

ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 9TH FEBRUARY, 2011

Present – Councillors M. Connell (Vice – Chairman), Hall, Morgan, Murray (as deputy for Councillor Kay), R. Ronson, 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 V Ridge	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Councillor M. Connell (Vice-Chairman) in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Clare (Chairman), Greenhalgh and Kay.

25. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Group held on 14th January, 2011 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

26. SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEMS

Councillor Morgan declared a personal interest in the following item of business as he owned a residential care home.

The Chief Officer for Health and Social Care gave a presentation which advised members on the Resource Allocation Systems associated with Self Directed Support which was part of the Putting People First (PPF) agenda.

Members were reminded that Self Directed Support was the biggest change to social care since the Community Care legislation was introduced in the early 1990s. The changes were driven by the need to deliver Departmental efficiency savings in the region of £1.5m and implementation of Putting People First. This would require the significant transformation of business processes and supporting procedures (the customer journey), management and staffing structures and a cultural move to enable people to support themselves.

One of the main aims of Self Directed Support was to identify and allocate a Personal Budget for adults who were eligible for social care which would enable them to have more control and flexibility to purchase the care that best met their needs. The sum of money available would be made known at the start so that informed choices could be made as to how best to allocate the resources to meet their needs.

In this regard, the presentation outlined how Personal Budgets would be allocated using a Resource Allocation System. The System would provide a common and transparent means of allocating levels of resources and would give an early indicator of the likely costs in meeting identified eligible needs based on the score derived from an assessment using a Supported Assessment Questionnaire. In addition, a personalised support plan would be prepared which would explain how the individual would wish to use the resources, the Council's contribution and the contribution by the individual.

Once the initial estimate had been prepared, the Resource Allocation Management Panel would review each case to ensure consistency and accuracy and to identify when funding was insufficient and why. The role of the Panel would be gradually phased out once Self Directed Support had been fully rolled out and all staff were fully trained.

The presentation concluded that the initial rollout of Self Directed Support had demonstrated a number of benefits to the Council and individuals and that the Council was on target to meet the Department of Health milestones whereby 30% of all service users having personal budgets by March, 2011 with 100% of service users having personal budgets by March, 2012.

It was agreed the Mr Kilpatrick be thanked for his informative presentation.

(The meeting started at 9.30am and finished at 10.30am)