



## ADULT SERVICES AND HEALTH COMMISSION 11 December 2006

Report of the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services

### **Review Self Assessment Process for Home Care Services**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Commission is asked to:
  - Consider the request by the Council to review self assessment for home care
  - Set the terms of reference, confirm witnesses and agree a timetable for the review.

#### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Council passed a motion at its 22 November meeting stating:

“In view of the public confusion surrounding the self assessment process for Home Care Services the Council requests that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Commission examine the self assessment process as a matter of urgency and send an urgent report to Cabinet with recommendations for making the process easier to understand and to complete.”
- 2.2 There is no self assessment for home care services.
- 2.3 We have been running a pilot scheme in Derby since April 2006 and provided 80 people with minor adaptations. The process involves applicants who meet the FACS criteria approaching the Council for technical aids and/or minor adaptation and assessed over the phone by asking a series of questions. If assessor is confident that the user knows what he or she requires then the item is offered. However, if during the telephone conversation the assessor feels that applicant may have other needs then a more detailed assessment is conducted through a home visit.
- 2.4 The pilot scheme was introduced to consider whether the self assessment process could save time and money in providing minor aids and adaptations to people who met the FACS criteria as often the applicants know more about their own problems and how these can be met. Also the cost of assessment for minor adaptations was often

considerably greater than the item requested and in majority of the cases the assessor agreed to provide the same piece of equipment or adaptation as requested by the applicant in the first place.

- 2.5 An evaluation of the pilot scheme has been carried out and found that a majority of disabled people are reluctant to use this process and preferring to have the support of an Occupational Therapist other worker. The Council took advantage of a national opportunity as self assessment is seen as a future goal for all services and we applied for funds to enable us to take forward the pilot in other areas of service the Council has successfully applied for Department of Health funding to run a further pilot project with Disability Direct for mediated assessment which can support disabled people to be more confident in using the self assessment process.
- 2.6 Since the responsibility for overview and scrutiny of Adult Social Services falls to this Commission, members are asked to set the terms of reference, confirm witnesses and agree a timetable for completion of this review.
- 2.7 In conducting this review members may wish to consider:
- National policy and expectations on self assessment
  - How does the self assessment currently operates in Derby
  - The services covered under this scheme
  - Whether this process has saved time and money and improved access to care services
  - How self assessment is contributing to meeting the needs of the service user
  - How well self assessment is understood by the prospective users
  - The scope for expansion to other areas of service
  - The scope of the national pilot to be undertaken in Derby
  - The advantages and disadvantages of self assessments process compared with assessments conducted by assessors
- 2.8 To address these issues and respond to the Council's request the Commission may consider inviting the following witness to the review:
- Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services  
Head of Disability and Sensory (Margaret Moran)  
Service Manager  
Care Manager/OTs  
Disability Direct  
Service users who have used self assessment process

<p><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></p> <p><b>Background papers:</b></p> <p><b>List of appendices:</b> Appendix 1 – Implications</p>
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## Appendix 1

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

1. There is likely to be a cost involved in conducting public consultation which will be contained within the Commissions research budget.

### **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