

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & WELL-BEING CABINET BOARD

7th MARCH 2019

Report of the Head of Adult Services – Ms A. Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

REVISED ADULT SERVICES ASSISTED TRANSPORT POLICY

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform Members of the proposed revised Adult Services Assisted Transport Policy and seek approval to undertake a 90-day public consultation.

2. Background

2.1 The existing Assisted Transport Policy was approved by Members and implemented with effect from 1st April 2014.

2.2 Set against a background of increasing demand for our services and economic pressures requiring budgetary savings, the provision of good quality and responsive adult social care support remains a priority of the Council.

2.3 However, in doing so it is necessary to review what services are provided and how we deliver them.

2.4 The proposed revised Assisted Transport Policy therefore places greater emphasis on an individual, where practicable, making their own transport arrangements to and from a service which has been identified under an assessment of need, and clarifies that transport to/from a destination outside of an eligible assessed need is the responsibility of the individual. This contributes to promoting individuals' independence and sustainability of services.

2.5 In the event that the proposed removal of transport results from the assessment/review, the user will be supported through an agreed time limited transition period to ensure any identified risks are mitigated and alternative arrangements can be made.

3. Monitoring, Review and Delivery

3.1 The Policy will be reviewed by the Social Care, Health and Well-being Cabinet Board on an annual basis.

3.2 The Policy will be reviewed in line with the Council's performance arrangements and against the Forward Financial Plan (FFP) targets.

4. Recommendation

Having given due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment, it is recommended that Members grant permission to consult on the proposed Adult Services Equitability of Service Provision Policy attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

5. Reason for Proposed Decision

To take into account the social care resources available when undertaking an assessment or reassessment of individuals' needs, to ensure a sustainable range of good quality adult social care services are available to meet the needs of the most vulnerable citizens of Neath Port Talbot, and contribute towards the budgetary savings identified in the Council's Forward Financial Plan.

6. Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

7. Equality impact assessment

A full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) on the proposed Policy has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

It is not expected that the Policy will have an adverse effect on people with any protected characteristic as all existing and potential service users and carers will be assessed on the basis of their individual needs and will receive the most appropriate service or be signposted accordingly. The promotion of the uptake of universal services, including transport, will support social inclusion and community cohesion.

The EIA will be reviewed on completion of the public consultation and will help inform any required amendments.

8. Workforce impacts

There are no workforce impacts arising from this report.

9. Legal impacts

There are no legal impacts arising from this report.

10. Financial impacts

The Adult Services Assisted Transport Policy has been developed on the basis of the Directorate's budgetary savings for 2019-20.

11. Consultation

It is proposed that, with Members' permission, a 90-day public consultation exercise is undertaken. This will consist of paper and on-line surveys. In addition, officers will attend various groups and forums around the county borough to reach as many stakeholders, including citizens, carers, providers (private and third sector) and partner organisations as possible. The Consultation Document can be found at Appendix 3 of this report.

12. Risk Management

There are no risks associated with this item.

13. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Adult Services Assisted Transport Policy (revised 2019).

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment.

Appendix 3 – Consultation document.

14. Background Papers

Consultation on Social Services Budget and Draft Savings 2019-20.

15. Officer Contact

For further information on this report item, please contact:

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