

## **Day Services Policy**

### **Report by Alison White – Head of Service**

#### **1 Purpose of Report**

The growing pressures on social care coupled with the continuing budget reductions faced by Midlothian Council mean it is essential that there is a radical overhaul of the approach to the delivery of services. This report seeks approval for a Day Services Policy intended to ensure a stronger approach to the equitable provision of Day Services.

#### **2 Background**

##### **2.1 Sustainable and Affordable Social Care Services**

A report on 'Sustainable and Affordable Social Care Services' was accepted by Midlothian Council on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017. This report outlined pressures on Social Care Provision; demographic pressures, growing budget pressures and workforce pressures. The report also summarises the key elements of the Social Care Redesign Programme in place to mitigate these pressures. The key elements being; culture of transformation, integration and the *Realistic Care Realistic Expectations* approach.

A number of specific policies were also referenced in the report. Subsequent to this report a further policy in relation the provision of Day Services has been prepared.

##### **2.2 Day Services Policy**

The overall purpose of the Day Service Policy is to ensure there is a fair allocation of resources to individuals who require support by detailing the eligibility criteria for Day Services and outlining appropriate models of Day Service provision. This policy complements and should be read in conjunction with Midlothian Council 'Fair Allocation of Care Policy' approved in June 2017. The policy has a particular focus on services to people with a Learning Disability

The Day Services Policy, included in Appendix 1 of this report, addresses the following:

- Purpose and eligibility for day services – this includes the amount of Day Service support that would be provided
- The principles that underpin Day Service provision

- The types of Day Service Provision and the factors that will influence eligibility for this service.

The policy also contains some specific guidance on factors related to eligibility.

### **2.3 Day Service Strategy**

Learning Disability Services in Midlothian are undergoing significant change and major developments are taking place to reflect the fact that the expectations of the Learning Disability population in Midlothian is changing rapidly. People clearly want very different opportunities and the right support and services to deliver support that is individualised and reflects their aspirations. This next change has to involve a cultural shift to true participation in society for people with Learning Disabilities and the empowerment to make this happen.

A new Strategy is being developed which aims to remove the concept of a 'service user', in the traditional sense, and replace it with an approach that delivers services that focus on achieving things that will make a difference in people's lives. It is based on the Human Rights of a diverse group who come from all backgrounds, cultures and walks of life. At its heart is a fundamental shift in power and a new relationship between service providers and people who use day services.

A full review of existing day services has been undertaken. The next stage is to speak to people about the findings of the day service review and its recommendations. A small number of expert panels have been arranged which will focus on conversations with stakeholders to assess to what extent services are currently configured to meet the aspirations of the Strategy and articulate how the services should change or evolve to do so.

## **3 Report Implications**

### **3.1 Resource**

Implementation of the 'Day Services Policy' will ensure there is more robust and consistent decision-making in the allocation of social care resources for Day Service provision. It will also help ensure that there is an equitable allocation of resources to individuals with similar needs.

### **3.2 Risk**

There are a number of risks associated with not taking steps to implement the Day Services Policy:

- There is a continued inequity in the allocation of resources between individuals who have similar levels of need
- Increased budget pressures arising for inconsistent decision making around cost effective provision of support

The key risk associated with the implementation of this policy is:

- Anxiety from individuals who are experiencing a change in their support as a result of the change in policy. This however will be mitigated by ensuring we continue to work in a person-centred manner and enabling people to have access to independent advocacy.

### **3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- Community safety
- Adult health, care and housing
- Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- Sustainable growth
- Business transformation and Best Value
- None of the above

### **3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

The proposed policy fits with the Health and Social Care priorities in relation to setting and maintaining a balanced budget position.

### **3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

Midlothian Council takes an outcomes focussed approach in the provision of social care services. This approach would not change as a result of the adoption of this policy, however it will ensure there is equity and transparency when meeting individual's needs.

### **3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

The proposed policy identifies the need for and supports the application of preventative approaches in the provision of Social Care Support.

### **3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

As part of the implementation of this policy there will be discussion with the joint planning groups. Full consultation was undertaken on the Fair Access to Care policy and the Day Services Policy is aligned with that policy. A wide consultation exercise regarding the introduction of a broader strategy is currently underway.

### **3.7 Ensuring Equalities**

Equalities Impact Assessments have been completed and no issues of concern have been identified. A greater level of equity of service will be result from their implementation.

### **3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development**

The implementation of the policy will ensure a more sustainable delivery of Day Services.

### **3.9 IT Issues**

There are no IT issues associated with this report.

## **4 Summary**

This report describes the proposed Day Services Policy and the work that is underway to develop a wider day service strategy.

## **5 Recommendations**

Council are invited to:

- Approve the Day Services Policy
- Note the development and consultation work on the Day Service Strategy.

**Date 8/8/17**

**Report Contact:**

Graham Kilpatrick Tel No 0131 271 3477  
[graham.kilpatrick@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:graham.kilpatrick@midlothian.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:**

**Appendix 1 – Proposed Day Services Policy**