

## **ADULT'S SOCIAL CARE POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

MEETING, 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2013

Present – Councillors C. Burrows (Chairman), Peacock (Vice-Chairman), M. Connell, Cunliffe, Hall, Mrs Thomas and Wilkinson.

### Also in Attendance

- |                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| Ms. M. Asquith | - | Director of Children's and Adult Services                  |
| Ms R. Tanner   | - | Assistant Director – Care Management and Provider Services |
| Mrs. S. Bailey | - | Principal Democratic Services Officer                      |

An apolog for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillors Swarbrick

Councillor C. Burrows in the Chair.

### **3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Groups held on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **4. CARING FOR OUR FUTURE – FUNDING REFORM**

Ms Tanner and Mr Smith gave a presentation which summarised the proposed Social Care funding reforms outlined in the Caring for our Future Government White Paper and outlined the key issues arising from the consultation exercise.

By way of background information, members were advised that the Government had announced plans to reform the Social Care funding model based on the recommendations outlined in the 2011 Dilnot report.

The main aim of the reform was to establish a new legal framework that put the wellbeing of individuals at the heart of care and support services by prioritising the needs of people and putting them more in control of their lives.

The Bill also outlined wholesale changes to how people paid for their care and how costs would be shared between the state and individuals, as follows:

- a cap to be introduced on the costs that people would have to pay to meet their eligible needs from April, 2016;
- financial support would be provided to more people to help them with their care costs from April, 2016; and

- a standard contribution to living costs of approximately £12,000 a year would be set from April, 2016.

A national fund of £335m was being made available to implement the changes. This amounted to approximately £1.68m for Bolton.

These new arrangements would ensure that:

- everyone would receive the care that they needed;
- the fear of unlimited care costs would end; and
- there would be protection against having to sell a person's home in their lifetime.

The presentation went on to outline how the changes would affect how the Authority currently operated and involved:

- duties on prevention and wellbeing;
- duties on information and advice, including advice on paying for care;
- duty on market shaping;;
- national minimum threshold for eligibility;
- assessments;
- personal budgets and care and support plans;
- new charging framework;
- safeguarding;
- universal deferred payment agreements;
- extended means test;
- capped charging system; and
- care accounts.

To demonstrate how the new arrangements would affect a person paying for care in real terms, two case studies were examined covering different scenarios.

Members were advised of the main issues facing the Council, the risks, timescales involved and the work required to prepare for the introduction of the new arrangements.

A Government response to the consultation feedback would be expected and further information would be provided to this Group in due course.

It was agreed that Ms Tanner and Mr Smith be thanked for their informative presentation.

(The meeting started at 4.00pm and finished at 5.00pm)

