



**AGENDA ITEM: 9 (f)**

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**1 JUNE 2010**

### **SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To provide members of the Overview & Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Social Care & Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.

#### **BACKGROUND**

2. The Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel continues with its investigation into Personal Budgets and has met on two occasions since the last update report was provided.
3. At the Panel's meeting on 29 April 2010 the Panel considered the systems in place to address risks to individuals who are managing personal budgets and the Putting People First Programme Manager, the Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and User/Carer Support Manager attended the meeting.
4. The Panel heard that although it is widely accepted that personal budgets are enabling disabled people, older people and people with learning disabilities to have more choice and control over the services they receive increased personalisation also presents a number of potential safeguarding risks.
5. The introduction of personal budgets is likely to significantly increase the number of people employing staff directly, buying a service from agencies that do not have a contract with the Council and buying non-traditional services. This presents a number of risks particularly in relation to the employment of personal assistants and the potential for financial abuse of the individual resource allocation.

6. The Panel was advised that the challenge facing the Department of Social Care is to ensure that existing risk management systems are adequate to meet the increase in volume and to develop systems which offer some security to people commissioning their own care.
7. At that meeting the Panel also received further information in respect of Middlesbrough's performance in relation to National Indicator NI125 – People aged 65+ discharged from hospital for intermediate care/rehabilitation still living at home after three months. This indicator had been off target when the Panel considered the Promoting Adult Health and Well Being, Tackling Exclusion and Promoting Equality section of the Strategic Plan.
8. The information requested was provided and the Panel was pleased to note that since the last meeting a more detailed investigation of individual cases has led to an improvement in performance and as a consequence, it is anticipated that the target will easily be met.
9. On 20 May 2010 the panel held an informal meeting to hear evidence from Hartlepool Borough Council in respect of the progress Hartlepool has made in delivering personal budgets. Hartlepool Borough Council was an early adopter site for personal budgets and 45 per cent of service users who are in receipt of social care support in Hartlepool are now in receipt of a personal budget. Hartlepool provided information in respect of the challenges and opportunities that the introduction of personal budgets has presented.
10. The panel will continue gathering evidence in respect of its current review of Personal Budgets at its next meeting, where it is due to meet with some service users and their carers who are currently in receipt of a personal budget.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

11. That the Overview & Scrutiny Board notes the progress of the Social Care & Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7. No background papers were used in preparing this report.

**Councillor P. Purvis**  
**Chair, Social Care & Adult Services Scrutiny Panel**

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