



HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

OFFICER DECISION RECORD

Department:	Adult and Community Based Services
Division:	Adult Social Care
Date of Decision	14 December 2023
Officer Making Decision:	Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services
Subject / Description & Reason for Decision:	<p>Following a review of practice elsewhere, and taking into account the current capacity and workload pressures within the User Property and Finance Team it has been decided to change the approach taken to the management of people with care and support needs who fund their own care.</p> <p>From February 2024 any new self-funders who approach the Council will be signposted to appropriate information and advice in line with the requirements of the Care Act 2014. Self-funders will no longer be provided with financial assessment and care management support at no charge, as has been custom and practice for a number of years.</p> <p>From April 2024 all existing self funders known to adult social care will be informed of this change in practice at the point their finances are re-assessed (usually linked to a change in rates for state benefits), and will cease to receive the additional services they have benefitted from to date.</p>
Type of Decision:	Non Key
Nature of Delegation Being Exercised:	Officer Delegated Authority: DACBS 3 - Agree adult care packages, service responses and expenditure for care and accommodation of individuals for whom the Council has a social services function and to do so within the Care Act 2014 eligibility criteria and exceptionally outside of eligibility criteria where necessary on the grounds of urgency, vulnerability or legal directive.

Alternative Options Considered & Rejected:

Continuing to provide the current level of service has been considered but is not financially sustainable due to the ongoing additional pressure this places on staff, particularly the User Property and Finance Team. The revised approach will bring the Council in line with all other LAs within the region and the vast majority of LAs nationally.

Continuing to provide the current level of service with an annual fee charged to each self-funder has been considered but this approach is not feasible due to the transactional costs associated with introducing and implementing a charge, and the fact that income generated would not be sufficient to cover the associated costs.

Any Declared Register of Interest

No

OFFICER WITH THE DELEGATION

Signatures for retained copy only

NAME: Jill Harrison

POSITION: Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services

In consultation with [*specify*]:

NAME: Denise McGuckin

POSITION: Managing Director

NAME: James Magog

POSITION: Director of Finance, IT & Digital

NAME: Hayley Martin

POSITION: Director of Legal, Governance & Human Resources