

COUNCIL CABINET 3 JUNE 2008

Present: Councillor Jones (Chair)
Councillors Care, Carr, Naitta, Skelton and Troup

In attendance: Councillors Hickson and Roberts

Matters Referred 06/08 Recommendations of the Adult Service and Health Commission

The Council Cabinet noted the recommendations of the Adult Services and Health Commission referred from the meeting held on 28 May 2008.

09/08 Adult Social Care Income Generation

The Council Cabinet considered a report which set out proposals for charging for adult social care and community care services in 2008/09 and beyond. The re-introduction of charging and the details of the proposed charging arrangements must be subject to a formal public consultation process before the arrangements were confirmed.

Options Considered

1. The option of continuing free services at point of delivery were considered but due to budgetary pressures was discounted. Equity of treatment issues was also considered.
2. Various charging rates were presented for consideration, but to assist the council to balance its budget in 2009/10 a minimum income figure of £2m was required.
3. Options reviewed included inflating the previous charging rate in 2005 of £4.84 per hour with a maximum of £33.88. This however, generated only approx £1m of income in a full year, and was inefficient in terms of administration and collection costs.
4. A banded charging approach was also considered but Fairer Charging guidelines recommends against this – “can create perverse incentives and spread subsidy unfairly”. It would also leave the Council vulnerable to swings in client allocations within bands.

Decision

1. To agree to commence public consultation on the re-introduction of charges for adult social care services based on a charging model which includes:

- an hourly rate for home care services • a rate per day for day care support

- a rate for transport in connection with day services
- an upper limit of charges for all those with capital below the residential care fully funding capital allowance
- a fixed charge for meals provision

2. To set £8 per hour with a maximum charge of £80 per week as the level at which it was proposed to establish charges so as to achieve the required annual income of £2m.

3. To set a fixed charge for any meal provided either in a person's own home, or in a community or day service setting (excluding residential care). This would be separate to any charge payable for the service itself. To keep the charge of £3.00 per meal for community meals provided in peoples own homes but to extend this to any meal provided in a day service setting.

4. To approve the introduction of charging for care within Supported Living schemes subject to a Fairer Charging financial assessment with the actual rate to be charged for Supported Living for younger adults being the subject of a separate report.

5. To report the findings of the consultation to the Council Cabinet at its September meeting.

Reasons

1. A comprehensive analysis of adult social care expenditure, activity and performance had been undertaken and was included in the report to the Adult Services and Health commission on 29 October 2007. This report was attached as Appendix 7. The Commission recommended that the development of adult social care services should be afforded a higher profile, that the Cabinet consider the re introduction of charging, and that adult social care eligibility criteria should be maintained at the current level.

2. During the budget process for 2008/09 to 2010/11, Cabinet accepted the need to increase income through re introduction of fairer charging for services to enable adult social care to continue to be provided at the current level. The budget for adult social care therefore contained an income expectation of £2m full year effect from 2009/10. The income expectation was £500,000 in 2008/09 to reflect the lead in time necessary to re-introduce a charging system from 1 January 2009.

3. Derby was one of only two local authorities in England which did not charge for community based social care services, the other one being Derbyshire County Council. An hourly rate of £8.00 or under would position Derby as having the lowest home care charges of all East Midlands authorities which do charge for services.

4. The introduction of charging for community based services removed the anomaly of such services being free whilst charges were made for residential care. The current situation created perverse service decision incentives in the

system for service users and carers, and was perceived as unfair by those requiring residential care.

5. The level of charging would need to be subject to annual review. There was a national review of funding for adult social care services under way, and together with the introduction of personalisation of adult social care services in the coming years, there was likely to be an impact on charging for services.

13/08 Adult Learning Service Fees

The Council Cabinet considered a report which stated that Derby City Council Adult Learning Service delivers a wide range of adult learning opportunities in adult learning centres, schools, community venues and workplaces across the city. In 2006/07 there were 4,429 learners and 8,063 enrolments on to courses. The largest number of enrolments was on Skills for Life courses including courses in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Other popular areas of learning include Computing, Modern Foreign Languages, British Sign Language and Visual Arts. The service focused on a programme of courses which supported social cohesion and substantial provision was made in neighbourhoods with the highest levels of socio-economic deprivation.

Options Considered

1. To reduce the number and range of courses offered in order to reduce the overall running costs of the service. This could lead to staff redundancies.
2. To introduce a course fee subsidy from Council funding. This option has not been recommended due to current Council budget pressures.

Decision

1. To approve the adoption of a new structure for Adult Learning Service course fees for the 2008/09 academic year.
2. To agree that any minor adjustments to the rates of fee remissions and concessions as a result of the Equalities Impact Assessment should be approved by the Corporate Director for Children and Young People in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Services.

Reasons

The Adult Learning Service was mainly funded by the LSC and was obliged to adopt a fees policy that was in line with LSC priorities. In order to continue to offer the current broad range of courses the Adult Learning Service proposed to increase course fees from September 2008. This was necessary due to a reduction in the overall funding which would be received from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) from that date.