

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Personal Budget Policy
Committee: Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Date: 7 March 2012
Cabinet Member: Councillor Monahan
CMT Member: Director of People
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Ref:
Key Decision: Yes
Part: I

Executive Summary:

Personal budgets are a critical part of the policy reform of adult social care as set out in the White Paper *Our Health, Our Care Our Say* (January 2006) and in *Putting People First: A Shared Vision and Commitment to the Transformation of Adult Social Care* (2007). This vision was reinforced in 2010 with the publication of *Think local, Act Personal*, which emphasises the need for councils to increase the pace of transformation including mainstreaming personal budgets to eligible people deployed through direct payments. The national target is for 100% of people eligible for council services to be receiving them through a personal budget and a direct payment by April 2013.

This Personal Budget Policy sets out how Plymouth Adult Social Care will mainstream personal budgets. The policy describes:

1. The type of resource allocation system and tools that we will use to make sure that money gets allocated based on need in a fair and transparent way and that the system is affordable to the Council
2. A universal offer of reablement at the point of entry (or re-entry) into the system to help more people to stay independent for longer
3. The funding that is excluded from a personal budget
4. What a personal budget can be used for
5. Our 2 tier offer to Carers
6. How Direct Payments will be made easy by the introduction of pre-loaded cards
7. Our approach to enabling risk so people can safely live their lives as they choose

Corporate Plan 2011-2014:

This policy will contribute to the successful delivery of the Corporate Plan 2012-15

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

The implementation of this policy will contribute to more effective planning as, for the first time, this introduces a system that allocates money to eligible clients based on a generic needs based formula. The application of the policy is embedded in the upgrade of the CareFirst IT system and its full implementation will contribute to Adult Social Care's delivery plans. Implementation of this policy will also deliver value for money through reduced spend on back office functions.

Other Implications: e.g. Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management and Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion:

Regard must be had to the Council's duty to promote disability equality under s49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The Cabinet must consider the potential impact of the proposed changes on people who share a protected characteristic within the equality act and have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The impact on council priorities, legal obligations, customers and other services and providers has been considered. The implementation of this policy will ensure that available resources are allocated to people based on eligibility and need and not on the cost of individual services which will lead to a more equitable use of funds.

The evidence nationally is that personal budgets can have a positive impact on health and wellbeing, ensure improved outcomes for people and are overall value for money.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that Cabinet agree the policy and for it to be implemented from 1st April 2012:

Reasons for recommendation:

- There is a requirement to have such a policy.
 - These recommendations come from eighteen months of design testing and evaluation.
 - Implementation of this policy will help ensure that the Council achieves the Government's expectation, that by April 2013 all people receiving funded support will have this delivered through a self directed support process, and that the majority will receive their personal budget via a direct payment.
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Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

We are required to have a policy and we believe these are sound proposals which will best deliver the required outcome. Over a period of eighteen months we have tried and tested a variety of commercial and home grown options but consider this option to offer best value.

Background papers:

“Putting People First a Shared Vision and Commitment to the Transformation of Adult Social Care” (DH 2007) and “Think Local Act Personal”(DH 2010)

Sign off:

Fin	SRA/ CoSF AC1112 004/27- 01-2012	Leg	LT706 2	HR	MG 1201/ 003	Corp Prop	CJT/ 090/ 100112	IT	20120116/ ICT0055/ NJC	Strat Proc	JK265
Originating SMT Member: Pam Marsden											