

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Scoping Report

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| Report subject | Charging Policy |
| Meeting date | 22 July 2019 |
| Status | Public Report |
| Executive summary | To seek approval to establish a Members working group which would act as a test and challenge function in the development of the new Charging Policy for Adult Social Care (ASC) for the Council. |
| Recommendations | <p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A Members working group be established to focus on the Charging Policy project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The working group should be politically balanced (ii) Healthwatch should be invited to provide external representation |
| Reason for recommendations | The Council is required to harmonise its policies on charging for Adult Social Services prior to April 2021. The proposal is for a working party of the Committee to provide test and challenge as the BCP policy is developed in order to ensure that the policy treats residents with fairness and equity. |

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| Portfolio Holder(s): | Cllr Lesley Dedman |
| Corporate Director | Jan Thurgood, Corporate Director for Adult Social Care |
| Contributors | Pete Courage, Service Manager Joseph Tyler, Democratic and Overview and Scrutiny Officer |
| Wards | All wards |
| Classification | For Recommendation |

Background detail

Reason for Review

The group should be established to provide test and challenge to the ASC Charging Policy project. This will be a programme of work which will take a significant period of time and will require Member authorisation at a number of points throughout the life of the project, most significantly the authorisation to launch, and then a review of the results, of a public consultation. A Members working group would therefore be able to test and challenge the work as it progresses. In particular, the working party will consider the equity, fairness and clarity of the proposed policy and also scrutinise to ensure that the plans for public consultation on the policy are comprehensive and accessible to all service users and carers.

Subsequent to the consultation, the working party will scrutinise how feedback from the consultation is used in final policy development and implementation plans. Throughout, the Committee will need to test and challenge the impact of the proposals on Adult Social Care's financial planning.

Options for Member Involvement

It is proposed that the Working Group be made up of five members of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Working groups of the Council are not required to be politically balanced by legislation, however if this is undertaken in line with the political balance of the Council, it would be as follows:

Conservative: 2

Liberal Democrat: 1

Remaining Seats: 2 (to be drawn from remaining groups on the Committee)

OR

To achieve cross-party working, set out below is a suggested representation:

Conservatives: 2

Unity Alliance: 3

It is also suggested that a representative of Healthwatch Dorset be requested to sit as a co-opted Member of the Working Group.

Timetable for meetings to be set at the next meeting:

Meeting 1: Introduction to the project, charging and options for harmonisation

Meeting 2: Consideration of proposals for public consultation including an overview of the financial modelling work and findings from scoping element of the project. Policy proposals for consultation will then be taken to full Committee and Cabinet for approval.

Meeting 3: Consideration of feedback from consultation and proposals/mitigations for inclusion in the new Charging Policy. Final policy proposals will then be taken to Committee and then Cabinet for implementation.

Taking account of availability of those involved, the suggested weeks available for meetings are:

- Meeting 1 Late August/September
- Meeting 2 Mid-late October
- Meeting 3 April

Desired Outcome

Ultimately, it is desired that a new ASC Charging policy for BCP is implemented by 1st October 2020 following appropriate public consultation.

It is believed that the O&S function can add value to the work by rigorous testing and challenging of the project's findings and proposals.

Timescales

The Charging project has been initiated and work has already begun. Ultimately, the aim is to implement a new Charging Policy in October 2020 with a hard, immovable deadline of the 31st March 2021.

The key milestones for the project include; the drawing up and modelling of charging proposals, the authorisation and launch of a public consultation (expected Jan-Feb 2020), the results and analysis of the consultation and, finally, the drafting and authorisation of the new ASC BCP Charging Policy in early summer 2020 which will allow time for implementation work in the lead up to October.

External Involvement

It is proposed that a representative from Healthwatch is invited to participate in the working group. This will bring external expertise in testing and challenging plans for consultation and also ensure that the voices of service users and carers are central to the whole process.

Measure of Effectiveness

Effectiveness will be measured through the development and implementation of a fair and equitable charging policy for Adult Social Care and a consultation process which service users and carers experience as accessible, open and transparent, with their consultation feedback fully taken into account.