

Social Care & Adult Services

Final Report –

APPOINTEESHIPS

Response to Recommendations f) and g)

Recommendation f) – The Pensions Disability and Carers Service, Partnership Development Team (PDCS is an Agency of the Department for Work and Pensions) will provide initial training for Council staff who need to increase understanding of Appointee action and when it may be appropriate and what other options are available where such action is not appropriate but where misspending or financial abuse are evident.

This training will be a one off event in as few sessions as is viable according to the number of people involved. DWP expectation is that training for new officers joining thereafter to be undertaken by the Council.

There is no charge from DWP for this training

Contact David Jordan at David.Jordan1@thepensionservice.gsi.gov.uk to arrange training sessions.

Timescale by agreement between the parties involved.

Recommendation g) – DWP will provide a representative to attend the Finance Panel in an advisory capacity only. They will not provide information from DWP records about individuals or make decisions about individual's benefits or payments methods at panel meetings. (Data held by DWP on whether benefit is in payment and by what method and to whom is confidential and can not be shared with third parties without the individuals informed consent which, given the nature of the individuals the panel will be considering, cannot be obtained. All decisions on benefit matters are made by Decision Makers who act independently to consider evidence in any particular case).

Physical presence at Finance Panel meetings will continue where DWP consider it is necessary to provide guidance on benefit matters. The expectation is that panel members will become skilled at deciding appropriate actions without the ongoing support of DWP at meetings.

DWP will provide a named contact to advise on difficult cases and expedite DWP action.