

29 June 2015

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

UPDATE ON THE TRANSFER OF THE INDEPENDENT LIVING FUND

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Committee with an update regarding the transfer of the Independent Living Fund (ILF) to Nottinghamshire County Council.

Information and Advice

2. The Committee was last provided with an update on the ILF on 1st December 2014. Currently there are 164 people receiving funding from the ILF. The total current value of ILF funding that will be transferred to Nottinghamshire County Council is £2.95 million per annum. This figure represents a £200,000 decrease since December 2014 when the previous report was considered by Committee.
3. The ILF will transfer in full its net expenditure and will advise Nottinghamshire County Council of the amount of funding to be transferred as at 30th June 2015. The terms of the transfer of funding assume that 4% of people will leave the scheme each year.
4. The Committee gave approval for a scale 5 worker from Adult Care Financial Services (ACFS) to visit all the ILF recipients in January to March 2015. This was not required as capacity was found from existing resources. Every ILF recipient received a home visit by an officer from ACFS and financial assessments were undertaken. Staff also checked benefits, explored Direct Payment options and advised on options. A positive by-product of these visits was that some considerable back payments of benefit were elicited for ILF recipients.
5. Every person who will receive an increased Direct Payment from 1 July 2015 has had their budget authorised and the payments have been set up. Every person transferring from the ILF has had a NCC financial contributions assessment and their contributions have been confirmed in writing.
6. The transfer will, for the same reasons detailed in the report to Committee on 28 October 2013, create a budget pressure for the Council. The differences in the way that ILF require a personal contribution and the regulations contained in the Council's Care Act Contributions Policy amount to a shortfall of approximately £0.436m for 2015/16. Detailed databases have been maintained to ensure that every person will experience a smooth transfer.

7. It will be necessary therefore to re-assess each ILF recipient using the Care Act Assessment and Support Plan. The re-assessments and reviews will be undertaken in the autumn. This allows a couple of months for the transfer to 'bed-in' and for the Council to be assured that payments have been delivered accurately.
8. The Committee has already given approval for an additional two Scale 5 Community Care Officers to undertake social care assessments. These staff will be deployed according to pressure points, as the distribution of ILF recipients is not consistent across younger and older adult teams.

Other Options Considered

9. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), 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.

Implications for Service Users

12. Service users will be reviewed by the Council to ensure their eligible needs are met after the ILF closure.

Financial implications

13. A contingency fund has previously been agreed to meet the initial shortfall. Any additional cost pressures within the current year will be met from departmental reserves and longer term implications will be built into the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee notes the update regarding the transfer of the Independent Living Fund (ILF) to Nottinghamshire County Council.

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Constitutional Comments

14. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (KAS 18/06/15)

15. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 13 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.

Closure of the Independent living Fund – report to Adult Social Care and Health Committee on 28 October 2013

Update on the Independent Living Fund – report to Adult Social Care and Health Committee on 6 January 2014

Update on the Independent Living Fund – report to Adult Social Care and Health Committee on 1 December 2014

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.