

ITEM 6a

ADULT SERVICES AND HEALTH COMMISSION 03 SEPTEMBER 2007 MINUTE EXTRACT

24/07 Direct Payments

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Services on Direct Payments which was considered at Cabinet on 3 July. Direct Payments was a payment that allowed service users to directly purchase and manage the care provision they required. This could be purchased from an independent care provider or personal assistant. The report detailed changes in hourly rates for people receiving Direct Payments which proposed a reduction in the hourly rate from £10.20 to £9.00 where service users employed a personal assistant and an increase from £10.20 to £10.52 where services users purchased care from a care agency.

Members noted that as Derby was one of the best performing authorities in the country in delivering Direct Payments, the reduction in hourly rates would likely have an adverse influence on number of users taking up Direct Payments and that the increase of 32p per hour to the care agencies would most likely be absorbed by the agencies as part of their profits and any benefit of the increase was unlikely to be passed on to service users.

Concern was expressed that the savings from the reduction in the hourly rates for Personal Assistants would not have a major impact on the growing budget deficit in Adult Social Services and that others options could be considered to control the growing budget deficit.

The Commission welcomed the announcement by the Cabinet Member for Adult Services that protection would be offered to users who had already entered into contracts and could get into financial difficulty.

Resolved to refer the Commissions comments to Council Cabinet asking Cabinet to review the hourly rates offered to personal assistants and care agencies as part of Direct Payments to make them compatible to ensure users get they service they need.