

BRIEFING NOTE

Agenda Item No. 7

TO: SCI SRUNITY PANEL APRIL 3 2011
FROM: PAUL DAVIES – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – SOCIAL CARE AND INCLUSION
DATE: 20 MARCH 2012

DROP OUT RATES – BENEFITS BASED CHARGING 2011/2012

Purpose

The purpose of this briefing note is to update scrutiny panel in relation to 'drop out rates' in relation to Benefits based charging.

Benefits Based Charging and Personalisation Agenda

As scrutiny panel are already aware, the cases where people have chosen to cease support provided through the Local Authority are those which receive low levels of support (a few hrs cares a week) but have fully maximised benefits.

Under the new Benefits Based Charging system, a number of these clients have now chosen to cease having support provided through the Local Authority and have chosen to re-evaluate the use of their disability related benefits, to provide for their care and support needs in a different way.

This is something that was anticipated and fits entirely with the Governments Personalisation agenda, whereby people have the choice and control to seek alternative, more inventive ways of meeting their needs (especially those with low level needs)

Other people have decided that they would like to continue with more traditional services (e.g. Home care) but not through the Local Authority. Many of these people have simply come to a private arrangement with the Home care provider and are paying the same rate they would have been charged, if they were a self funder and had the support arranged by the Local Authority. This is advantageous for them, as it allows them to still receive the support which they are used to receiving and use the remaining Disability related benefits in other ways to meet their care needs.

As part of these arrangements we recognise that provision of information and advice is a universal service, and that people choosing to fund their own care have a particular need for information and guidance to help plan how their care and support needs are met. We are currently undertaking a detailed analysis of the numbers of people choosing to self fund their support within Walsall and as part of this analysis we will be looking at ways of supporting the increasing numbers of people in the future who will choose to self fund their care. These arrangements may include a specialist brokerage service for people not receiving support through the Local Authority.

Estimates of Clients withdrawing due To Benefits Based Charging

Between 28 March 2011 and the 21 September 2011, 231, clients had chosen to cancel care and noted the charging policy as a reason for re-evaluating their circumstances. We have now analysed all non residential care packages ceased between 28/3/2011 and February 2012. In this period 466 clients have withdrawn from services (including the 231 referred above). None of the additional 235 between 21 September 2011 and February 2012 can be assumed to have withdrawn specifically because of charging.

Estimate of total % of community based clients withdrawing

2189 clients have received bills to date. The approximate proportion of clients who have chosen to withdraw direct support from the Local Authority and use their Disability related benefits in other ways to meet their needs is 16% of the total.

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