

NOTE of SEMINAR of MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 27 January 2015 at 11.00 am.

Present:- Provost Wallace and Councillors Baxter, Beattie, Bennett, Bryant, Constable, Johnstone, Milligan, Muirhead, Pottinger, Rosie, Russell and Thompson. Mr V Bourne (Religious Representative)

Apologies for Absence:- Depute Provost Coventry and Councillors Imrie, Montgomery, Young and, de Vink.

1 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

2 Self Directed Support

Introduction and Background

The Joint Director, Health and Social Care explained that Self Directed Support (SDS) , which had been introduced with effect from 1 April 2014, was intended to give the recipients of social care packages greater control over the delivery of their individual care package. It remained the responsibility of the local authority to ensure that the service provided, from whatever source, met the needs of the client and produced the desired outcome.

Clients could now opt to have the service which had been determined to meet their needs, provided via one of the following methods, viz:-

- Direct Payment; or
- Directing the Available Support; or
- Service arranged by the local authority; or
- A combination of the foregoing options for different aspects of the service.

The Council needed to ensure that clients and potential clients were aware of their options and that they had a right to make choices on the methods of service delivery within the parameters of the methods defined by statute.

3 Presentation

The Council thereafter received a presentation from the Head of Adult Social Care (Alison White); the Self Directed Support Project Lead (Graham Kilpatrick); and the Carers representative on the Project Board (Douglas Hendry)

The presentation, in addition to an overview of SDS, provided detailed information on SDS principles; SDS options; Case Studies; the Care Pathway; Service Provision; Eligibility Criteria; Levels of Need; Assessment; Individual Budget Calculation; Carers Charging; Examples of SDS; and Implementation Plans.

The presentation particularly highlighted that service provision had to be “Safe; Effective; Affordable; and Lawful “.

4 Questions

Following questions from Members, the following points were particularly noted:-

- (a) That all support for clients was “outcome” based;
- (b) That discussions with clients on the SDS options open to them included details of the budget allocated to meet the client outcomes
- (c) That changes in client circumstances would automatically lead to a review of the client budget allocation;
- (d) There were circumstances where family members could be paid for providing SDS but these were governed by national practice guidance;
- (e) To date there has been a small increase in the number of people requesting direct payments, with most clients opting for the Service arranged by the local authority. A small number of clients had requested service under option 2;
- (f) There was no indication to date that the tender process for care at home packages had been or would be adversely affected by clients opting for support other than that provided by the local authority;
- (g) A client budget allocation could be provided for the provision of aids and adaptations;

- (h) All client budget calculations were directly related to the eligibility criteria and a client would only receive a budget if they met the eligibility criteria;
- (i) All overall Council budgets (i.e. not individual client budget allocations) were calculated taking into account demographic pressures;
- (j) All charging related to service provision was subject to a financial assessment (except telecare);
- (k) The majority of state benefits were taken into account when a financial assessment of clients was undertaken; and
- (l) The initiatives being taken across the Council to ensure that young carers were as fully supported as was possible.

The meeting terminated at 12.35 pm.