

Report



meeting **SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING SELECT COMMITTEE**

date **28 September 2004** agenda item number **8**

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING SELECT COMMITTEE

DIRECT PAYMENTS

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To establish a Member Study Group to examine issues and make recommendations in relation to Direct Payments in adults' and children's services.

2. Information and Advice

- 2.1 Direct Payments are a means by which service users can choose the method of delivery of their social care. Direct Payments schemes allow service users to "buy in" services from alternative providers such as the voluntary and private sectors. People who can receive Direct Payments include:

- people with physical or sensory impairments
- older people who need support to live safely and independently
- people with a learning disability
- people with mental ill health
- people with HIV or AIDS
- young disabled people (16+)
- parents of disabled children

2.2 Direct Payments can be used to purchase such services as:

- support in employment and education
- personal care
- support with domestic tasks
- support to engage in sport and leisure activities
- support for a short break
- support during the day as an alternative to attendance at a day centre
- support to live independently
- provision of a support worker (Personal Assistant)

2.3 Further to the Government's stated policy to encourage Direct Payments to service users, Members are asked to express an interest in participating in a small Member-led group to discuss the following associated issues and draw up recommendations:

- The implications of Direct Payments in adults' and children's services as a result of Government policy and legal requirements.
- Current arrangements and progress to be made within Nottinghamshire
- Models and arrangements working in other local authorities
- The financial implications for the Authority
- The implications for other County Council services and contracts with external providers.

3. Method of Study and Duration of Project

- 3.1 The Study Group will be advised to examine issues in relation to adults first and then bring in children.
- 3.2 The Study Group will conclude its work by December, 2004.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that Members give approval to establish of a Study Group of five elected Members from the Social Services Standing Select Committee to engage in this work and the study be completed by December, 2004.

COUNCILLOR CHRIS BARON
Chair of the Social Services Standing Select Committee

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