

# **ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD**

13<sup>th</sup> March 2006

**Present:**

Councillor Ray Waller (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Sandra Robinson, Senior Assistant Director/Deputy (Acting),  
Adult and Community Services  
Joan Wilkins, Principal Democratic Services Officer

## **21. Individualised Budgets** (*Director of Adult and Community Services*)

**Type of decision**

Key Decision – Test ii applies

**Purpose of report**

To:

- Outline potential for the development of individualised budgets across Adult Services, following the recent release of the government White Paper, "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say - A new direction for Community Services January 2006".
- Seek consideration and support for the piloting of individualised budgets and associated self-assessment systems across Adult Services.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Director of Adult and Community Services submitted a report advising the Portfolio Holder of the recent release of the Government White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say - A new direction for Community Services January 2006".

The aim of the White Paper was to achieve four main goals, with a main aspect of their life goal being to give people more choice and control in all

aspects of their lives. Whilst the previous Direct Payment Schemes had given service-users and carers greater choice and control over their own services it was recognised that there was a need locally to improve the take up of payments. In addition to the extension of these payments to currently excluded groups the government also wished to see individualised budgets piloted and their implementation accelerated across the country.

Nationally the “In Control” programme had already piloted self-directed support via the use of individual budgets, by funding from six local authorities and MENCAP and much had been learned from the project in relation to the development of individualised budgets which had influenced the Governments policy direction, namely:

- The promotion of users and families getting the support in a way that suits them,
- Changing this when they need to and the funding for their support being kept individual to them via a self-assessment where appropriate.

The Portfolio Holder was advised of the financial implications of the introduction of individualised budgets and details provided of the work required for the development of processes and mechanisms for their implementation. Attention was drawn to the need for the use of finance and budgets in a flexible and innovative way and for evidence that individualised budgets could be cost-effective against block contracts and in-house provision and could improve quality at the same time.

Following consideration of the information provided the Portfolio Holder indicated that he looked forward to greater freedom of choice for those with disabilities and expressed his support for the introduction of a pilot scheme in Hartlepool.

## **Decision**

Support was given for the development of the necessary processes and mechanisms needed for the implementation of individualised budgets in Hartlepool.

## **22. Home Care Charges 2006/2007** *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non key

### **Purpose of report**

To recommend the Fairer Charging rate for Home Care, Supporting People and other domiciliary services for 2006/7.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Director of Adult and Community Services submitted a report outlining the background to the introduction of Home Care Charges and sought consideration of amended charges for 2006/7.

Details of the options for the 2006/7 increase in charges were outlined in the report with particular attention drawn to the preferred option for a 16% increase from £5.60 to £6.50 (including a continued reduction in the discount provided to 10%). In accessing the options available it was highlighted that the charging formulae was constructed such that those most able to pay, and receiving the largest packages, would experience the highest income and that even with a 16% increase 34% of people would not be charged for the services. It was also highlighted that last year's increase was of a similar level to that recommended for 2006/7 and that due to the gradual phasing out of the discount there had been very few problems encountered in the previous year.

The Portfolio Holder highlighted that the proposal had been discussed, and approved, by Council as part of the budget process. In view of this and following consideration of the information provided the Portfolio Holder expressed his support for the proposed increase to £6.50.

### **Decision**

Approval was given for the setting of the Fairer Charging rate for Home Care, Supporting People and other domiciliary services for 2006/7 at £6.50 per hour, subject to the test of ability to pay.

## **23. Revision of 2006/2007 Fees and Charges** (*Head of Public Protection and Housing*)

### **Type of decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of report**

To request the Portfolio Holder's consideration of the annual review of fees and charges in respect of services, licences and registrations undertaken by the Public Protection and Housing Division.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The level of fees and charges in respect of various licences, registrations and services were reviewed on an annual basis. Details of the suggested changes for 2006/07 were outlined in Appendix 1 of the report, with details of proposed charges for the Cemeteries and Crematorium Services outlined in Appendix 2.

Suggested changes in charges were based on either an average rise of 3%, a more accurate reflection of staff resources being utilised or bringing charges in line with other authorities. Regarding Burial and Crematorium Services charges had generally been increased by 7% overall with cremation fees increased by 13%. These increases had been necessary to fund additional drainage works necessary at the eastern end of the Stranton Grange Cemetery and to contribute towards the budget saving exercise. In detailing the report attention was also drawn to the proposed increases in the price of graves to £180.00, including deeds.

The Portfolio Holder highlighted that the proposed revision of fees and charges had been discussed, and approved, by Council as part of the budget process. In view of this and following consideration of the information provided the Portfolio Holder expressed his support for the proposed increase in fees.

### **Decision**

The revised fees and charges for 2006/7, as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report, were approved for use from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006.

## **24. Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan (Adult Services and Public Health) Update December 2005** (*Director of Neighbourhood Services*)

### **Type of decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of report**

To agree the update on performance of the Neighbourhood Services Departmental plan for 2005/06, covering the period from the 1st April 2005 to 31st December 2005.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Departmental Plan Update set out the department's aims and objectives and included performance to the end of December against a range of key national and local indicators. The plan also detailed service development initiatives that were planned for the year. These were the product of a developing culture that emphasises the importance of outcomes and a focus on customers in planning service delivery.

### **Decision**

The update to the departmental plan was approved.

**J A BROWN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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