



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## **DISABLED PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE** **21 September 2006**

Report of the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services

### **Review of Home Care Services and Charges**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Members of the Disabled People's Advisory Committee are asked to consider the issues around home care services give their comments now and at a meeting of the Adult Services and Health Commission on 29 September.

#### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Council passed a motion at its 19 July meeting requesting the Adult Services and Health Commission to "undertake a review and make recommendations about the scale and type of provision and financing of such provision that is appropriate for Derby". The Adult Services and Health Commission agreed to conduct this review at their meeting on 11 September.
- 2.2 Local authorities with social services have a statutory duty to provide community care services for people who are assessed as requiring those services and meet the eligibility criteria. These services do not necessarily have to be directly provided by the Authority but can be delivered through an agency commissioned by the Council.
- 2.3 The policy and practice of charging for care services varied significantly between local authorities that in April 2003 the Government introduced Fairer Charging Guidance. This set out a framework to help councils ensure their charging policies were fair and operated consistently. The Guidance also allowed authorities the discretion not to charge for these service if they so wished.
- 2.4 After taking legal advice and conducting detailed consultations with the all the stakeholders including service users Derby City Council adopted a charging system which was compliant with the Fairer Charging Guidance. Under this charging regime service users were charged £4.84 per hour rising to a maximum of £33.88 per week for more than 6½ hours.

- 2.5 In September 2005 the Council Cabinet agreed to abolish home care charges with effect from 1 October 2005. The reasons for changing the policy was to:
- ensure vulnerable people in need were not deterred by the charges from accessing the service
  - Enable a higher number of services users to receive this service, maximising their independence, enabling them to remain in their homes and reducing the need for residential care
  - Eliminate the differences in accessibility and to bring Derby in line Derbyshire where residents were receiving a free service
- 2.6 At the time when the Council Cabinet decided to abolish the home care charges there were 2,900 service users receiving home care services of which approximately 920 received free service and 260 paid the maximum charge. The impact this policy change on the budget was assessed as a loss of income net of savings in collection costs of £696,000 for the part year 2005/06 and £913,000 per annum from 2006/07 onwards.
- 2.7 The numbers of people receiving home care service has gradually declined. The table below shows there are currently 2541 people receiving internal (the majority by far) and external home care services whilst a further 221 access home care through Direct Payments. There were very few people receiving Direct Payments in 2002.

Date	Number of people receiving home care services*
8 November 2002	3760
6 December 2003 (FC introduced)	3320
7 October 2004	3113
2 March 2005	3041
19 July 2006	2541

\* The table does not include the number of people accessing Direct Payments which has been steadily increasing which was negligible to start with but is now quite significant.

- 2.8 Councils are required under the Government's Fair Access to Care Services framework to publish the eligibility criteria for accessing community care services. This criterion consists of four levels of need- Low, Moderate (high or low), Substantial and Critical. Authorities may decide for themselves which of the levels they can directly address based on their resources.
- 2.9 Derby has been meeting all four bands of eligibility and decided that to balance the increasing demands for services with limited resources and meet community needs, it will no longer meet the needs of people

in the low band from 3 April 2006. It is one of the last authorities to make this change.

2.10 The Council has recently carried out a Best Value Review of Home Care Services for Older People in accordance with the Councils toolkit. The review was completed in 2005 and published an updated improvement plan in January 2006. Some of the key findings of the review are:

- the overall numbers of older people being supported at home are gradually decreasing as more “intensive” home care packages are commissioned from within the same resource base. The reduction in numbers also means that fewer people are benefiting from “lower level” prevention
- the “higher level” prevention is not resulting in significantly fewer older people being admitted to residential or nursing care
- the home care service is not effectively geared to ensuring older people remain as independent as possible for as long as possible
- procurement and contracting arrangements need to be improved so they are fit-for-purpose

2.11 In response to the Council’s request, the Adult Services and Health Commission agreed to make use of the Best Value Review report and hold a series of meetings with key stakeholders on 29 September to supplement the evidence in their review on the scale, type and financing of home care provision appropriate for Derby.

2.12 To assist the Commission with this task, Members of DPAC are asked to consider the following questions and give their considered views:

1. what types of home care services would help your members the most to live independently in their homes
2. what types of activities give your members the most difficulties e.g. cooking, cleaning, shopping, gardening etc.
3. what types of home care services should the Council be providing
4. do you have any comments about services currently provided by the Council, are they adequate, do they meet your needs
5. what types of home care services are best delivered by:

The Council  
Private sector organisations

## Voluntary sector

6. how should the Council finance home care services- should it make a charge on the users to supplement the costs  
No - if not, why not  
Yes - what should the level of charge be set?
  7. should the council revert to the fairer charging process
  8. will the type of home care services required by people change over the next ten years and if so what types of services do you think will be required by service users
  9. how many of your members currently receive home care services
  10. Do you have any comments about the eligibility criteria- Should the Council target resources to people with moderate level needs and above
- 2.13 Members are asked to nominate individuals to attend a special meeting of the Adult Services and Health Commission on 29 September and give evidence on behalf of DPAC.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Mahroof Hussain 01332 255597 e-mail <a href="mailto:Mahroof.hussain@derby.gov.uk">Mahroof.hussain@derby.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers:</b>	BVR of Home Care Services for Older People
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications

## Appendix 1

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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### **Financial**

1. None arising from this report.

### **Legal**

2. None arising from this report.

### **Personnel**

3. None arising from this report.

### **Equalities impact**

4. Effective scrutiny benefits all Derby people.

### **Corporate Priorities**

5. This report links with Council's priority for 2006-09 to build healthy and independent communities, by:
  - improving the standard of social care for vulnerable adults and older people