

Freedom of Information Request NCC-028234-17 - funding panels, adult social care

Dear Sir or Madam,

I writing to you on behalf of Community Care, the online magazine for social workers.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information on the use of funding panels within the council's adults' services department. For the purpose of this request, we define a funding panel as a panel to which social workers present cases, in order to get agreement and funding for the care and support package a person may need.

Does the council use a funding panel to make any personal budget allocation decisions for adult social care?

Does the council have separate funding panels for different service user groups e.g. older people, learning disability? If yes, please list.

What panels were in place on 1 November 2010, 1 November 2011, 1 November 2012, 1 November 2013, 1 November 2014, 1 November 2015, 1 November 2016?

Does the funding panel consider residential care packages, domiciliary care packages, supported living packages, any other types of care? (Please list).

What is the financial threshold i.e. above what level of expenditure that requires a case to be considered by the panel? Please specify for each type of care.

Has this changed since the panel was set up? If so, when and from how much?

Does the panel consider new cases only, or reviews of existing care packages as well?

Does the council operate any funding panels in conjunction with other agencies e.g. the NHS? If yes, please list these agencies and the remit of these funding panels.

I would prefer to receive this information electronically. If you need any clarification of this request, please contact me on the email address or telephone number provided. Under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, it is your duty to provide advice and assistance if you find this request unmanageable in any way.

If one part of this request can be answered sooner than others, please send that information first followed by any subsequent data. If FOI requests of a similar nature have already been asked, could you please also include your responses to those requests.

I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Dear,

Further to your recent FOIR below, please see responses to your questions.

We hope this now satisfies your request, and should you have any further enquiry please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below.

In addition to the this and for future reference Nottingham County Council regularly publishes previous FOIR,s and answers on its website, under Disclosure logs. (see link)
<http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

You can use the search facility using keywords.

This may be of interest to you also:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/125382/send-tribunals-ncc-026477-17.pdf>

For info, the Ministry of Justice publish data on an annual basis and the next publication is due any time for 2016/17 academic year but it only states how many were lodged by local authority and not the outcomes by local authority only nationally.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or email complaints@nottscc.gov.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Council. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.gov.uk

Kindest Regards

- Does the council use a funding panel to make any personal budget allocation decisions for adult social care? **Yes. However they are not predominantly funding panels, but are used as a means of quality control, to ensure that any alternative forms of support have been fully explored and to identify needs and gaps in provision.**
- Does the council have separate funding panels for different service user groups e.g. older people, learning disability? If yes, please list. **Yes – older adults and younger adults.**
- What panels were in place on 1 November 2010, 1 November 2011, 1 November 2012, 1 November 2013, 1 November 2014, 1 November 2015, 1 November 2016? **Panels have been running for a number of years - exact start date not known but would most likely cover the dates listed.**

- Does the funding panel consider residential care packages, domiciliary care packages, supported living packages, any other types of care? (Please list). **Yes – for older adults, long term residential/nursing care and community care packages. One of the older adults’ panels also reviews all admissions to short-term residential care in excess of two weeks.**
- **For younger adults there is an accommodation panel on a monthly basis to consider all new requests for supported accommodation, residential and nursing care. This includes all service user groups and the panel considers the appropriateness of request, suggests suitable alternative options, deals with prioritisation of available supported living options and identifies gaps in provision. The community care support panel meets twice a month to approve all requests for new or additional funding of £250pw or more for younger adults.**
- What is the financial threshold i.e. above what level of expenditure that requires a case to be considered by the panel? Please specify for each type of care. **For older adults panels all packages over £300pw but panels may prioritise cases over £500 pw. See previous answer regarding younger adults.**
- Has this changed since the panel was set up? If so, when and from how much? **Yes. For older adults previously focused on long term residential care but more recently we are looking at community care based packages.**
- Does the panel consider new cases only, or reviews of existing care packages as well? **For older adults, it is new admissions to long term residential care and admissions to short-term residential care (as mentioned above). For community based packages of care it could include reviews. For younger adults, please refer to earlier answer.**
- Does the council operate any funding panels in conjunction with other agencies e.g. the NHS? If yes, please list these agencies and the remit of these funding panels. **Yes – we contribute to Continuing Health Care panels with Health partners in Nottingham city and Nottinghamshire county. For younger adults these panels take place on a weekly basis.**