

Summary Sheet

Council Meeting:

Overview Scrutiny Management Board Meeting 27 September 2017

Title: Learning Disability Day Care Charges

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Anne Marie Lubanski, Strategic Director of Adult Care and Housing

Report Author(s)

Mark Scarrott, Finance Manager

Ward(s) Affected

All

Executive Summary

This report follows the recommendations of the Cabinet in November 2016 on the review of Day Care and Transport Charges. This report provides a further update on the impact of the original increase to £15 per session in January 2017. This information was requested prior to any further increase being implemented.

It should be noted that the delay in this report is a consequence of the ongoing work that is being undertaken around the Learning Disability transformation and the report around the further consultation to in house services which was agreed by Cabinet on the 10th July 2017. The proposal for a further increase in charge is being considered as part of the budget process.

Recommendations:

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is requested to note the impact of the increase in day care charges in January 2017.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel:

No.

Council Approval Required:

No.

Exempt from the Press and Public:

No.

Title: Learning Disability Day Care Charges

1. Recommendations:

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is requested to note the impact of the increase in day care charges in January 2017.

2. Background

- 2.1 The report to Cabinet in November 2016 highlighted the outcome of a consultation on fees and charges which was gathered through a public consultation during August and September 2017. The Cabinet agreed to the phased increase in the charge for attending day care from £4.47 to £15 per session with affect from 1st January 2017 and requested an update on the impact of this increase prior to a further increase being implemented.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 The Council has discretionary power to charge for non-residential services. It has to set a maximum amount and then carry out a financial assessment to determine a customer's ability to pay. The financial assessment applies to customers with savings of less than £23,250. Generally this relates to people who are in receipt of welfare benefits. The amount they will be assessed to pay will increase in line with increases in benefits. Customers who have more than £23,250 have to pay the cost of their care up to the Council's maximum charge, currently £432 per week. There are currently no customers who pay the maximum charge for non-residential services. 60% of current customers do not contribute to the cost of Day Care provision after being financially assessed.
- 3.2 This report follows the agreement to increase the charge and sets out the current position for customers who are accessing learning disability day centres. The current number of customers accessing a learning disability day centre provision is 373, which has remained unchanged since the increase in January 2017. There are currently 222 customers who do not financially contribute towards their support needs and 151 who contribute an amount based on their individual financial assessment. The number of customers who pay the full charge for their day care totals 18 and would see the greatest impact of any further increase in charge.
- 3.3 The actual cost of a day care placement ranges from £50 to £60 per session and this is reflective across internal and external providers for day care provision.
- 3.4 Whilst the previous report agreed the increase of the charges over a period of time there will be a requirement to remind customers, family carers and the services affected of any further increase in charges.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 The report to Cabinet in November 2016 identified that the current charge for day care was significantly less than the cost of providing the service. This was also reflected when benchmarked with our neighbouring authorities where charges ranged from £28 to £40 per session. Customers who receive a Day Care service are subject to a financial assessment and currently the majority do not contribute towards the cost of the service.
- 4.2 It was recommended by Cabinet that the charge be increased on a phased basis from the current £4.47 per session to £15 from 1st January 2017 with a further proposed increase to reduce the current level of subsidy and bring more in line with our neighbouring authorities and independent service providers.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation with all customers who received a non-residential care service was carried out in August and September 2017 as part of the initial review of charges.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this decision

- 6.1 It is proposed to consider the implementation of the second phase of the increase in day care charge as part of the budget process.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 These proposals in respect of the re-provision of residential, day care and respite care are included in the Adult Services Improvement Programme. The proposals also form part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy which includes total savings of £4.2 million over 3 years based on the reconfiguration of learning disability services, moving away from traditional building based in-house provision to more personalised and independent services.
- 7.2 There has been no overall reduction in customer numbers since the introduction of the increase in charge from January 2017. The increase in charge initially affected around 33 customers and additional income from the increase in charge since January 2017 is approximately £2,250 per month (equivalent of £27k in a full year).

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report.

9. Human Resources Implications

- 9.1 There are no direct implications for human resources for the Council.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People's services.

11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 The Equality Analysis undertaken as part of the previous report has been updated and is attached in Appendix 1.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 There are no implications for partners or other Directorates.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The risks and uncertainties will be proportionate to the level of increase in charge and potential reduction in numbers of customers and where those customers are required to pay the full charge.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Anne Marie Lubanski, Strategic Director of Adult Care and Housing
Janine Moorcroft, Head of Service, Adult Care Services (Provider)

Approvals Obtained from:

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services:- Judith Badger
Director of Legal Services:- Dermot Pearson
Head of Procurement (if appropriate):- N/A

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