

9 October 2017

Agenda Item: 11

REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR FOR TRANSFORMATION

GUIDE FOR SELF-FUNDERS TO CARE AND SUPPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Committee approval to proceed with promoting a self-funders guide to care and support.

Information and Advice

2. Under the Care Act 2014, the Council has the same legal responsibilities towards self-funders as people who receive Council-funded care in the following areas:
 - providing advice and guidance
 - signposting to available resources
 - assessing a person's care and support needs.
3. To support self-funders, the Council has created a self-funders guide to care and support. The aim of this guide is to provide useful information to self-funders on a variety of areas such as:
 - information and advice
 - benefits support and independent financial advice
 - how to get an assessment with the Council
 - care and support services
 - the brokerage service
 - how to create a Power of Attorney.
4. Nottinghamshire County Council wishes to encourage self-funders to contact the Council to find out what options are available and help them make the right choices about their support that achieves good outcomes and helps make the most of the money they have.
5. It is particularly important that the right advice and guidance is offered for people who are considering entering a care home and explore alternatives with them first. Failure to offer the right advice at this point has long term consequences for:
 - the individual who is making a life changing decision often at a point of crisis
 - the Council's budget if the individual's funds fall below £23,250 and then seeks funding when there was a better alternative.

6. The guide is available on the public website for self-funders to access and will also be used within the Customer Service Centre, Adult Access Service and locality teams to ensure that self-funders have access to good information, advice and support.
7. The Council plans to publicise this to external partners as a means to supporting self-funders further. This includes the following planned activities:
 - front page of Council website as a news item
 - recurring post on the Council's Facebook page
 - recurring tweet on the Council's Twitter page
 - a link and electronic copy sent to partner organisations such as Age UK, Citizens Advice Bureau, Connect and other organisations and request that they pass on the guide/alert self-funders to its presence when appropriate
 - to be available through Notts Help Yourself in the financial and legal advice section
 - link and electronic copy sent to Nottinghamshire Councillors and MPs in case a constituent should pose a query regarding funding their own care.
8. There is no actual cost for undertaking the above planned activities.

Other Options Considered

9. To not undertake publicity for self-funders would result in lack of awareness and understanding of information, advice and support available.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. To ensure self-funders are able to make good and informed decisions about their future care and support needs.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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

12. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Committee gives approval to proceed with promoting a self-funders guide to care and support.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 27/09/17)

13. The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

Financial Comments (KAS 27/09/17)

14. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 12 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.

Self-funders guide to care and support <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/125424/selffundersguide20170907.pdf>

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

ASCPH493