

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
2	Date:	23rd July, 2012
3	Title:	Day Service Review Proposals – Transport Services
4	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5 **Summary**

Neighbourhood and Adult Services provide an in house transport service. This service primarily provides transport for customers to access adult social care services such as in house day services and respite units however is also utilised by external organisations and other Council Directorates to transport their customers; generating income.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care report 'Day Services Review' dated 13 February 2012 outlined savings targets for RMBC day care services. This report identifies options to achieve these savings specifically for Transport Services and requests approval to commence formal consultation with customers on the new revised transport criteria.

6 **Recommendations**

- **Note the background and history to this report**
- **Agree the revised transport eligibility criteria which is attached to this report**
- **Agree to the commencement of the 12 week consultation programme with customers in line with the recommendations within this report.**
- **Agree to accept a follow up report outlining the longer term strategy for Transport Services**

7 Proposals and Details

7.1 Background

RMBC provides a range of day care services for adults with learning disabilities and those who have social care needs due to old age. Customers access these services following social care assessment. As well as providing day care services Rotherham Council also provides transport services for customers from their home to their chosen day centre. Transport is provided using a mixture of in house vehicles and contracted private providers. Customers contribute £1 per day towards the cost of this transport despite the actual cost being £39.10 per week for in house provision and considerably more for private hire taxis although due to the differing capacity of vehicles Finance have been unable to provide a fixed unit cost to aid comparison.

Day Care and Transport Services were set a savings target of £615,000.00 in 2010/11 as part of the medium term financial planning process. Transport Services will contribute £219,817.82 towards this savings target to be achieved in 2013/14. The remaining £395,182.18 will be achieved across learning disability and older people's day services.

Learning disability day services will contribute £158,471.00 in 2012/13 as outlined in the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care report 'Day Service Review Proposals – Learning Disability Services' dated 9th July 2012. Older people's services will contribute £117,228.23 in 2012/13 and £146,360.00 in 2013/14 subject to a future report 'Day Service Review Proposals – Older People Services'. Although Older People's services have not met their savings target for 2012/13, increased savings in 2013/14 will off set this whilst still providing increased savings of £26,877.05.

7.2 Options for consultation with customers

1) Review Transport Eligibility Criteria

In September 2006 a report was submitted to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care proposing new transport eligibility criteria (minute number 51), a follow up report on the implementation of the eligibility was submitted in October 2006 (minute number 58). This report outlines how further savings can be achieved by further strengthening the transport eligibility criteria and eligibility form. Draft Transport Eligibility Criteria (Appendix 1) and Transport Eligibility Form (Appendix 2). The principles and exclusions within the amended criterion are supported by Legal Services.

It is anticipated the adoption of this new criterion will reduce eligible customers by 75; as customers in receipt of mobility allowance are expected to use these funds or their mobility vehicle to travel to day care services.

Potential savings

£76,321.70

It is recommended that the reviewed transport eligibility criteria will apply regardless of whether the service is provided in-house or commissioned externally. Therefore commissioned services that currently arrange and provide transport will be reviewed and consulted inline with the principles set out in this report.

2) **Utilise In House transport services (Transport)**

The unit cost of in house transport is calculated at £39.10 per week per customer which demonstrates cost effectiveness against private providers. It is proposed that capacity created within NAS transport as a result of the new eligibility criteria is utilised by eligible customers using more expensive private providers. An initial review indicates that 47 customers could transfer from private providers to NAS transport.

Potential savings **£83,656.44**

3) **Review current arrangements with other travel providers (Transport)**

Other travel providers are used by a number of customers to attend day services, we will review these arrangements.

Potential savings **£21,559.79**

4) **Review arrangements with Independent Sector day service**

At present the one external day care provider contracts 3 NAS transport service buses to take customers from their home to the day service utilising funding provided by the LA as part of the contract. It is proposed that this arrangement is ceased and the 3 buses used by this day service are instead used to transport customers accessing in house services using more expensive private providers.

The buses are under utilised transporting only 4 customers per bus when capacity is 15 seated or 6 seated with 3 wheelchair users. This is due to the geographical range of customer pick up points. There may be opportunities to lease additional vehicles in order to continue to provide this service. The annual fee would need to be reviewed to ensure the income met the cost of provision at a lower cost.

Potential Savings: **£38,279.89**

7.3 Customer Consultation

In line with corporate guidelines and best practice it is proposed a 12 week consultation exercise is undertaken with all customers and stakeholders from June 2012 with a view for completion and re-submission to Cabinet Member with consultation outcomes in September 2012. Communication plan attached (Appendix 3).

8 Finance

8.1 Options to achieve savings targets

The total savings target for transport services is £219,817.82. The table below outlines the options to deliver this savings target, as outlined in section 7.2 of this report.

Transport Options	
Review Transport Eligibility Criteria	£76,321.70.
Utilise NAS transport services	£83,656.44
Review arrangements with Independent Sector Travel	£21,559.79
Review arrangements with Independent Sector day service	£38,279.89
Total	£219,817.82

9 Risks and Uncertainties

- 9.1 The proposed changes to the transport criteria would reduce customer eligibility for transport services. It is very likely that customers and their carers will be unhappy with this change as many would be expected to arrange and pay for their own transport.
- 9.2 The utilisation of NAS transport rather than more expensive private hire taxis would reduce our need to contract with private providers. This could have a negative impact on the local economy; although minimal.
- 9.3 The Council may receive negative media attention and increased complaints from customers and other stakeholders.

10 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

- Presentation to Cabinet Member, November 2011, Day Services – The Challenge
- Community Care Act, 1990
- Our Health, Our Care, Our Say White paper, January 2006
- Putting People First; a shared vision and commitment to the transformation to adult social care, December 2007

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