

Report to: **Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **13 March 2006**

By: **Director of Adult Social Care**

Title of report: **Reconciling Policy and Resources**

Purpose of report: **To update the committee on the specific grants received by the department.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the updated position on the use of specific grants.**

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### **1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 There are no costs specifically arising from this report.

### **2. Background and Supporting Information**

2.1 Following the report on Reconciling Policy and Resources to this Committee on 25 November 2005, a follow up report was requested to set out the information on grants received by the Department and how they are used to offset savings required.

2.2 **Appendix 1** sets out the changes in Specific Grant from 2005/06 to 2006/07, and gives the indicative grant for 2007/08. The majority of the grants were consistent in their value between the years 2005/06 and 2006/07; therefore there was no scope to offset any savings required. Where grants have stayed at the same amount over the two years, (marked by an asterisk) this is in effect a cut in funding as it has not kept pace with inflation.

### **3. Existing Revenue Grants**

3.1 The Access and Systems Capacity Grant was increased with a 'one-off' sum in 2005/06 and therefore reduces in 2006/07. It was necessary to spend the increase in 2005/06 on care packages which have an ongoing effect and this is one of the reasons for the pressure on the 2006/07 budget. However, it had been expected that this reduction would be more than the £404k in the final settlement.

3.2 The Supporting People Programme has reduced by £200k which, when adjusting for inflation, is a real decrease of some £550k or nearly 5%. The Supporting People Commissioning Body is considering plans to reduce the planned spend in line with the grant.

3.3 The balance of funding between Human Resources Development Strategy and National Training Strategy has shifted with the overall funding level remaining the same. The use of these grants will change in emphasis to reflect these changes.

3.4 The Preserved Rights Grant and Residential Allowances Grants both had transfers into Base Revenue Support Grant funding, and the standstill budget was adjusted by £388k for Preserved Rights and £3,311k for Residential Allowances.

3.5 There were minor increases in the grants for Delayed Discharge, Mental Health and Carers but the combined effect was approximately in line with inflation. It is proposed to develop a Commissioning Strategy for Carers services in 2006/07, building on the recent research by

Brighton University to ensure that best outcomes for Carers are achieved within available resources.

#### **4. New Grants**

4.1 New grants are being received in 2006/07: Preventative Technology Grant £345k and Partnerships for Older People Pilots (POPSS) £1,594k. The POPSS grant was subject to a bid and has to be used for the specific purpose within the bid. The Preventative Technology Grant is being ring-fenced for its intended use. This is to develop the use of new technology to initiate a change in the design and delivery of social care, health and housing services and prevention strategies to enhance and maintain the well-being and independence of individuals. The funding is expected to last for only two years and schemes will need to ultimately self fund because they represent value for money, or cease after that time.

#### **5. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendation**

5.1 In conclusion there has been little scope to use Specific Grant to offset savings. It has been necessary to target some of the Carer Grant to those with high care needs.

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#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Report and subsequent minutes to the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2005