

ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 9TH MARCH, 2011

Present – Councillors Greenhalgh, Hall, Kay, R. Ronson and Sherrington.

Also in Attendance

Mr J Rutherford	-	Director of Adult and Community Services
Mr A Kilpatrick	-	Chief Officer for Health and Social Care
Mr A Scott	-	Policy Accountant
Mrs S Bailey	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Councillor Sherrington in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Clare (Chairman) and M. Connell (Vice-Chairman).

27. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR MEETING

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Councillor Sherrington was appointed Chairman for the purposes of this meeting.

Councillor Sherrington here took the Chair

28. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Group held on 9th February, 2011 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

29. SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT FAIRER CONTRIBUTIONS

The Chief Officer for Health and Social Care gave a presentation which outlined the main aspects of the Fairer Contribution Guidance issued by the Government in July 2009 as part of the implementation of the Putting People First Agenda and Self Directed Support.

The presentation advised members that Self Directed Support would require a new way of thinking about charging for services with a shift in focus from the provision of services to allocating Personal Budgets which would enable users to arrange their own support tailored to their needs.

To assist in the introduction of Personal Budgets, the Government had issued the Fairer Contributions Guidance – Calculating an Individual's Contribution to their Personal Budget. It provided details on how both the chargeable amount of a personal budget and the actual contribution made by the Personal Budget

holder may be calculated. The main features were as follows:

- it was based on the ability to pay – affordability;
- It was crucial to the success of Personal Budgets;
- it provided an opportunity to challenge existing inequalities in the charging system; and
- it supported innovation and incentivised people to do the things that were important to them.

The new policy aimed to refresh the existing guidance on Fairer Charging which had been introduced in 2003 and which was no longer appropriate in a field where users would not have their services traditionally arranged by the Authority.

A consultation period had been undertaken during July to October, 2010 and, as a result, the existing policy had been updated and approved by the Executive Member in November, 2010. The new policy increased charges for some assessed services and flat rate services. A level of subsidy remained, namely day care and transport.

The presentation then proposed that all existing service users should be migrated to the Fairer Contributions Policy alongside the rollout of Personal Budgets during 2011 and that the impact be assessed and reported back to this Group in July, 2011.

Following the presentation, Mr Kilpatrick invited and responded to questions from the Group.

It was agreed the Mr Kilpatrick be thanked for his informative presentation and that the Executive Member be recommended to approve the migration of all existing service users to the Fairer Contributions Policy alongside the rollout of personal budgets during 2011 with a report back on the impact to this Group in July, 2011.

(The meeting started at 9.30am and finished at 10.00am)