

Report to Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Decision to be taken on or after 21 October 2019

**Decision can normally be implemented at least
3 working days after decision has been signed.**

Cabinet Member Report No. HW08.19

Title: Direct Payment Policy

Date: 11 October 2019

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Local members affected: All

For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444

Summary

Buckinghamshire County Council provides Direct Payments to people as an alternative to commissioned social care to enable people to have independence, flexibility and choice around how they meet their assessed eligible needs.

A Direct Payment Policy was first introduced in 2011 and was then updated in April 2015 to make it Care Act compliant. The Policy now requires updating, however the fundamental principles have not changed and the new version is a clearer, simpler explanation of the Council's approach to Direct Payments.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member is asked to APPROVE the Direct Payment Policy.

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

A Direct Payment Policy is an essential part of the adult social care policy framework and explains the Council's approach to Direct Payments.

B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

There are no other options.

C. Resource implications

The Direct Payment Policy consolidates current practice and as a result does not contain any additional resource implications.

D. Value for Money (VfM) Self Assessment

There are no value for money implications.

E. Legal implications

This policy has been drafted in compliance with the duties under the Care Act 2014, The Care and Support Guidance, Section 117(2C) of the Mental Health Act 1983 (the 1983 Act) and the Care and Support (Direct Payments) Regulations 2014. Legal advice has been sought during the development of the Policy.

F. Property implications

Not applicable.

G. Other implications/issues

There are no other implications or issues.

H. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views

This is an update to the current policy to provide the policy framework for current practice in relation to Direct Payments. The Cabinet Member has been involved during the development of the policy and an equalities impact assessment screening has been completed.

I. Communication issues

As the revised Policy does not change the Council's approach to Direct Payments, no consultation was necessary. The revised Policy will be translated into an easy read version of the policy.

J. Progress Monitoring and Review

The Direct Payments Policy will be reviewed annually.

Background Papers

Your questions and views

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.

If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on 18th October 2019. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to democracy@buckscc.gov.uk