

ITEM 14a

COUNCIL CABINET 2 OCTOBER 2007

Present: Councillor Williamson (Chair)
Councillors Banwait, Bolton, Graves, Hickson, Hussain, Nath, Roberts, Smalley
and Williams

In attendance Councillor Jones

This record of decisions was published on 4 October 2007. The key decisions set out in this record will come into force and may be implemented on the expiry of five clear days unless a key decision is called in.

80/07 Direct Payments

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Direct Payments from the Adult Services and Health Commission which requested Council Cabinet to review the decision made on 3 July 2007 relating to the hourly rates offered to personal assistants and care agencies as part of the Direct Payment to make them compatible and ensure users get the service they need.

Decision

To re- affirm the decision of Council Cabinet on 3 July 2007, which was:

1. To reduce the hourly rate from £10.20 to £9.00 where service users employ a Personal Assistant.
2. To increase the hourly rate from £10.20 to £10.52 where service users purchase care from a Care Agency.
3. The above to take immediate effect for new service users and from October 2007 for existing service users.
4. To offer help to any service users who may face difficulty in moving away from arrangements they have put in place.

Reasons

1. Prior to April 2007 our Direct Payment rate was aligned to the rate we pay the Independent Sector Agencies for the purchase of home care. The original decision for this was based on the assumption that most service users would use a Direct Payment to purchase care from an agency. Whilst some people did purchase their care from an agency it was far more common for people to directly employ their own personal assistant hence the 'profit' and agency overhead element in the rate was irrelevant.
2. The rate proposed was in line with our neighbouring local authorities for the employment of Personal Assistants.
3. The proposal did not reduce service, but it did reduce the hourly rate available to service users to employ their own personal assistants. In some cases it could result in the service user terminating contracts with

existing personal assistants and hence a change to their care or support arrangements.