

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING MEETING

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

RECORD OF DECISION

An Individual Executive Decision Making meeting was held on 9 July 2020.

PRESENT: Councillors D Davison (Chair)

OFFICIALS: L Beevers, S Blood, D Johnson, C Lunn and E Scollay

20/1 **CHARGING FOR RESPITE CARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ABILITY TO PAY**

Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration submitted a report to approve the decision to charge service users for respite care, in accordance to their ability to pay.

The report required a decision as the consultation would inform a future policy change in Adult Social Care. Following consultation, approval to implement the change would be sought.

The report outlined that the Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance identified that Carers play a significant role in supporting the people they care for, thereby reducing the need for statutory care and support. Local authorities must consider interventions which can prevent Carers from developing needs for care and support themselves, as a result of their caring responsibilities. One of these interventions was a period of residential respite stay for the cared for person, allowing the carer time to take a break from their caring duties.

Middlesbrough Council currently supported this respite, by agreeing to fund the cost of the placement and recharging a flat rate to the cared for person.

The average cost of a stay for one week in a Middlesbrough care home was £582, however, adults using this facility in Middlesbrough were currently charged £151.20.

Cared for adults may or may not be service users. Some adults being cared for have not requested care and support from the local authority as their needs are being met by informal care.

A number of cared for adults utilising respite would be classed as being able to fund the cost of care themselves, as they have income and/or capital above the current financial threshold of £23,250. They are currently only charged the nominal cost above.

It was proposed that the charge for respite care would now be means tested, in line with other social care provision and neighbouring local authorities.

In accordance with current financial assessment practice, service users with capital over the financial threshold of £23,250 would, therefore, pay the full cost of the respite placement at Local Authority rates.

Where it was established that service users have less than the upper capital limit, it was proposed they would continue to pay the standard rate of £151.20. This charge would be a contribution towards accommodation costs.

OPTIONS

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

Consideration has been given to making no change to the current policy of charging a standard rate to all service users. This would however, result in continuous ongoing cost to the local authority and would be out of line with neighbouring local authorities.

ORDERED

That Executive approves the decision to charge service users for Respite Care in accordance with their ability to pay.

REASON

The decision was supported by the following reason:

The implementation of this charging policy will mitigate the ongoing costs of respite care, and bring Middlesbrough Council in line with the charging policies of neighbouring local authorities. In addition, it will ensure that a consistent and transparent policy is in place for this and other social care packages.

A full consultation took place between 01 January 2020 and 31 March 2020 involving all service users (263) who had had a period of respite care in the last 12 months. A copy of the result of this consultation forms part of the appendices to this document. Of the 263 service users consulted, 17 responses were received, from a mixture of carers and service users.

- Replies indicated that the benefit of respite stay to them was either good (3) or very good (13). One declined to comment.
- 11 replies indicated that they disagreed that respite stay should be means tested and 6 agreed
- 6 people said that they would be just as likely to continue to take advantage of the respite support if it were means tested, 9 were less likely and 2 stated that they would not use at all.

The decision will come into force after five working days following the day the decision was published unless the decision becomes subject to the call in procedures.