

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

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| 1. | Meeting: | Cabinet Member for Adult Independence, Health and Wellbeing |
| 2. | Date: | 11th April, 2011 |
| 3. | Title: | Increasing the Resource Allocation System (RAS) to take account of inflation |
| 4. | Directorate: | Neighbourhoods and Adult Services |

5. **Summary**

5.1 This report sets out a proposal to increase the Resource Allocation System (RAS) to reflect the impact of inflation.

6. **Recommendations**

- **It is recommended that the RAS is increased by 2.32% from April the new rates as set out in Appendix 1.**

7. Proposals and Details

- 7.1 The aim of the Resource Allocation System (RAS), linked to the allocation of personal budgets, is to provide a clear and rational way to calculate how much money it is likely to cost to meet a persons assessed needs.
- 7.2 The RAS is made up of a series of questions which are used to determine a person's assessed needs. Each question carries a point score, the points are weighted to take account of levels of dependency. The total points are converted into an 'indicative cash allocation'. This is an approximate amount of money which is likely to be needed to meet a person's outcomes as determined in their support plan.
- 7.3 In April 2010 Rotherham adopted the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) common resource allocation framework. This framework includes a scorecard which allocates a cash figure to a range of points. Following a pilot exercise the ADASS RAS was calibrated to take account of Rotherham's Adult Social Care budget.
- 7.4 The RAS has to be revised each year to take account of changes in social care budgets and support costs. It should take account of key cost drivers affecting personal budgets and not just the overall adult social care budget. The ADASS framework advises that future proofing the RAS will need to be determined locally taking account of the local financial climate.
- 7.5 At the moment the key cost drivers are Direct Payments and the costs of independent sector community based services. The Council's inflation provision for these cost drivers is 2.32% and it is therefore proposed that the RAS scorecard is increased by 2.32%.
- 7.6 Failure to apply this inflation provision to the RAS scorecard will result in some people being unable to continue to meet the cost of their care.

8. Finance

- 8.1 The cost of this proposal has been included in the Directorate's inflation budget allocation for 2011/12.
- 8.2 This proposal should not affect the Directorate's ability to achieve its savings proposal 'More effective use of Personal Budgets £250,000'. This savings proposal is associated with utilising the RAS to develop more innovative cost effective ways of meeting people's needs.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

- 9.1 Failure to apply this inflation provision to the RAS scorecard will result in some people being unable to continue to meet the cost of their care.

9.2 The Council could be open to challenge if it doesn't provide sufficient funding to meet an individuals assessed need. It can only reduce this funding if a reassessment of need has been undertaken and the individual's needs have been shown to have reduced.

10. **Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

10.1 Agreement to this proposal will enable the Council to continue to meet its commitment to the Putting People First personalisation agenda.

11. **Background Papers and Consultation**

11.1 ADASS Common Resource allocation framework October 2009

11.2 The Councils MTFS Plan 2011 and beyond

11.3 This proposals have been discussed with the Strategic Director of Finance

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