

25th November 2013**Agenda Item: 11****REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ADULT SOCIAL
CARE, HEALTH AND PUBLIC PROTECTION****DRAFT SHORT BREAKS (RESPITE) SERVICE POLICY****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report provides Committee Members with information in respect of proposed policy changes concerning the provision of Short Breaks and Respite Care Services, and seeks members approval to consult on the proposals with people who use services, their carers' and the public.
2. The review of the Respite Care Policy is highlighted within the Outline Business Case which was approved for consultation by Policy Committee on 13 November 2013. This report provides for the Committee to gain a fuller understanding of the policy proposals.

Information and Advice

3. The Short Breaks Outline Business Case, as approved for consultation by Policy Committee, sets out a proposal to reduce the four residential Short Breaks units operated by the Council to three units during 2014/15, creating an efficiency saving of £500,000 per annum. In addition a separate Outline Business Case proposes decommissioning the Newlands Short Breaks Service operated by the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, which will save a further £350,000 per annum.
4. These proposed changes can be made whilst still providing for people to have respite care and short breaks within the Council's remaining Short Breaks Services, Shared Lives Services and within the independent sector. However, for some people with learning disabilities and their carers who use these services now there will be less choice of date and location.
5. The Short Breaks Outline Business Case refers to the need to review the Council's policy in relation to eligibility for, and allocation of, Short Breaks/Respite Services. This is necessary to enable the remaining residential provision to be allocated fairly to the people who are eligible to use it.
6. Currently there is no overarching policy in place which considers service user and carer eligibility and access to respite services, other than a policy agreed ten years ago in relation to Learning Disability Services. Therefore, the following broad principles are proposed for a new policy (see Appendix A).

- a) Respite Services, are those services which provide substitute care for a person who is eligible for Council funded support, when the person's carer or carers are not able to meet needs that are normally met by the carer(s). The Respite Service is primarily delivered to meet the carer's need for a break from caring.
- b) Respite Services are an essential part of the overall support provided to unpaid carers and to those with eligible care needs to help people to stay at home, whilst sustaining the carer's role and preventing crises and breakdowns in care.
- c) The majority of Respite Service will be planned, although emergency respite care will also be available.
- d) The Carers' Assessment will be used as the tool to assess and define additional carer's needs, including the need for respite, after the service user has been assessed using the Community Care Assessment.
- e) There will be a range of Respite Service options, including Residential Respite, Sitting Services, Shared Lives Respite, support provided in the home or to take the service user out and about to give the carer a break from caring. The Council will also consider paying for some or all of the support needs of a service user, if the person goes away on holiday with their carer, in this situation the holiday must be clearly linked to an outcome in the service user's support plan.
- f) The most cost effective form of respite will be offered to the carer, to meet the substitute care needs of the service user during the period of the respite care.
- g) A standard offer of nights per year for Residential Respite will be offered to all carers who are assessed as needing this form of respite in a Carers' Assessment. However, individual circumstances will be taken into account and the following factors will influence the overall volume and nature of the respite service package provided to any carer:
 - level of complexity of the service user's needs
 - the context of the family situation
 - the carer's individual needs
 - availability of service provision at the time (e.g. residential respite)

7. Members are asked to approve the attached draft policy to be used as part of the consultation on Short Breaks Services as outlined in the Short Breaks Outline Business Case approved for consultation by Policy Committee on 13 November 2013.

Other Options Considered

8. No other options considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. The new Respite Service Policy is needed to ensure an equitable and consistent allocation of Short Breaks and Respite Care Services across the County. The Outline Business Case

out for consultation as part of the budget challenge between November 2013 and January 2014, highlights the need for a new Respite Care Policy, so it is appropriate that this policy draft should be tested via consultation at the same time.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

11. The development of a new Short Breaks Policy will support the delivery of the savings expected as a result of the Short Breaks and Newlands Outline Business Cases, which totals £850,000 per annum.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

12. The equality implications are all covered by the Equality Impact Assessment that has been developed for the Short Breaks Outline Business Case.

Implications for Service Users

13. The implications for service users of the Short Breaks and Newlands proposals are described in the related Outline Business Case and Equality Impact Assessment.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the Adult Social Care and Health Committee:

- 1) Approve the draft Respite Care Policy for consultation alongside the consultation on the Short Breaks Outline Business Case.
- 2) Agrees to receive a further report once the consultation has been completed.

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Constitutional Comments (NAB 7/11/13)

14. The Adult Social Care and Health Committee has authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (KAS 13/11/13)

15. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 11 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Equality Impact Assessment

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

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