



Overview and Scrutiny Committee 7 October 2008

Report from the Director of Housing and Community Care

For Action/Information

Wards Affected: ALL

Direct Payments and Self-Directed Support

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an understanding Direct Payments and Self-Directed Support in Brent

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny agree to attend the proposed workshop

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Housing and Community Care department have a programme to Implement Self Directed Support as par of the Adult Social Care Transformation programme. The aim is to implement Self Directed Support for 50% of service users by 2010.

Self Directed Support is a new way of delivering social care which seeks to give service users more control.

Typically Self Directed Support involves giving service user a direct payment or an individual budget. There are other aspects of self directed support which include assisted/self assessment.

In Brent we have been awarding direct payments to service users from 2003. However, the number of direct payments has until recently been relatively low. The CSCI (Commission for Social Care Inspection) has repeatedly highlighted this as an area for improvement every year since 2004. Our performance has

improved year on year and showed a good improvement last year. As at the end of August we had 319 clients on direct payments.

The Community Care service have implemented a range of initiatives in order to increase the take up of direct payments including a production of a DVD starring direct payment users, workshops, promotional material and training.

Individual Budgets

All Councils are now being asked to implement individual budgets with a view to having most of their service users on these by 2001. In Brent we have been piloting these arrangements within our Learning and Disability service with 40 young people. As a result of this pilot the Community Care service is now planning to implement individual budgets across the department within the next year. This will start with full implementation in Learning Disabilities at the end of the year and then Physical Disabilities and Older People's Services in 2009. It should be noted that individual budgets, direct payments, self assessment and self directed support generally are not compulsory but purely voluntary. They will not be applied if the service user cannot or will not make use of the opportunity provided.

4.0 Proposal

4.1 It is proposed to provide a visit to our Learning Disability Day Centres for our members on the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

This will be combined with a short workshop on direct payments and self directed support which will include showing of the DVD, an opportunity to hear from clients in receipt of direct payments and a presentation of the work to date on self directed support within our Learning Disabilities services.

Date: To be advised. This will be arranged for November on the same days as the visit to our Learning Disability Day Centre.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 The legal duties of the Council in respect of direct payments and individual budget as part of the workshop if requested

6.0 Diversity Implications

The implementation of direct payments and individual budgets will give greater choice and flexibility and therefore provide more care solutions to our diverse community.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

7.1 Staff are being required to work in different ways and further information will be provided at the proposed workshop

Background Papers

None

Contact Officers

Lance Douglas, Assistant Director of Adult Social Care
Tel. 0208 937 4048

Martin Cheeseman
Director of Housing and Community Care