



ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11 NOVEMBER 2019

FAIR OUTCOMES POLICY FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee of forthcoming engagement on a proposed rewording of the existing Cost Effective Care Policy 2015, and its retitling for clarity as a Fair Outcomes Policy.

Recommendations

- 2 It is recommended that Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the forthcoming engagement on the Fair Outcomes Policy 2020, which is attached at Appendix A.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 3 The draft Fair Outcomes Policy 2020 updates the current Cost Effective Care Policy 2015. The policy outlines the County Council's approach to assessment of need and the provision of a personal budget for adults who may require social care support, ensuring that a person's wellbeing is considered alongside the cost of the proposed care and support. The imminent consultation, which will begin during the week commencing 11 November 2019, will allow the public and stakeholders to consider and comment on the proposals. The views expressed will be taken into account in producing the final draft version for Cabinet's consideration on 14 January 2020.

Background

- 4 Following public and stakeholder consultation and its subsequent approval by the Cabinet on 13 October 2014, the County Council's Cost Effective Care Policy was implemented in 2015.
- 5 In order to refresh the existing content, the following clarifying changes are reflected in the revised draft Policy which:
 - highlights that a person's *wellbeing is paramount* to the decision-making for care and support; workers will only consider cost once needs and wellbeing considerations have been met;

- states that decisions are made on a case by case basis with the aim of delivering *good outcomes for the service user alongside best value* for the County Council;
- emphasises *that there is no cap on the cost of care* and that personal budgets will not be reduced to meet a defined level of expenditure;
- *includes carers*, to ensure equity amongst all service user groups, even though carers do not have to pay for their care or support;
- has the changed name of 'Fair Outcomes Policy' to better reflect its intention in *ensuring fair outcomes* for individuals, and fairness in the overall provision of funded care and support.

6 The draft Policy aims to describe the existing arrangements in clearer terms but is not a change to current policy. However, in the interests of ensuring that the public, customers and stakeholders are able to express their views on the document, engagement will be undertaken over the weeks prior to Christmas. The revised policy, together with the results of the engagement, will be brought to Cabinet on 14 January 2020 for its consideration and approval.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

- 7 The Cost Effective Care Policy 2015 was approved by Cabinet on 13 October 2014 following a public and stakeholder consultation. It describes the County Council's duties in providing care and support for people who have needs which meet the national eligibility framework, as set out in the Care and Support (Eligibility Criteria) Regulations 2014.
- 8 The Council is presently developing a draft Adults and Communities Strategy 2020-24. The draft Strategy will sit under the County Council's Strategic Plan for 2018-22 'Working Together for the Benefit of Everyone' and sets out how the Adults and Communities Department will contribute to the delivery and achievement of the Council's five strategic outcomes.

Resource Implications

- 9 The County Council has a duty to meet the assessed social care needs of Leicestershire residents. The Policy will enable the Council to continue to work with service users and their families to identify ways to meet their care and support needs within the funding available to the Council.

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