

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

Date: **12 June 2008**

By: **Director of Adult Social Care**

Title of report: **Draft Eligibility Criteria for the Provision of Transport**

Purpose of report: **To inform the Scrutiny Committee of progress on the creation of an eligibility criteria for the provision of transport to and from services for Adult Social Care service users.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider the draft eligibility criteria and the progress to date of the consultation process and provide any comments to the Lead Cabinet Member meeting for Adult Social Care on 15th July, 2008.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 Expenditure on transporting Adult Social Care (ASC) service users in 2006/07 was £1.9m, a figure which rose to £2.1m in 2007/08. Demand needs to be rationalised in future years to ensure transport can continue to be provided without increased cost.

2. Background and Supporting Information

2.1 The Executive Review Board of Transport made fourteen recommendations which were reported to Cabinet on 25th September 2007.

2.2 Recommendation five was that an eligibility criteria policy be developed and consulted upon on the basis that the Adult Social Care Department will offer to provide transport to its clients only if:

- no suitable public transport is available; and
- no other mode of transport is available, for example access to a family car or a vehicle funded through Motability; and
- the client is unable to walk or ride on public/community transport due to ability, behaviour or health; and
- failing to provide transport would place an unreasonable additional responsibility on family or other carer.

2.3 A first draft of an eligibility criteria policy (Appendix A) has been prepared for wider consultation.

3. Current position

3.1 The formal consultation process ran for twelve weeks, in accordance with the East Sussex Compact. It commenced on 1st March and concluded on 31st May, 2008. Current service users and their carers, key stakeholders (including service providers and Partnership Boards) and representative voluntary organisations were consulted as part of the process.

3.2 Initial analysis of the responses, carried out on Friday 23rd May 2008, revealed that 196 responses had been received at that stage. This equated to a response rate of 9%. The themes identified below only reflect the responses received to date. A verbal update will be provided to the Committee on the final analysis of the stakeholder feedback.

3.3 Eleven Service Providers out of the 206 sent a survey have responded to date. Their responses can be themed around the following areas:

- The eligibility criteria appears to be fair.
- The criteria will limit individuals' choice if transport will only be funded to the nearest Adult Social Care day centre.
- Adult Social Care transport services are not used by some of the providers who responded.

3.4 185 service users and carers have responded to the survey to date. The main themes are:

- People who live alone are worried about losing their transport as they will not be able to attend the Day Centre without it
- Carers have identified that they will not be able to take a real break if they are required to transport the person they care for
- People are concerned that they will not be eligible
- Some people say that they think the £1 charge is fair
- The information sent out is clear

3.5 Where individuals have expressed significant concern about the policy, contact has been made via their care manager to answer specific questions.

4. Conclusion

4.1 A revised draft eligibility criteria is now being prepared, incorporating, where appropriate, views expressed. The policy will then be presented to the Lead Member for Adult Social Care for approval on 15th July 2008.

4.2 Partnership Boards will be informed of the policy outcome as well as individuals who have requested feedback. This will be an advance of a wider communication strategy and implementation plan.

4.3 Once the policy is agreed the eligibility criteria will be considered and applied when care managers undertake reviews of existing service users' needs and when assessing all new service users with immediate effect.

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Local Member(s): All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Best value review of passenger transport in East Sussex reported to Cabinet on 25th September 2007.

Progress report to Scrutiny Committee for Transport and Environment – 18th March 2008

ELIGABILITY FOR TRANSPORT IN ADULTS SOCIAL CARE

1. Summary

As part of our continued modernisation of our services we need to ensure that there is a fair and consistent approach to support the transport needs of Service Users. This guidance is intended to clarify the process. Generally, it is expected that where possible Service Users will make their own way to activities away from their home.

2. Transport to Day Centres

This section outlines the criteria that will be considered when providing transport for Service Users from their home into the Day Centre.

a) Services Users living with their family/carer:

The Department will provide transport if;

- No suitable public transport is available
- No other mode of transport is available e.g. access to a family car/motability car
- The Service User is unable to walk or ride on public/community transport due to ability, behaviour or health
- When it would place an unreasonable additional responsibility on family or other carers

The Department will not provide transport if the Service User, their family or advocate has chosen to attend a Day Centre outside of their catchment area.

If transport is provided it will be at a charge of £1 per single journey.

b) Service Users living within Residential Care (including ESCC homes):

Where a vehicle is funded through the mobility payments paid to Residents, there will be an expectation that this mode of transport will be used to access the Day Centre. This will be at no extra charge to the Residents.

Where there is no vehicle provided by the home or funded through the Resident's mobility payments the criteria laid down in 2a) will be followed.

Where transport is provided, at £1 per journey, the Care Provider and not the Resident will meet this charge.

c) Service Users living within Supported Housing:

Where Tenants contribute towards the provision of vehicle through their mobility payments there is an expectation that this will be used to provide transport to the Day Centre.

Where Tenants have chosen not to contribute to the cost of a vehicle the criteria outlined in 2a) will be followed.

In general, the rules applying to transport in Work Preparation are the same as those for Day Services. However, where Service Users are accessing work placements direct from their home address, we will endeavour to ensure, wherever possible, that the work provider meets any transport costs.