

Title of Report:	Policy for Supporting Adults with a Learning Disability
Report to be considered by:	Executive
Date of Meeting:	28 November 2013
Forward Plan Ref:	EX2740

Purpose of Report:	To report on the findings of the consultation on the policy for supporting adults with a learning disability. This policy replaces 'Local Services for Local People' and clarifies how the Council will support adults with a learning disability.
Recommended Action:	To seek agreement for this policy to be adopted by the Council.
Reason for decision to be taken:	To note comments received during consultation and adopt the amended policy
Other options considered:	None
Key background documentation:	Adult Social Care Review - Phase 2 Management Board Report

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Strategy priority:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSP1 – Caring for and protecting the vulnerable
The proposals will also help achieve the following Council Strategy principle:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSP8 - Transforming our services to remain affordable and effective

Portfolio Member Details	
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Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	01 October 2013

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Implications

Policy: Policy replaces 'Local Services for Local People' previously agreed by Executive in 2007.

This policy will help the Council achieve its priority of 'caring for and protecting the vulnerable' and aligns with its principles of 'living within our means' and 'transforming our services to remain affordable and effective'.

Financial: N/A

Personnel: None at this stage

Legal/Procurement: Policy decision will inform procurement strategy

Property: None at this stage

Risk Management: None at this stage

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes		Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently? • Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered? • Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality? • Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics? • Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities? 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outcome (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)				
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at www.westberks.gov.uk/eia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Not relevant to equality	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A draft version of the Policy Statement 'Supporting Adults with a Learning Disability' was presented to Management Board in April 2013. The policy replaces 'Local Services for Local People' and clarifies what service users and their families can expect from the Council.
- 1.2 A consultation exercise was agreed and conducted between May and July to raise awareness and understand any impact the policy may have. Feedback received has been reflected in the final version of the policy.

2. Proposals

- 2.1 The Council reviews the findings of the consultation and notes how the findings have informed the amended version of the policy
- 2.2 The main changes to the policy include: highlighting that the first option will be to support people to remain living with their family, a shift in emphasis from providing services locally to putting in appropriate arrangements which may not be in the district, clarification around having regard to resources and a focus on ensuring we use good quality services. See Appendix A for full details.
- 2.3 The Council adopts the new policy.

3. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 3.1 Consultation on the proposed policy was undertaken from May to July. The attached consultation plan (Appendix B) lists the range of methods used to seek feedback and comment on this policy.
- 3.2 A summary of key themes that emerged is set out in this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Council is committed to providing appropriate support to adults with a learning disability. This policy will provide clarity for services users and their families the type of support that is available and greatly assist care managers in their work.

Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A draft version of the Policy Statement 'Supporting Adults with a Learning Disability' was presented to Management Board in April 2013. The policy replaces 'Local Services for Local People' and clarifies what service users and their families can expect from the Council.
- 1.2 The Council currently spends in the region of £4m per annum on supported living arrangements for Learning Disability (LD) clients. The funding comes from both ASC and Supporting People budgets. This joint funding of activities (shared contracts) has a positive effect on the cost for LD clients.
- 1.3 Spending on LD residential clients is currently £5.1m per annum, this relates to 110 clients. As well as being high cost, residential care does not provide the best outcome for everyone. Moving clients into Supported Living can provide a far better environment for the client and at a lower cost to the Council.

2. WBC Policy for Supporting Adults with a Learning Disability

- 2.1 The attached policy (Appendix C), replaces the Local Services for Local People policy, approved by the Council's Executive in 2007. The new policy is driven by the need to update our approach to align with national developments and ensure we have a robust commitment to ensuring that we support LD clients in a way that maximises opportunities for independent living in an affordable way.
- 2.2 The policy has been drafted to clarify the Council's responsibility to meet an individual's assessed need but that as part of this it can have regard to what resources they have available.
- 2.3 Changes to the existing policy include:
 - (1) Shift in focus to providing services locally to providing appropriate arrangements to meet assessed need, this may or may not be in West Berkshire.
 - (2) Greater emphasis on having regard to resources and affordable solutions.
 - (3) Clarification that our first option will be that they remain at home with their family. Where an individual's eligible needs cannot be met in their current environment, West Berkshire will then look at alternative accommodation with a focus on supported living. This will be community based, affordable and person centred with access to other resources appropriate to the individual's needs
 - (4) A greater focus on good quality arrangements.
- 2.4 The policy provides greater clarity for service users, service providers and commissioners of services in our approach to supporting adults with Learning Disabilities.

- 2.5 This policy applies to those individuals that are eligible for adult social care services and have a learning disability.
- 2.6 This policy will inform the commissioning decisions for the Local Authority and will be a key policy in developing its Market Position Statement for people with a Learning Disability, a requirement under the draft Care & Support Bill 2012.

3. Policy Consultation process and feedback

- 3.1 The consultation for the policy took place between May and July 2013
- 3.2 Consultation was conducted using a variety of methods including:
 - (a) Use of existing forums and channels to link with service users, partner agencies, voluntary organisations and carers
 - (b) The draft policy, together with a summary briefing on the rationale and key questions was placed on the Councils consultation finder and key organisations were emailed and guided to this consultation.
 - (c) In addition, one-off focus group events were arranged, including one for staff.
- 3.3 The draft policy, summary briefing and key questions were presented or made available to all groups.
- 3.4 The following themes emerged from the feedback:
 - (1) Access to support when ineligible for Adult Social care
 - Recognition of the need for Adult Social Care to provide information and signposting to anyone that is not eligible. We have now reflected this within the policy statement.
 - (2) Transition from Children's to Adults services
 - In recognition that good transition planning is key to supporting people we have recently appointed a transition specialist social worker to lead on the transition work for adult services and work co-operatively with all other services involved. Support is on a case by case basis, this is now reflected in the policy. We are reviewing existing transition arrangements to develop a more effective approach that is clear on what is available in the transition for children moving into Adults Services by 31/03/2014. This new policy should assist in providing clarification of our approach to providing services to adults with a learning disability.
 - (3) Greater transparency & clarity in the provision of and availability of Supported Living Options

This was a consistent area of concern. The policy originally identified that 'supported living' would be our first option. However feedback from the consultation and reflection of the ongoing affordability of such options has resulted in the need to amend this statement to provide greater clarity in that we would look at 'support within family homes' as our first option, Where assessed needs cannot be met within the current environment we will then look at community based supported

living options. The policy also reflects the reality of limited options which will be dependent on vacancies available at that time. Where there is an objectively real and present choice of packages which are capable of meeting an individual's eligible need, it is not unreasonable for the authority to consider the relative cost of each option

(4) Removal of emphasis on 'local' support and ability to monitoring quality care if placements made outside area.

Concern that people will be placed outside the district which means it is harder for them to maintain established links and important family relationships.

The individual assessment under s47 of the NHS Community Care Act will give regard to the importance of family and social support systems.

Statistical data available clearly evidences that we already commission placements outside of the district and that this policy supports existing practice. We are actively reviewing all out of county placements to ensure they are appropriate to meet identified needs and have a robust Care Quality framework to address any concerns.

(5) Carers Support

The need to recognise Carers role in providing support and ensure Carers have appropriate support available. The policy recognises that Carers have a key role in providing adult social care support and has been adjusted to ensure the right of all Carers to receive an assessment is taken into consideration.

3.5 The policy has been adjusted as a result of the consultation to take into account feedback received.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 The Council reviews the findings of the consultation and notes how the findings have informed the amended version of the policy (See appendix A).

4.2 The Council adopts the new policy.

Appendices

Appendix A - EIA Stage 2

Appendix B - Consultation Plan

Appendix C -Policy Statement: Policy for Supported Adults with a Learning Disability

Consultees

Local Stakeholders: See Appendix B: Consultation Plan

Officers Consulted:	Leigh Hogan - Legal Services Jenny Matheson - Legal Services Jan Evans - Head of Adult Social Care Alison Love - Longer Term Services Rose Simons - Longer Term Services Jane Seymour - Education Services Rachael Wardell - Corporate Director, Communities June Graves - Head of Care Commissioning, Housing & Safeguarding Mark Evans - Head of Children's Services Julia Waldman - Commissioning, Strategy and Partnerships Manager Steve Duffin - Head of Service (ASC Efficiency Programme) Barbara Billett - Service Development & Improvement Tandra Forster - Contracts, Commissioning & Care Quality Corporate Board
Trade Union:	N/A