

Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

Minutes - 28 January 2020

Attendance

Members of the Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Simon Bennett (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Olivia Birch
Cllr Val Evans (Chair)
Cllr Sohail Khan
Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman

In Attendance

Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre Cabinet Member Education and Skills
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal Cabinet Member Health
Cllr Linda Leach Cabinet Member Adults

Employees

John Denley	Director of Public Health
Joanne Keatley	Head of Adult Education
Lynsey Kelly	Head of Community Safety
Hannah Pawley	Community Safety Manager
Earl Piggott-Smith	Scrutiny Officer
Lisa Taylor	Head of Service Improvement
David Watts	Director of Adult Services
Helen Winfield	Head of Community Financial Support

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 Apologies**
Apologies were received from the following members of the panel:

Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr John Rowley
Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Asha Mattu
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest recorded.

5 Proposed changes to charges for non-residential services (report to follow)

Helen Winfield, Head of Community Financial Support, presented the report and the outlined the background to proposal to extend the current transitional protection, due to end in April 2020, for a further two years. The Head of Community Financial Support detailed the reasons behind suggesting the proposed change and explained why option 3 was considered to be best approach to continuing to support people in receipt of transitional protection and would be the recommendation to Cabinet. The report was presented to SEB for comments and they were also supportive of Option 3 as it would offer the right balance in trying to limit the level of increase and also move people closer towards paying the correctly assessed amount.

The Head of Community Financial Support shared an example of completed financial assessment form to show the impact on people in receipt of non-residential adult social care, when different scenarios in each of the options is applied.

The panel expressed concern that the assessment would not properly consider other costs arising from their illness or disability and therefore limit the opportunity for them to engage in community and social activities. The Head of Community Financial Support advised that Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG), which is protected income in the assessment, is set by Government and is intended to meet the normal living costs of a person and also contribute towards covering the cost of their own care and support.

The Council has discretion to disregard more than standard MIG amount and has set an amount of £12 for disability related expenditure for people of pension credit qualifying age as shown on the financial assessment form.

For people below pension credit qualifying age who have a lower standard MIG, there is an additional amount of £5.04, which can be disregarded.

The Council can take account of other costs which can be disregarded during the financial assessment. A person can also ask for an enhanced financial assessment to consider the actual costs of disability-related expenses if these are higher than the set amounts applied in the basic financial assessment.

The panel welcomed the focus in wanting to protect individuals against unreasonable significant increases after April 2020, if the current support scheme ended.

The panel invited the Head of Community Financial Support to comment on future levels of transitional protection and possible changes to level of Minimum Income Guarantee which will impact on the amount of financial contributions. The Head of Community Financial Support commented that it is expected that the amount may increase in the future as it has not changed for 10 years.

The panel welcomed the report and agreed to support Option 3 as detailed.

Resolved:

1. The panel agreed to support the proposal for continuing transitional protection as detailed in Option 3.
2. The panel supported the recommendation to approve the Cabinet Member for Adult Services to have delegated authority to make further changes to the transitional protection scheme.