

Disability Equality Impact Assessment Questionnaire

Policy/Service/Change being assessed: Review of Adults Transport	Department: Services - For People
Person Responsible for Assessment: Ann Workman	Date of assessment: 25 January 2012

Brief description of service and to whom provided/available:

To develop and implement a policy for eligibility for Transport provided by Adult Social Care and to implement the Fairer Charging Policy in relation to transport costs (i.e. people will be financially assessed to contribute to the cost of the transport they are provided with. This was deferred from the implementation of the Fairer Contributions Policy in 2010, until a Transport Policy was developed.

The following financial savings have been identified against this proposal:

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
£000	£000	£000	£000
30	40	50	50

Introduction

This template should be used with the Disability Equality Scheme 2006-2009. Completing this template without following the rest of the disability equality impact assessment process outlined in the Scheme does not comprise a disability equality impact assessment.

If, after reading the guidance, you require further information on how to implement the assessment, please contact Peter Roberts, Social Enterprise Development Manager on 01325 388713

Q.1 Is your service/policy/change accessible to all disabled people? Bear in mind any economic, social, environmental, physical, intellectual, cultural, linguistic, technological or other barriers.

Issue	Yes	No	If yes, what evidence do you have to demonstrate this?	If no, what do you plan to do to remove barriers to access?
Physical or mobility impairment	√		<p>The implementation of the Supported Transport Policy will ensure that those who are eligible for social care support are able to access this support via suitable transport means. Individual assessments of transport needs will ensure that where people are not able to use universally available transport or receive the state benefits intended to meet these needs, supported transport will be provided</p> <p>All people who receive transport will have their need for transport reviewed as an integral part of their annual care review</p>	
Sensory impairment	√			
Learning disability or mental impairment	√			
Other disabilities and health conditions covered by the Equality Act 2010 (eg. diabetes, HIV, multiple sclerosis, depression and cancer)	√			
Any other disability issue (e.g. frail/vulnerable people, people with mild impairments who do not perceive themselves as disabled, people with multiple impairment)	√			

Q.2 (a) For whatever reason, does your service treat any group of disabled people differently from its other service users?

Yes

✓

No

If you have answered 'yes', please specify those individuals or groups affected and whether the impact has the potential to be adverse.

The provision of supported transport is available to those people who have been assessed as eligible for Adult Social Care Support. This includes physical or mobility impairment, sensory impairment, learning disability or mental impairment and other disabilities or health conditions.

The proposed policy has the potential to be adverse if e individuals do not meet the eligibility criteria proposed within the draft policy and as a result are required to make alternative arrangements for transport to access their social care support. They may also be adversely affected if, as a result of the review of the financial assessment, they are required to contribute financially to the cost of the transport (currently the cost of transport is not taken into account when calculating the contribution an individual is able to contribute towards the cost of their care)

Some individuals may also have been impacted by other budget changes within Adult Social Care, such as changes to the Severe Disability Premium Disregard and Eligibility Criteria.

Impacts include less respite for carers, costs of other transport and the availability of this at time required for accessing services, also the reduced availability of carers for other activities if they are being used to transport to services.

Assessing officers will need to consider the multiple impacts on the individual at the point that they have a review of their support needs, and also when they have their financial assessment review.

For those who are no longer eligible for the provision of transport, it will be important for the individual to be signposted to alternative means of transport or assistance.

The Financial Assessment review will need to take into account any relevant Disability Related Expenditure in respect of reasonable transport costs.

Q.3 (a) Do you promote disability equality within your service? (e.g. through departmental equalities group, innovative marketing or community engagement techniques)

Yes
No

√

If you have answered 'yes', please give examples of how equality is promoted.

In addition to the Council's commitment to promote equality of opportunity in all services and policies the following is specific to the proposed policy:

The policy will be promoted through the Partnership Board approach in Learning Disability, Older People and Mental Health. Adult Social Care operates in an ongoing inclusive way, by engaging and involving people.

People are able to raise issues which affect them and officers will work in partnership to resolve these issues.

In respect of this proposed policy, in addition to the open "Talking Together" events held at the Dolphin Centre, information has been provided in The Town Crier publications, and on line forums. There has been attendance at local community groups and action groups (ie. DAD) by officers and there have also been a number of drop in sessions held at adult social care service provisions to carry out 1:1 impact assessment with the individuals who have been identified as likely to be impacted by the policy proposal.

(b) Do you promote positive attitudes towards disabled people? (e.g. through customer care training, cultural issues awareness training, the use of images of disabled people in your publicity material)

Yes
No

√

If you have answered 'yes', please give examples.

The Council as a whole promotes a positive attitude to disabled people when providing adult social services. Employees are made aware of disability issues and there is mandatory training provided as part of the staff induction process. All Council staff operate within a culture where disability issues such as access to buildings, services and information are well embedded. The Council is committed to ensuring that information is in an easy read format and accessible in various formats and in a wide range of locations. Within Services for People there is a dedicated Public Information Team who lead on the accessibility of all information.

Images of disabled people are used on publicity leaflets
Equality and cultural training is mandatory for all social care staff

Q.4 Are there any plans in place within your Service to promote disability equality more effectively?

Yes
No

√

If yes, please outline what you intend to do (including details, if known, of timescales and areas to be covered, etc.)

Consultation and Impact Analysis on the proposed policy has included:

Meeting held with Carers (as part of the Carers Support Service Review)

Dimensions drop in session arranged for those people who access Dimensions

Drop in sessions at 3x Learning Disability day opportunities venues

Drop in session at Age UK for older people

Drop in session for Direct Payment users at a Direct Payments User Involvement Forum

Draft Policy and Easy Read Document available on the internet

Easy Read document and DEIA form sent to all individuals who currently receive transport or a direct payment in lieu of transport.

The implementation of the policy, (if approved) will promote social inclusion and equality as well as promoting choice and control for the individual

There will be staff training on the new policy, to ensure it is applied fairly and consistently. The Validation Panel will ensure that the policy is applied fairly and consistently

Carers Impact Assessment Session 9.01.12

Policy for Provision of Transport for Adult Social Care service users

The Club Room, The Arts Centre

Officers highlighted to the carers present, whose sons/daughters utilise ASC (Adult Social Care) transport the components of the ASC Transport Budget proposal.

From the outset of the potential impact discussion Carers were advised that one part of the proposal has already been agreed as part of the 2010 proposal, this relates to individuals transport costs being taken into account. Individuals not at their maximum level of contribution may have to contribute towards the cost of their transport. Although this has previously been agreed it is still to be implemented. It was previously agreed that this procedure would not be fully implemented until a policy around the provision of transport for adult social care service users was developed.

A policy has now been developed for consultation, an overview of the key components of the policy are:-

- ASC may provide subsidised transport services to eligible and/or carers who require the provision of transport to access a service or support which means an eligible assessed need.
- There is an expectation that individuals will meet their own needs for transport to access services or support.
- Transport would not be available for people living in residential care.
- The decision to provide transport is based on needs, risks, outcomes and on promoting independence.
- Subsidised transport will be provided, where following an assessment it is determined that the subsidised transport is the only means of ensuring that a service user can be safely transported to an assessed service.
- Where there is appropriate transport available (either personal or public) it will be assumed that this will be the first option.
- Transport will only be provided if alternatives are unavailable or inappropriate for some reason.

Carers attention was drawn to the fact that the criteria above would need to be considered in relation to individual circumstance and that there was a significant focus upon safety.

The carers were advised that from the 1st of April 2012, where a person receives transport from ASC, there will be an expectation for eligible individuals that they may have to contribute towards the costs of the transport if they are not already at their maximum level of contribution. The policy would be applied from the date of the person's next ASC care plan review.

A principle of reasonableness will be applied.

Officers advised that from the available data which has been reviewed, in practice the policy will be mean that some individuals who receive ASC transport presently, they will no longer be eligible. The focus upon safety was re-highlighted.

A discussion was held regarding the mobility component of DLA and that fact that the intention of this is to provide financial support for individuals in being able to address/fund their mobility needs.

A carer queried the level of mobility funding that their son receives, it is provided through their Income Support, the query related to the fact that the monetary value was so low (£4 per week) that it would not cover any transport provision.

The carer was advised that it would not be appropriate to discuss an individual or their potential circumstance at this meeting, but the mobility component will be considered.

Q. How would the charge be added?

A. The charge would be added to existing invoice that you receive.

Q. If the charge is for X£'s per day would that be through direct debit?

A. Yes, this charge would come through the normal direct debit arrangements.

Q. What are the rules if a person does not turn up/ is on holiday?

A. Periods of Absence are covered within the policy in section 9.

Q. A question was asked whether there would be an option for people who are no longer eligible to self fund to use the service, if it they are used to it, find it valuable and reliable?

A. This has been raised and there are discussions occurring with colleagues providing the transport with regard to the potential viability of this option. There are a number of elements to consider including, but not limited to, insurance implications, vehicle licensing, and operational implications.

Statement: If there was a option to pay, how much was being charged would determine how feasible an option it is for an individual.

Clarification: If it was to be a feasible option, the charging would need to be reasonable.

Officers clarified that the charging for any transport would be effective from the date of the individual's financial assessment which for some people will be different to their adult social care assessment date.

Q. What would happen when a person is using the respite facility at Newton Lane?

A. Being at Newton Lane itself, there would be no change, a person would still be able to access ASC transport from this facility if they were eligible or utilise their own transport arrangements.

There forthcoming specific engagement events around any potential impacts arising from the implementation of a policy for provision of transport for Adult Social Care service users were highlighted to carers.