

Agenda item 6b

COUNTY COUNCIL – 22 OCTOBER 2013

WRITTEN QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

1. Question by Councillor Tutt to the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness

Please will you give an assurance that no school in East Sussex is discriminating against left handed pupils by insisting that they use the computer mouse with a right handed setting?

Answer by the Lead Member for Learning School Effectiveness

Children's Services advises schools on ensuring they meet the needs of pupils - it does not have an enforcement role. In particular, we have produced a model Equality Policy to provide schools with a framework and examples of school projects which positively address equality issues

2. Question by Councillor Ungar to the Lead Member for Adult Social Care

a) How many "Self Funders" are currently in receipt of services provided by the Day Centres that are under review?

What has the income been from these service users over the last 5 years?

b) In respect of funds managed by East Sussex County Council on behalf of residents of East Sussex who are unable to carry out this function for themselves, what percentage rate of interest has the County Council achieved and paid to these clients for their monies managed and/or held in trust for each of the last 10 years?

c) How many Adult Social Care service users in receipt of funding for care packages have had those care packages reviewed so far in this financial year and how many of those care packages have had the funding reduced by 30% or more?

d) How much has East Sussex County Council paid in Reimbursement fines? Please explain exactly what are these fines for.

Please update the following information:

Reimbursement fines paid

The table below shows the level of Reimbursement fines paid by East Sussex, each year from 2003/04 to 2012/13 (as at 13 November 2012) supplied on 29 November 2012

The table below shows the financial year in which the invoice was issued.

Year	Reimbursement fines paid
2003/04	£ 152,200.00
2004/05	£ 748,850.00
2005/06	£ 615,550.00
2006/07	£ 1,046,983.75
2007/08	£ 270,400.00
2008/09	£ 67,500.00
2009/10	£ 85,300.00
2010/11	£ 84,900.00
2011/12	£ 108,400.00
2012/13	£ 6,700.00
TOTAL	£ 3,186,783.75

Answer by the Lead Member for Adult Social Care

a) There are currently 74 self-funding clients who attend the day centres under review. The potential maximum contribution from these clients is £4,500 per week, which is based on a charge of £30 per day. Charging would be abated for changes in attendance.

The Fairer Contribution basis for charging was introduced in 2011/12, at which point there were 68 clients making a maximum weekly contribution of £2,740 per week. The Fairer Contribution income for 2012/13 was £3,090 per week, based on 50 clients. Prior to this charges were based on a different system so is not comparable, particularly as the maximum charge for attending a day centre was £13.20 per session.

b) The current rate of interest applied to individual clients' managed bank accounts is 0.1%. The total amount of interest that accrued to clients in 2012/13 was £1,494.15.

The current system does not allow for automated reporting; therefore, in order to go back 10 years, we would need to draw this information from manual records. This is a significant task and the scale of the work would have an impact on the deliverability of the authority's agreed current plans.

c) For the period April 2013 to September 2013, a total of 5,985 client reviews have been completed. 6.8% of clients reviewed have had their support plans reduced by 30% or more, which is 407 people.

It is important to note that client reviews reassess needs against existing support plans and therefore care packages may reduce as a consequence of decreased need as well as the 30% indicative Personal Budget reduction. Some individuals may even have their support plans increased as a result of a change in needs, irrespective of the indicative 30% reduction in Personal Budgets.

d) The table below shows the level of Reimbursement fines paid by East Sussex, each year from 2003/04 to 2013/14 (as at 15 October 2013).

The table below shows the financial year in which the invoice was issued.

Year	Reimbursement fines paid
2003/04	£ 152,200.00
2004/05	£ 748,850.00
2005/06	£ 615,550.00
2006/07	£ 1,046,983.75
2007/08	£ 270,400.00
2008/09	£ 67,500.00
2009/10	£ 85,300.00
2010/11	£ 84,900.00
2011/12	£ 108,400.00
2012/13	£ 7,900.00
2013/14	£ 4,700.00
TOTAL	£ 3,192,683.75

The Community Care (Delayed Discharges) Act 2003 places duties upon the NHS and councils with social services responsibility in England relating to communication between health and social care systems around the discharge of patients and communication with patients and carers. The NHS is required to notify councils of any patients likely need for community care services, and of their proposed discharge date.

The Act also introduced a system of "reimbursement" for delayed hospital discharges. This applies to adult patients receiving acute medical care. If a patient remains in hospital because the council has not put in place the services the patient or their carer need for discharge to be safe, the council will pay the NHS body a charge of £100 per day of delay. The new duty for councils to pay the NHS for delays came into force on 5 January 2004.

Reimbursement process

The charging of Reimbursement is based on:

- 1) The patient being ready for transfer. A patient is ready for transfer when:
 - a. a clinical decision has been made that patient is ready for transfer AND
 - b. a multi-disciplinary team decision has been made that patient is ready for transfer AND
 - c. the patient is safe to discharge/ transfer.
- 2) The patient being delayed solely due to Social Services reasons
- 3) Full and correct Reimbursement paperwork has been issued