

HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE OSP MINUTE

7 March 2012



64. Personal Budget Policy

The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, Councillor Monahan, and Assistant Director for Joint Commissioning and Adult Social Care, Pam Marsden, introduced the report on the personal budget policy. It was commented that the policy was in response to a number of national policy initiatives (Our Health, Our Care Our Say (January 2006), Putting People First: A Shared Vision and Commitment to the Transformation of Adult Social Care (2007), Think local, Act Personal (2010)). The policy would assist the council in achieving a national target of 100% of people eligible for council services to be receiving them through a personal budget and a direct payment by April 2013.

The programme lead for Putting People First and Integration, Jo Yelland, reported that there were four elements to the delivery of a mainstream personal budget system, and Adult Social Care would provide –

- (a) a personalised care management system that maximised the potential for people to regain and maintain independence through reablement services;
- (b) a clear and transparent resource allocation system (RAS) based on an objective assessment of need;
- (c) easy access to direct payments to encourage people to exercise maximum independence from the Council and increase their choice and control;
- (d) a clear risk enablement policy that ensured safeguarding processes facilitated informed decision making and risk management without unnecessarily restricting people's lives.

In response to questions from members of the panel it was reported that –

- (e) independent advice would be provided through advocacy services commissioned by the local authority;
- (f) the reduced spend in Adult Social Care related to clerical support, the introduction of a pre-payment card referred to within the report would remove the need for a large amount of financial services within the department;
- (g) the disabled facilities grant was administered through the Homes and Communities Department and possible additional funding sources for adaptations were being investigated;
- (h) funding on payment cards could be used anywhere where a standard debit or credit card was an accepted form of payment. There were safeguards in place when it came to what funding could be spent on and the department would retain an ability to limit where money could be spent.

Agreed –

(1) to recommend that Cabinet agrees the Personal Budget Policy and its implementation from the 1 April 2012;

(2) that the panel is disappointed with the late addition of this policy to the forward plan and that in future late additions to the forward plan are minimised to enable interested parties, including scrutiny panels, to engage with decision makers in advance of such decisions being made.