

## **Cabinet - 23 March 2005**

### **Review of Respite Care Charges**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Alan Paul – Health and Social Care

**Service Area:** Social Care & Supported Housing

**Wards:** All

**Forward Plan:** Yes

#### **Summary of report**

This report has been produced for Cabinet and is produced following listening to concerns raised by service users, the public, and interested community groups, in respect of the Council's charging policy for respite care.

The current policy for respite care, approved at Social Services Committee on 14 October 1999, is to charge on a daily basis, which includes the date of admission and the date of discharge, i.e. for a Monday to Friday stay the service user would be charged 5 days and not 4 nights. Service users wish this to be reconsidered by Cabinet and the proposals of service users are recommended to Cabinet.

The current charging policy means that service users who leave a respite care placement in a morning on a particular day and then attend a day care centre placement or receive home care, could potentially be charged for both services.

#### **Recommendations**

- (1) Cabinet agree to change the charging policy for respite care on a nightly basis and to continue with the current charging method for home care and day care.
- (2) Cabinet agree to implement the recommended changes from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005.

#### **Resource and legal considerations**

Based on current data relating to client contributions in respect of respite care for the period 01/04/04 to 30/06/04, changing to a nightly charge basis would result in a loss of income of approximately £12,000 per annum. Based on a implementation date of 1st July 2005 the loss of income will be £9,000 in financial year 2005/2006.

The £9,000 shortfall will be met from the cash limit for 2005/2006 in the Adult Social Care budgets.

**Citizen impact**

This report will impact onto service users of respite care services and is responding to the views of service users. Citizens will experience the Council listening to their concerns and responding.

**Community safety**

No issues arising directly from this report.

**Environmental impact**

None arising directly from this report.

**Performance and risk management issues**

This report adheres to legislation with regard to charging for respite care.

**Equality implications**

The report aims to ensure equality of charges in respect of respite care service users.

**Consultation**

The proposed change to the charging policy has been discussed and agreed at fairer charging for home care and other non-residential services Project Board which is attended by service user representation groups.

**Vision 2008**

The recommended changes to charging for respite care is linked the Vision 2008 priority “listen to what local people want”, since this report is in response to a number of complaints received in respect of the charging policy for respite care and consultation with relevant service user representation groups.

## **Background papers**

None.

**Contact officer** Iain Horan, Debbie Bicker



**Signed**

**Executive Director: David Martin**

**Date: 14 March 2005**



**Signed**

**Portfolio Holder : Councillor Alan Paul**

**Date: 14 March 2005**