy services and external facilitation where appropriate) and dedicated social work professionals about re-provision of short break services in the city
2. The successful capital bid to South West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership provides the opportunity to also consult on combining residential short breaks onto one site and we recommend that the consultation takes this proposal into account
3. Consultation with staff and other stakeholders is commenced on the proposal
4. The results of the consultation in relation to short breaks are reviewed by the Learning Disability Partnership Board.
5. Health and Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel are asked to review the proposal as the beginning of the consultation and review the outcomes prior to them being presented to Cabinet.
6. Alternative management arrangements are explored for Colwill through a partnership approach with the independent and/or voluntary and community sector, adopting the same approach as outlined above.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

It would require significant future investment to improve Welby. We believe demand for this kind of provision will decrease with the promotion of personal budgets. Providing alternative respite arrangements will further promote choice and control for both users and carers.

Background papers:

None.

Sign off:

Fin	JB-CoSF AC10 11 002	Leg	JB 1135	HR	MG 100 6/004	Corp Prop		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member: Pam Marsden											

**MODERNISATION OF SHORT BREAKS SERVICES
FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY**

1. Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy 2008 - 2011

At the heart of this strategy we have prioritised the need to support family carers and to increase the range of short break opportunities, including increased support to maintain those with a learning disability at home.

Traditionally Plymouth City Council has delivered a residential short break service in two in-house units: Colwill and Welby. In addition the independent sector has provided a number of residential beds for people with complex needs.

2. Context for Change

Adult Social Care needs to change the way short breaks are offered to users and carers, particularly in light of a number of national strategies and policies including Putting People First and Valuing People Now – both of which promote person-centred planning and self-directed support. They emphasise the need to support people's independence, offer a wider range of innovative and alternative support than currently exists so that users and carers can exercise more choice and control over how they are supported.

The Government expects all Local Authorities to be able to offer all **people eligible for social care a personal budget from October 2010 and to have 30% of all service users with a personal budget by April 2011**. At the end of March 2010 there were 1814 people who had self directed support, 331 of whom had a personal budget. This represents 16.4% which exceeded the 15% target set for 2009/10.

A personal budget is the sum of money that the council has to spend on an individual persons care based on an assessment of their need.

This means that service users and carers have the money “upfront” to choose alternatives to the residential short breaks services they currently receive. For some, particularly those with complex conditions, traditional residential based services will be the services of choice. However as experience and confidence increases and as new opportunities become available we expect demand for such services to reduce over time.

Adult Social Care has also been successful in a bid to South West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership for a capital grant to modernise our in- house services which will also give us the opportunity to consult on how we could reconfigure current provision to ensure the best outcomes for service users and carers.

This report seeks approval to engage users, carers and other stakeholders in consultation on the future model for short break respite services.

3. Proposals for re-provision of residential respite and short breaks

Definition

A short break is defined as “a session or more of care and support that enables a disabled or vulnerable individual to spend time away from the person(s) who provide them with regular and substantial care. This includes the provision of short breaks of day, evening and weekend activities as well as overnight stays. Such breaks can be provided in the individuals’ own home or in another setting.” (Valuing People Now)

People with learning disabilities are being encouraged and supported to aspire to lead ordinary lives and do the things, with support, that most people take for granted. The policy objective is to support people to live the lives they want as equal citizens in their community.

A major barrier to people having real choice and control over their lives is the way services plan and fund support. National and local experience of the introduction of self directed support, direct payments and personal budgets, supported by good person centred planning indicate these innovations are working well, there is increased take up and users/carers are experiencing better lives, including those with complex needs.

In this context we need to consider the appropriateness of traditional current residential respite and short breaks for people with learning disabilities to ensure individual choice and the best outcomes are achieved from public funds.

Current In-House Residential Short Break Provision

Plymouth City Council currently provides residential facilities for carers of adults with learning disabilities in the following facilities:

Residential Unit	Beds available	Occupancy 2008/09	Number of People Registered
Welby	10	83%	34
Colwill	10	81%	52

- There are 257 carers of learning disabled relatives in Plymouth.
- Of these there are 65 older carers aged over 70 caring for an adult with a learning disability.

As we introduce self directed support and personal budgets for service users and carers we expect to see a decline in the use of more traditional residential respite services over time. Nationally, we are seeing people choosing alternatives to traditional services such as:

- holidays away with friends or paid carers
- breaks at specialist activity centres
- support in their own homes to free carers to have time away

Welby

The facilities at Welby are outdated and are not fully DDA compliant. People with complex physical disability needs cannot be supported at the unit. Welby has been providing a planned short break service for people with learning disabilities from a Victorian property in the Peverell area of the city for over 20 years. It offers a city wide service, has 10 beds and the occupancy figures show that the demand is mainly for weekend breaks for carers. However, in recent years Welby has increasingly responded to requests to provide accommodation at short notice as a result of carers' breakdown or breakdown of other long-term care arrangements, especially for people with high support needs and challenging behaviour.

Colwill Lodge

Colwill Lodge has been in operation since 1990 and is a purpose-built facility in Estover providing a city wide service for people with a profound learning disability and complex physical and health needs that require high levels of personal care.

Potential Development on the Colwill Site

We have secured external grant funding of £250,000 from SW RIEP (South West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership) and £80,000 from the Capital receipts (with contingency funding if necessary) to extend the service at Colwill Lodge to increase the support available from 10 to 14 beds. The full project was presented to the Capital Programme Board in December 2009 and received approval.

A feasibility study is now underway which will be completed by July 2010. Dependent on a successful outcome of the feasibility study and planning application, the completed extension could provide:

- 4 self contained apartments/flats designed to extra care standards fully DDA compliant and with the facility to enable people to bring their own care staff if required.
- Staff sleeping area and communal space
- Provision of planned bespoke short breaks for people with challenging behaviour living with family carers.

The potential redevelopment of the Colwill site provides the opportunity to realise the benefits and efficiencies set out in Section 5.4.1 of this report achieved through reprovision of in-house short breaks from a single site and therefore this proposal would form part of the consultation.

4. Independent Sector

There is further capacity in the independent sector to provide short breaks if required and to respond to emergency requests. In addition, as part of our strategy to promote choice and control, a range of options for short respite breaks has already been developed – for example, we have developed a Carer's Voucher Scheme whereby carers can be issued with vouchers to enable them to choose directly their preferred provision.

4.1 Budget

The budget for Welby is £819,620.00, and the budget for Colwill is £792,495.00. If there is a decision to de-commission Welby there would be a re-investment required in the independent sector to ensure that levels of service were not impacted upon.

Given current usage across both units combined with the growing use of direct payments and personal budgets, we estimate going forward that there will be a need for 14 beds (current number of beds across both units is 20). This could be achieved by extending the facilities offered at Colwill and incorporating all short residential breaks onto one site.

Emergency placements would be commissioned through the independent sector, although the proposal for the development of four individual units on the Colwill site would provide a flexible option and make available facilities that enable more individualised care for people who are in crisis. It is anticipated we will need 3 to 4 beds for this purpose.

In addition, a budget would be needed to develop community support to reduce emergency admissions. Therefore Colwill Lodge could provide a flexible resource that provides planned breaks for carers, short term residential support to people with complex physical and learning disabilities and those requiring emergency care.

4.2 Impact on budget availability for alternative provision in the independent sector.

Note that if the proposal is not accepted, the full year savings of £350k will still need to be identified from other areas within the Adult Social Care budget

4.3 Users of the Service

Consultation with all users and carers would be undertaken and supported by staff from the Learning Disability Partnership and Adult Social Care Commissioning Team. It will be conducted in a sensitive and supportive way and will take into account the individual's assessment of need. Some of the consultation will involve appropriately skilled external facilitators experienced in working with people with learning disabilities.

Consultation would include:

- Consultation with all users / carers and their families who are currently scheduled to use Welby for short breaks.
- Support will be available to users who may require assurance and extra support to contribute to the consultation, for example through an advocate.
- Consultation with users of Colwill to inform them of the potential to extend the facility and incorporate short breaks onto one site.
- Consultation with service user and stakeholder members of the Learning Disability Partnership Board and Plymouth People First.
- Provide information and support on the availability and access to direct payments/personal budgets.

4.4 Staff

A comprehensive human resource process and plan will be available and the relevant unions will be consulted with prior to any formal announcement to staff. This plan sets out in detail each step of the process, the timeframes involved and all the support and information staff will receive during the process.

Our intentions are to support our staff through the proposed de-commissioning if this decision is made following the consultation process and work towards finding suitable alternative employment (through the redundancy avoidance policy) with the Council. However, it is anticipated that not all staff will be successful in finding alternative roles and that some redundancies will be unavoidable.

4.5 Welby staff

The total number of staff on the Welby establishment is 21.

4.6 Future of the Welby building and site

An options appraisal will be undertaken by Asset Management on the building to consider its potential for future use if the decision is to de-commission.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that:-

1. Consultation commence with service users and carers (using advocacy services and external facilitation where appropriate) and dedicated social work professionals about re-provision of short break services in the city

2. The successful capital bid to South West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership provides the opportunity to also consult on combining residential short breaks onto one site and we recommend that the consultation takes this proposal into account
3. Consultation with staff and other stakeholders is commenced on the proposal.
4. The results of the consultation in relation to short breaks are reviewed by the Learning Disability Partnership Board.
5. Health and Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel are asked to review the proposal as the beginning of the consultation and review the outcomes prior to them being presented to Cabinet.
6. Alternative management arrangements are explored for Colwill through a partnership approach with the independent and/or voluntary and community sector, adopting the same approach as outlined above.

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: Residential Care: Update on Modernisation of Older Peoples' Services 2005-2015

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 13 July 2010

Cabinet Member: Councillor Monahan

CMT Member: Director for Community Services

Author: Julia Penfound, Head of Modernisation

Contact: Tel: 01752 307344
e-mail: julia.penfound@plymouth.gov.uk

Ref:

Part: 1

Executive Summary:

This paper seeks to confirm agreement to the continued direction of travel in relation to the Council's Strategy.

In November 2005 Cabinet approved a new strategic direction to modernise older people's services over a 10 year period. Modern high quality extra care accommodation would be built in the immediate vicinity of our residential homes wherever possible.

Several of our older people residential homes were in outdated buildings that did not meet current day expectations. There are also no en-suite facilities in any of the remaining units.

This paper both updates on our progress to date and outlines the proposed continued direction of travel to achieve the 2005-2015 ambitions taking into consideration new national and local expectations.

Since 2005 we have achieved significant progress against the strategy set out in the Cabinet paper – specifically:

- Peirson was de-commissioned with the transfer of skilled staff into the Local Care Centre at Mount Gould
- Three new extra care facilities (Runnymede (Efford), St. Pauls (Torrige Way), Astor Court (Cattedown)) have been built and Paternoster de-commissioned.
- In April 2009 Thomas Pocklington decommissioned their residential care home and developed a purpose built extra care scheme on the same site. The care home and support contract was commissioned by Adult Social Care.
- Whitleigh Respite Home was decommissioned in January 2010
- Devonport Extra Care Scheme for 40 older people is due to be completed in January 2011
- We are currently exploring the possibility of developing an extra care unit in the Honicknowle area of the city however this is early days. We will be working with Housing Strategy Team to progress this further.

In November 2009 Cabinet agreed to the re-provision of alternative respite services within the city, and changing the registration of Frank Cowl and Stirling Residential Units to short-stay facilities. This change of registration has been implemented through changing the use of a long-stay bed to short-stay when a vacancy has arisen.

The Council has remained committed to its policy that no older person currently residing in a Plymouth City Council residential home will have to move. However, they will be offered first choice of the extra care accommodation available and built in the same neighbourhood.

Plymouth City Council are recognised as regional leaders in the successful delivery of extra care schemes. The next phase of our delivery plans proposes to continue to develop extra care accommodation, and to develop alternative forms of respite provision in consultation with users and carers, to support both older people themselves and their carers in having choices about the preferred type of service.

We currently have three long-stay residential homes for older people: Frank Cowl House, Stirling House and Lakeside.

- There are 22 beds in Frank Cowl House Residential Home in Devonport. Currently there are 8 long stay residents and 12 beds occupied for interim care (short stay). Work has commenced on a new scheme in Devonport which will be completed in 2011 and is part of the regeneration of this area. There will be 40 extra care units of accommodation in this scheme. It is recommended that we offer residents of Frank Cowl first choice of the extra care accommodation developed in Devonport.
- There are 28 beds in Stirling House Residential Home in Honicknowle. Currently 18 of these have long term residents and 6 beds occupied for interim care (short stay). We are currently exploring the possibility of securing land in Honicknowle and work is ongoing to acquire this to develop an extra care scheme. It is recommended that if an opportunity arose we would wish to engage service users and carers in consultation about the future of the unit without going back for Cabinet approval. The outcome of the consultation would be presented back to Cabinet for decision.
- Lakeside is a specialist dementia care facility and at present we have no plans to move to extra care given the increase in demand for residential support for people with dementia. However, the building is outdated and there may be opportunities to develop partnerships to re-provide services in the independent sector.

In July 2009 Cabinet agreed that residents of Frank Cowl should be offered first choice of the extra care accommodation developed in Devonport.

It is proposed that users and carers are consulted about alternative provision of the services currently available at Frank Cowl House. This would entail discussions with service users who use Frank Cowl House for short stay and discussions with current long-stay residents and their carers about the Extra Care Scheme at Devonport. Their views would then be taken into account in relation to decisions regarding de-commissioning. Those residents who wish to move from Frank Cowl House into this new unit with the same level of care and support will be able to do so.

However, no long-term resident will be forced to move as a result of this proposal.

This is not about reducing the amount of short stay provision, or residential support for people but offering a wider choice of alternatives

This is in line with the new national strategies for both Carers and Putting People First. These strategies emphasise the drive to significantly increase opportunities for people to have greater choice and control over their lives including introducing individual budgets and expanding direct payments.

Corporate Plan 2010-2013:

This report links directly to the Council's Corporate objectives outlined in Corporate Improvement Priority 3 (Helping People to Live Independently) and Corporate Improvement Priority 14 (Providing Better Value for Money)

**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
Including finance, human, IT and land**

The proposals around Frank Cowl House lead directly to budget savings while ensuring no decrease in the amount of overall provision. It is anticipated that the full year savings will be approximately £480k.

Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.

Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed. This will be reviewed and updated fully during the consultation process.

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that :-

1. Consultation with users and carers (using advocacy services where appropriate) and dedicated social work professionals about residential provision in the City and the use of Frank Cowl House for this purpose is commenced. Their views will be taken into account regarding any decisions concerning the de-commissioning of Frank Cowl House and the re-provision of alternative services.
2. To begin consultation with staff about the use of Frank Cowl House.
3. To offer residents of Frank Cowl House as part of the consultation first choice of the extra care accommodation developed in Devonport.
4. To work with all users/carers and the long-stay residents of Frank Cowl House on an individual basis to listen to their views and ensure that appropriate service provision is in place to meet their needs.
5. It is recommended that the results of consultations in relation to Frank Cowl House are

reviewed at Health and Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel and that they are asked to review the proposal as the beginning of the consultation and review the outcomes prior to them being presented to Cabinet.

6. To put plans in place to consult at Stirling House with users and carers and follow the same process as outlined in no 5.
7. To explore partnerships to re-provide an improved facility for Dementia care and similarly to consult with users and carers adopting the same approach as outlined above.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

To maintain our residential homes without significant future investment will not meet Care Quality Commission (formerly CSCI) minimum standards. Promoting Extra Care Housing as an alternative ensures accommodation of the highest quality and promotes independent living as outlined in 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' national strategy. Providing alternative respite arrangements promotes choice and control for individuals.

Background papers:

Cabinet Paper 29th November 2005 (Ref: C 61 05/06) – “Residential Care: Proposals to Modernise Older Peoples’ Services 2005-2015”

Sign off:

Fin	JB CoSF AC10 11 001	Leg	JB 1135	HR	MG 1006/0 04	Corp Prop		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member: Pam Marsden											

**RESIDENTIAL CARE: UPDATE ON MODERNISATION OF OLDER
PEOPLES' SERVICES (2005-2015)**

1. Vision

Plymouth City Council is committed to supporting Older People to remain independent whenever possible within the community of their choice.

2. Strategy 2005 -2015

The strategy agreed at Cabinet in November 2005, set out a strategic direction for increased development of Extra Care facilities and the future of our residential homes. At the time of the 2005 Cabinet Paper there were 1,715 people permanently living in residential/nursing facilities across the City funded by the City Council, and by April 2010 this number has reduced to 1054.

We currently have 5 Extra Care Schemes in the City providing 158 independent apartments.

3. Context for Change

A number of national strategies have emphasised the need to maximise independence, offer a wide range of alternatives to support users and carers promoting choice and control.

In November 2009 Cabinet agreed to the re-provision of alternative respite services within the city, and changing the registration of Frank Cowl House and Stirling Residential Units to short-stay facilities. This change of registration has been implemented through changing the use of a long-stay bed to short-stay when a vacancy has arisen.

This paper seeks to confirm agreement to the continued direction of travel in relation to the Council's Strategy.

4. Current In-House Residential Service Provision

4.1. Plymouth City Council currently provides residential facilities for Older People in the following facilities.

Residential Home	Bed Availability	Occupancy 2009/10
Frank Cowl House	Total 22 Current Occupancy 8 Long stay 12 Short stay	92.75%

Stirling House	Total 28 Current Occupancy 18 Long stay 6 Short stay	97.5%
Lakeside – specialist support for Dementia	29 long stay 1 Short stay	94.96%

5. Extra-Care Facilities:

- Three new extra care facilities (St Pauls (Torrige Way), Runnymede (Efford), Astor Court (Cattedown)) have been built and Paternoster decommissioned.
- In April 2009 Thomas Pocklington decommissioned their residential care home and developed a purpose built extra care scheme on the same site. The care home and support contract was commissioned by Adult Social Care.
- Devonport Extra Care Scheme for 40 older people is due to be completed in January 2011
- We are currently exploring the possibility of developing an extra care unit in the Honicknowle area of the city however this is early days .We will be working with Housing Strategy Team to progress this further.

6. Alternative Short Stay arrangements:

Short Stay provision is usually arranged as interim accommodation whilst longer term plans are established to meet the individual's housing needs e.g. where certain adaptations need to be carried out to the person's own home prior to their return.

Over the last 4 years we have been developing key partnerships with independent sector care providers and PCC Housing Strategy Team to deliver a range of options for people in relation to short stay provision and there is a good supply of this type of accommodation within the city.

7. Proposals for modernising older people's services 2009 - 2015

Plymouth City Council is committed to supporting older people to remain independent whenever possible within the community of their choice. The proposals below outline the next phase in our ambitions to deliver on the 2005-2015 strategy but also reflect the national context as set out above.

7.1. Frank Cowl House

Frank Cowl House is a registered Care Home providing long and short stay personal care and accommodation for up to 22 people over the age of 50 years, who may have a physical disability.

Frank Cowl House is located in the Devonport area of Plymouth close to transport routes and local shops. It is a large purpose built detached two – storey building. All bedrooms are single and none have en-suite facilities. Frank Cowl House offers small single rooms and has a number of shared lounges and kitchen areas available to all users and would not now meet the new CQC (formerly CSCI) standards when opening a new residential service.

The unit employs 35 staff (22.3 Full time equivalent) across a range of roles including Domestic, Kitchen Assistants, Care Assistants, Assistant and Unit Managers

In November 2009 Cabinet agreed that the use of Frank Cowl House be changed from long stay to short stay and gradually reduce the numbers of people who are permanent within this unit over the next 2 to 3 years i.e when a long- term bed comes available it will revert to short-term. This reduction in long stay partly reflects our progress on ensuring people have more choice and control over where and how their services are delivered and that people are now either choosing alternative residential locations or are opting to manage this in different ways e.g. through Direct Payments – where we have seen a significant increase in takeup.

Following the change of registration of this unit from long stay to short stay units, as expected this has shifted the occupancy levels of Frank Cowl House from 11 long stay beds to 8 long stay beds. The remaining 14 short stay beds are currently being used for service users awaiting extra care, pathways flat, homeless or other housing issues.

As outlined above, the Devonport Extra Care Scheme is currently underway with contractors on site since October 2010. The expected date for completion is January 2011 and it will offer 40 extra care units. In July 2009 Cabinet agreed that residents of Frank Cowl should be offered first choice of the extra care accommodation developed in Devonport.

It is proposed that users and carers are consulted about alternative provision of the services currently available at Frank Cowl House. This would entail discussions with those people who use Frank Cowl House for short stay and discussions with current long-stay residents and their carers about the Extra Care Scheme at Devonport with a view to those people who wish to move from Frank Cowl House into this new unit with the same level of care and support will be able to do so. The views would then be taken into account in relation to decisions regarding de-commissioning.

However, no long term resident will be forced to move as a result of this proposal.

This is not about reducing the amount of short stay provision, or residential support for people but offering a wider choice of alternatives. These alternatives can range from a move to the extra care scheme for those who wish to move there, residential independent sector provision or to direct payments/personal budgets to enable users and carers a greater level of control over how they are supported.

7.2. Budget

Although this is not a budget-driven decision but is about providing better and more modern facilities nevertheless there will be budget implications.

The total budget for Frank Cowl is £894,936. Within the budget for 2010/11 savings have been identified to be achieved by alternative provision. It is anticipated that the full year savings would be approximately £480,000.

Note that if the proposal is not accepted the savings of £115,000 will still need to be identified from other areas within the Adult Social Care 2010/11 budget, and full year costs of £480,000 in 2011-12.

7.3. Users of the Service

Consultation with all users and carers would be undertaken and supported by both our Social Work team and Care Staff and will be conducted in a sensitive and supportive way. This process would be in line with Plymouth City Council's Service Review Policy for Older People with the aim to minimise disruption to service users wherever possible and every effort will be made to ensure fairness, consistency and equality of opportunity for all service users who are directly affected.

Consultation would include:

- Discussion with all long-stay residents and their family/advocates regarding the future of Frank Cowl House and the options available. These options will include exploring the option of transferring to the new Extra Care Scheme, or support to identify a new residential facility or should a resident not wish to move, advice and support on how we will continue to provide care and accommodation at Frank Cowl House.
- Consultation with all users/carers and their families who are currently occupying or scheduled to use Frank Cowl House for their short stay care during 2010. This will include support and assistance in identifying alternative solutions for short stay.
- Offers of support to any potential users who may contact us who may have been considering Frank Cowl House as a possible choice for a future short stay.

7.4. Staff

A comprehensive HR process and plan is available and will be agreed with all relevant unions prior to any formal announcement to staff. This plan sets out in detail each step of the process, the timeframes involved and all the support and information staff will receive during the process.

Our intentions are to support our staff through the proposed de-commissioning and work towards finding suitable alternative employment

(through the redundancy avoidance policy) with the Council. However, it is anticipated that not all staff will be successful in finding alternative roles and that some redundancies will be unavoidable.

7.5. Future of the Frank Cowl building and site

An options appraisal will be undertaken by Asset Management on the building to consider its potential for future use if the decision is to de-commission.

8. Stirling House

Implementation of the change of the registered use from long stay to short stay of Stirling House took place following Cabinet's decision last year. The service is gradually reducing the numbers of people who are permanent within the unit i.e. when a long-term care bed becomes vacant this will revert to short-term care. Once again, no long term resident will be forced to move as a result of this proposal. Currently there are 18 long term residents and 6 short stay residents at Stirling

We are currently exploring the possibility of securing land in Honicknowle with a view to developing an extra care scheme. If successful we would look to progress this scheme and engage with residents in the same way as with Frank Cowl House.

9. Lakeside Residential Home

Lakeside is a specialist dementia care facility and at present we have no plans to move to extra care given the increase in demand for residential support for people with dementia. However the building is outdated and there may be opportunities to develop partnerships to re-provide services in the independent sector in the future. Currently there are 29 long stay residents and 1 short stay resident at Lakeside.

In light of the strengthening relationships with providers we would like to explore formally potential partnerships to build an improved facility for people with dementia. Furthermore, we would like agreement to consult with service users and other stakeholders around such proposals.

10. Recommendations

It is recommended that :-

1. Consultation with users and carers (using advocacy services where appropriate) and dedicated social work professionals about residential provision in the City and the use of Frank Cowl House for this purpose is commenced. Their views will be taken into account regarding any

decisions concerning the de-commissioning of Frank Cowl House and the re-provision of alternative services.

2. To begin consultation with staff about the use of Frank Cowl House.
3. To offer residents of Frank Cowl House as part of the consultation first choice of the extra care accommodation developed in Devonport.
4. To work with all users/carers and the long-stay residents of Frank Cowl House on an individual basis to listen to their views and ensure that appropriate service provision is in place to meet their needs.
5. It is recommended that the results of consultations in relation to Frank Cowl House are reviewed at Health and Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel are asked to review the proposal as the beginning of the consultation and review the outcomes prior to them being presented to Cabinet.
6. To put plans in place to consult at Stirling House with users and carers and follow the same process as outlined above.
7. To explore partnerships to re-provide an improved facility for Dementia care and similarly to consult with users and carers adopting the same approach as outlined above.

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: Fairer Contributions Policy, Charging within a personalised system

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 13 July 2010

Cabinet Member: Councillor Monahan

CMT Member: Director for Community Services

Author: Jo Yelland, Programme Lead for Putting People First and Integration

Contact: Tel: 01752 307344
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Ref:

Part: 1

Executive Summary:

Charging for non-residential services

The Department of Health has produced new guidance to councils on how they should charge people for non-residential adult social care services. The guidance requires that the new way of charging is implemented in 2010.

This revised policy paper sets out some of the changes that are needed to support a personalised system in Plymouth.

Section 17 of the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983 allows Councils to make a reasonable charge for non-residential services they provide. Under the Community Care Services for Carers and Children's Services (Direct Payments) (England) Regulations 2003 Councils are also required to treat people having a direct payment in the same way they would treat them if they were having a council provided service.

The original Fairer Charging Guidance (2003) was designed for an era of traditional local authority social care provision where people received services arranged by a local authority. However with increasing numbers of people receiving direct payments and the introduction of personal budgets through Putting People First (2007) there is a need to consider how an individual's contributions towards the costs of non-residential services should be assessed in the context of personal budgets.

We need to move from a system of charging linked to the costs of services to a contributions focussed system. This should be linked to an individual's personal budget and their ability to pay and not to the services that they ultimately utilise to meet their needs.

So, in summary, under personalisation an individual will make a contribution towards their personal budget which has been calculated to meet their needs and achieve their outcomes. This will be set out in an agreed support plan.

We also have a specific requirement to consult on component parts of a Fairer Contributions policy: such as how we plan to treat Disability Related Benefits and Disability Related Expenses.

Charging for Residential Services

Charging for residential service is governed under a different set of guidelines: Charging for Residential Accommodation Guidance (CRAG). Other than annual adjustments to uplifts in financial levels CRAG rules still apply for people moving into long term residential placements. We will therefore not be consulting on charging for residential services as there is no change to CRAG.

Corporate Plan 2010-2013:

This report links directly to the Council's Corporate objectives outlined in Corporate Improvement Priority 3 (Helping People to Live Independently) and Corporate Improvement Priority 14 (Providing Better Value for Money)

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

The Council currently receives in excess of £3,300,000 income from charging for services under the existing Fairer Charging Policy. The proposed revisions will have a significant impact on the charging system. We will still need financial expertise to ensure that our service users maximise their income through the benefits system but the new way of working proposed will greatly reduce bureaucracy which will drive efficiencies within back office functions, whilst making it more open and transparent.

Initial assessments of the impact of the policy indicate that there is a potential for a reduction in income for the Council in the region of £320,000. However this will be partly offset by increased efficiencies in administering the system. As this policy is linked to the overall transformation of Adult Social Care the financial impact of this policy has to be assessed in a wider context. This will be undertaken and completed during the consultation process.

Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.

Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

We are seeking agreement to consult on the new guidance on charging for non-residential Adult Social Care services. Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel will be asked to review the outcomes of the consultation prior to them being presented to Cabinet.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

None. There is a requirement to consult.

Background papers:

Department of Health Putting People First: a shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social Care (2007)

Department of Health Fairer Contributions Guidance: Calculating an Individual's Contribution to their Personal Budget (2009)

Department of Health Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services: Guidance for Councils with Social Services Responsibilities (2003)

Sign off:

Fin	COS F/AC 1011 003	Leg	DS 1138	HR		Corp Prop		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member: Pam Marsden											

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Plymouth City Council Fairer Contributions Policy Charging within a personalised system

1. Background to this document

- 1.1 This document sets out the reasons why a revised policy on charging for non-residential services is required in the context of Putting People First, personalisation and the introduction of personal budgets.
- 1.2 The original Fairer Charging Guidance (2003) was designed for an era of traditional local authority social care provision where people received services arranged by a local authority. However with increasing numbers of people receiving direct payments and the introduction of personal budgets through Putting People First (2007) there is a need to consider how an individual's contributions, if any, towards the costs of non-residential services might be worked out in the context of personal budgets.
- 1.3 Putting People First is the Government¹'s vision for social care in the future. The main aim is to give people more choice and control over how they get support. As society is changing and more people are living longer with illness and disability we need to transform the way we provide adult social care as the current model is not fit for the future.
- 1.4 In summary, Councils have powers to charge adults in receipt of non-residential services and to decide on how much that charge will be. Changes are now required to the approach taken by Council's to support the development of personalisation.

2. Statutory and Legal Context

- 2.1 The Department of Health has produced new guidance to councils on how they should charge people for non-residential adult social care services. The guidance requires that the new way of charging is implemented during 2010. The guidance is issued under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 and is called 'Fairer Contributions: Calculating an Individual's Contribution to their Personal Budget' (July 2009).²
- 2.2 Section 17 of the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983 allows Councils to make a reasonable charge for the non-residential services they provide and to decide on the level of the charge. Under the Community Care Services for Carers and Children's Services (Direct Payments) (England) Regulations 2003³.

¹ Department of Health Putting People First: a shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social Care (2007)

² Department of Health Fairer Contributions Guidance: Calculating an Individual's Contribution to their Personal Budget (2009)

³ Department of Health Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services: Guidance for Councils with Social Services Responsibilities (2003)

Councils are also required to treat people having a direct payment in the same way they would treat them if they were having a council provided service.

- 2.3 Plymouth City Council responded to the 2003 guidance and last reviewed its charging policy in 2007. The charging approach that has evolved includes a mixture of standard flat rate charges that vary according to the type of service and the provider. This approach is not compatible in the context of personalisation.
- 2.4 Under the current charging scheme, income from charging contributes approximately 8% of the funding available for non-residential care services in Plymouth. Community service users contributions to care costs in 2009/10 were £3,300,000. About half of all service users do not contribute any direct funding to their care costs due to their low income and less than 1% contribute the maximum amount currently capped at £270 per week
- 2.5 Carers' specific services defined as those services which directly support carers but do not include personal care for the cared for person, are outside the scope of this report.
- 2.6 This Fairer Contributions Guidance (2009) sits alongside the Fairer Charging Guidance (2003) which, along with its underlying ethos and principles, is still valid, and the Charging for Residential Accommodation Guidance (CRAG) to which the Fairer Charging Guidance refers.
- 2.7 Charging for residential service is governed under a different set of guidelines so this policy only relates to people receiving non residential services.

3. Policy Background

- 3.1 The Fairer Contributions Guidance (2009) sets out how the policy should be applied under a personalised system. Under Putting People First the new system is intended to be fairer for all people, in that the contributions they make will reflect the actual care being given rather than the cost of services provided.
- 3.2 Therefore we need to move from a system of charging linked to the costs of services to a contributions system linked to an individual's personal budget and their ability to pay not the services that they ultimately utilise to meet their needs.
- 3.3 Adult Social Care services have to change so that:

- People who use social care services and their families will increasingly shape and commission their own services.
- Personal Budgets will ensure people receiving public funding are able to use available resources to choose their own support services.
- The state and statutory agencies will have a different role - more active and enabling, less controlling.

3.4 National milestones require Council's to offer all people eligible for social care a Personal Budget from October 2010 and to have 30% of all service users with a personal budget by April 2011.

3.5 Self Directed Support is the term used to describe a personalised system of care where the individual is supported to take more control over the assessment process. In this system the needs assessment links to a points system that calculates how much money the Council should spend to meet their needs. This is called a Personal Budget which can be a virtual budget, a Direct Payment or a mixture. This means that people will know up front how much money will be needed to meet their needs and individuals will have much more choice and control over how the money is spent.

4. Key Requirements of Fairer Contributions Guidance 2009

4.1 The overall purpose of the new guidance is to provide a framework within which Local Authorities must develop and implement a single contributions policy for Personal Budget users which is based on their ability to pay rather than the complexity of their needs or the size of the care and support package they require to meet those needs

4.2 What this will mean in practice is that people with a similar level of need for services may be asked to contribute different amounts to their Personal Budget if they have the (financial) means to do so. Service users will not be financially penalised for having high or complex care and support needs, and those who have relatively low needs will be no worse or better off than those with relatively higher needs.

4.3 There are a number of key principles that underpin the Fairer Contributions guidance, these are:

- The contributions policy is clear and transparent and easy to understand and challenge
- The contribution a customer is asked to make is financially assessed according to their ability to pay.
- The customer will not pay more than the cost of their care package.
- The contribution does not undermine the customer's independence of living by reducing their income to unsustainable levels.

- The contribution system will treat all services users equitably and ensure that people who choose direct payments are treated the same as those who chose council managed services
- The system ensures administrative efficiency and convenience for service users
- The system provides an early notification of service users likely contribution to care costs and financial assessment must follow needs assessment and resource allocation
- The contribution is applied to the whole of the care package / personal; budget received.
- There must be a fair and consistent approach to the application of disability related income and expenditure
- The contribution required is calculated in line with the Department of Health's Fairer Charging Guidelines.
- The financial assessment process will ensure that service users have an opportunity to maximise welfare benefits and reduce the burden of funding that may transfer to the council
- All customers who are financially assessed as being able to make a contribution to their care costs must pay the charge.
- The system must take into account the implications on service users and carers to ensure that if necessary transitional measures are put in place to mitigate

4.4 Services that fall within the Fairer Contributions Policy

All types of social care services including:

- Day care.
- Personal Home Care (Domiciliary Care)
- Domestic Help
- Extra Care Housing.
- All non residential Personal Budgets

4.5 Services that must not be subject to the Fairer Charging Policy.

- Information, Advice and Guidance provided by the Council.
- Financial assessments.
- Reablement services.
- Long term residential care services which will be chargeable under the Government's Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide (CRAG).
- No charge will be payable for minor adaptations and equipment costing a total of under £1,000.

4.6 Circumstances when a customer cannot be charged.

There are circumstances in which people are exempt from being required to make a contribution. These are:

- People suffering from Creutzfeldt Jacob Disease (CJD)

- People who have been infected with hepatitis C as a result of NHS treatment with blood or blood products.
- People subject to aftercare arrangements under Section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983
- Children and young people under 18 years will not be assessed and charged under the Fairer Charging policy.

5. Proposals

- 5.1 The issues that will have to be considered in the Fairer Contributions Policy upon which consultation will be based are set out in table 1

Table 1: Issues to consider during consultation

	Current Charging Scheme	Proposed Options for the Fairer Contributions Policy
A. Change the system so that financial assessments begin at the start of the assessment process so people know up front how much money they are likely to contribute to their care	Financial assessments are conducted at the end of the assessment process and service users are often unaware that they may have to pay towards their care and this is the subject of complaints.	A simple financial assessment is conducted at the beginning of the process so that people enter into an assessment knowing the likelihood that they may have to make a contribution and a full financial assessment and benefits maximisation check is completed during the Self Directed Support Process
B. Review the minimum contribution level to ensure the council gets value for money	A minimum collectable charge has been set at £2.50 per week but this needs a revision as an initial assessment indicates this is set too low.	There is a minimum collection level set each year to ensure cost effectiveness
C. Set a maximum % contribution against the value of a personal budget.	A maximum charge is set at a capped fee level of £270 per week The current cap is lower than guidance states but any cap means that even if people can afford to pay for their care they are not required to do so. This approach is inequitable as it means that those with lower incomes are being asked to contribute proportionately more than those who are better off. Also the Council is not realising the level of income it should.	Adopt an equitable Fairer Contributions policy for all service users contributions based on ability to pay and contribution to the personal budget. The simplest and most equitable approach is to set the maximum contribution at 100% of the personal budget.

	Current Charging Scheme	Proposed Options for the Fairer Contributions Policy
D. Review subsidies so that there is equitable access and choices for all service users <i>or</i> remove services from personal budgets	There are a number of services that are subsidised by the council such as day care. The subsidy is inequitable as it disadvantages people who choose to have a Direct Payment. The subsidy approach also creates disincentives for some people to take more control over their own support. Level of subsidy means some providers are also disadvantaged	Adopt an equitable Fairer Contributions policy for all service users and assess contributions based on ability to pay. If subsidies remain in the service this does create an additional administration burden. The Council would have to operate a two tier system which would create additional costs. A 2 tier system will not be easy to explain to services users
E. The system ensures administrative efficiency and convenience for service users: consider whether to continue to include Disability Related Benefits (DRB) and Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) in the assessment process	DRB are included in the income for financial assessment purposes and therefore people are allowed to claim discounts for DRE: this is very complicated and time consuming and makes it very difficult to advise people up front what their likely contribution will be. Due to this complexity social care budgets are sometimes used to pay for services that DRB are designed to meet; therefore some people have income from welfare benefits and from social care to contribute to the same expenses. For example people with benefits to help address mobility needs can claim for the costs of their travel to be deducted from their income for financial assessment purposes and may also get council funded transport to day services	Adopt an equitable Fairer Contributions policy for all service users and assess contributions based on ability to pay and exclude DRB and DRE in the assessment process on the basis expenses incurred in relation to a disability are met by the benefits intended for the purpose. Therefore clear guidance can be given to care managers to ensure that council funding is not used to meet needs that are addressed through the welfare benefits system
F. Financial Assessment and contribution levying should not be applied to any one service in isolation; the process should be applied to whole packages of care	When residential respite in care homes is part of a care plan the council uses CRAG process to assess charge for this part of the care plan	Adopt an equitable Fairer Contributions policy for all service users contributions based on ability to pay and contribution to the personal budget.

	Current Charging Scheme	Proposed Options for the Fairer Contributions Policy
and support		
G. What Transitional Support should we put in place for people whose contribution may increase as a result of the changes and how long should this be for?	There will be some people who may have to pay more under a Fairer Charging System and some who will pay less. Support will be needed for those who may have to pay more. There are a number of options which can be tested out through consultation such as a fixed time limits such as 1 year protection of phased limits with a lowering scale of protection over 1-2 years	

6. Financial Impact on the Council

- 6.1 The guidance is clear that modernising charging policies in line with personalisation should not in itself be seen as an opportunity for Councils to increase their income from client contributions. Initial high level assessments indicate a potential loss of income to the councils could be in the region of £320,000. However any loss of direct income will be off set by increased efficiency savings from across the whole system of personalisation.
- 6.2 During the consultation process a detailed financial analysis will be undertaken to ensure that there is transparency about the potential impact on the Council's income from any changes made.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 There is a new system for calculating people's contribution to the cost of their adult social care services. We are required by Government to put this new system into action during 2010. This will mean a change in the way individuals contributions are worked out.
- 7.2 There is no option to not implement these changes. There are some things the council will have to do and there are some discretionary elements. The council will have to:
- Change the system so that financial assessments begin at the start of the assessment process so people know up front how much money they are likely to contribute to their care
 - Set a maximum % contribution against the value of a personal budget.
 - Review the minimum contribution level to ensure the council gets value for money
 - Consider no longer using CRAG rules for calculating charges for residential respite/short breaks components of a care package.
 - Remove subsidies so that there is equitable access and choices for all service users *or* remove services from personal budgets

7.3 It is recommended that Cabinet give permission to allow for a period of statutory consultation in order that we can ask people's views on the discretionary elements of the policy. These are

1. Whether we should remove Disability Related Benefits from assessable income and therefore the removal of the Disability Related Expenses from the financial assessment process to reduce bureaucracy and simplify the process?
2. Should we set the maximum contribution at 100% of the personal budget to ensure equity for all service users?
3. What transitional support ought to be put in place to help people whose contributions have changed?
4. How best to inform people of this change and how it will affect service users?

Task and Finish Group Modernisation of Adult Social Care**Timetable**

Date / Location	Meeting	Attendees
Tuesday 24 th August, Frobisher Room, Council House	Initial Meeting of Task and Finish Group To review each proposal and divide visits between members	Councillors Ricketts, Coker, Bowie, Delbridge, Salter.
7 September 2010	Consultation event for family Carers of people that use Welby and Colwill.	Attendees as per Initial meeting of group
September TBC	Consultation on Fairer Contributions (Focus Groups)	Attendees as per Initial meeting of group
September TBC	Visit to Extra care Facility	Attendees as per Initial meeting of group
September TBC	Visit to Frank Cowl House	Attendees as per Initial meeting of group
September TBC	Other visits deemed appropriate by Panel	Attendees as per Initial meeting of group
October 2010 Council House	Initial consideration of findings	Councillors Ricketts, Coker, Bowie, Delbridge, Salter.
October 2010 Council House	Finalisation of Recommendations	Councillors Ricketts, Coker, Bowie, Delbridge, Salter.

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