

Appendix 7

Changes to Contributions Policy Proposals Responses from the Consultation meeting 19th July 2016

What do you think about the change to a 'Standard Policy' Does it seem fairer?

How do we fair against other Districts? If we compare well then that's a good thing. We should be proud of the fact that Bradford District treats disabled people and their carers well.

No allowance is taken for when I take my son on holiday. He wants to come. I couldn't leave him behind. This would cause a lot of problems but it is seen as luxury/extras which I have to find the funds for.

Disgusting I don't understand the policy.

Not fair, seems sensible but not necessarily fair.

What do you think about disability related expenditure/ Do you have any concerns?

The disability related expenditure example discriminates against people with a learning disability.

Hard to see what might be accepted as eligible disability related expenditure for people with a learning disability.

Disability related expenditure - it needs to be clearer about what it covers.

People who do Care plans need to be know and make sure that Care plans highlight what is accepted Disability Expenditure that will be taken into account during the financial assessment.

People felt trapped. They do not feel current care plan does recognise disability related expenditure but afraid to ask for reassessment of Care package because they may loose some support.

More than one person said the Social Worker / person doing the assessment said things like 'you won't be able to get that', 'we are short of money, x wouldn't be considered – you will have to provide yourself'. People find that what they consider to be

disability related expenditure is not included in the care plan because family / carers end up funding it / providing it.

There needs to be more examples of the social aspect/needs in what can be considered as Disability Related Expenditure. One example was of a person who went to a drama club which has really brought them on and their behaviour is a lot better as a consequence (which supports their well being in line with the Care Act and saves money down the line). People doing the assessments need to make sure these are recognised as Disability Related Expenses.

There would be a need for advocacy to help with DRE. Opportunity for Carer organisations to be involved.

Need to take into account expenditure like paying for carers meals.

Assistive technology and assistance for communication and social WI-FI need to be included in the list.

What do you think about Housing Related costs? Do you have any concerns?

Some people pay now who are in Supported Living and some don't.

It costs a lot more to keep people "banged up". This doesn't appear to be understood by the Councils proposed actions.

That seems OK.

Any concerns or issues regarding double ups?

It's not anybody's fault that they need two carers. Why should they be penalised?

Two carers: Does it mean day & night services? Clarity needed.

If charging for two carers does this contravene the Disability Discrimination Act Health and Safety?

Unclear that only if they are paying full cost of care will have to pay for 2 carers.

Is this about having 2 support/carers.
People who live in supported housing with others sharing a single worker – how would that be divided.

The double up issue is very unfair – not their choice that 2 members of staff have to be present.

What do you think about charging for care in supported living?

Does DRE include a psychological and health impact assessment for each person? Due to total lack of ability to engage in “normal” social activities.

Do people at home receive extra benefits for their care?
Confused by this.

Will have a direct impact, people living together will have to spend differently – may not join in when others go out.

Any concerns around shared Care

Not discussed.

What information do you think would help people understand the proposals and how can we most effectively get the message out if there are any changes?

General Comments

100% increase is not fair.
Will an up to date care package be done?
How do people have any sort of quality of life.
This does not meet the well being principles of the care act.
Winterbourne View in waiting!!!
Draconian and brutal.
Total lack of care and understanding about the impact on those with Learning Disabilities.
The wider impact on health and wellbeing has not been considered.

Feels like a waste of time as no proper decision makers are here to know how distressed and angry we all are!!!

What are the other options to make savings by the councils?

Everyone wants a face to face financial assessment not a light touch.

Charge should be proportionate not 100% increase.

DRE needs looking at not enough consideration has properly been given to LD extra costs.

A member of the table said that she has changed her mind about her son going into supported accommodation as there will be no disposable income left.

The life expectancy in Bradford for LD is only 52 how will these changes and the impact help to improve these terrible stats?

This is taking away the opportunities that have been created in communities in recent years – going back to institutional ways

What about carer impact.

We request an open meeting with councillors and decision makers from BMDC prior to overview and scrutiny.

The changes are about saving money – what about the extra costs of Social workers to do new care assessments and other staff to do the new financial assessments?

The Care costs for paid workers has not gone up! Where is the expense – administration?

Why could it not be an increase across the board? Why should there be savings for some and huge increases for others?

I recognise the increasing cost of care and the Council need to balance budgets but this seems an unfair way with some people being better off and other much worse off.

Nearly 100% rise in one swoop for some people. What if people have already committed to other things/ finance etc?

Could there not be a step in amounts (Phased increase)

Feel that taking 100% of people is wrong.

Concerns for self funders who require double up's. When they can no longer pay they will not know how to get reassessed and there will be a big time lapse in getting a new assessment. Also people worried that a reassessment in the current climate will mean less service – people feel they are caught between a rock and a stone.

Generally felt there is a lot of discrimination between people.

Threat to informal Circles of support

Circles of support of those informal links people make as they interact with others. They form a sort of 'free' safety net. Its where people get a bit of support, where people check people are Ok and can alert others if there are concerns, people get advice, people get social contact that makes them feel valued and believe in themselves etc. We all have them to a greater or lesser degree.

People having the opportunity and finance to go out and mix with people in a wide range of circumstances, experience independence and take part in projects etc create circles of support that are not recognised or written down anywhere. However, they form the basis of people maintaining their independence and not relying heavily on services. If people don't have a realistic expendable income their opportunities to go out and create these circles of support will diminish and will fold and be lost for ever – increasing the cost to Social Care and Health services in the long term.

There was a real worry that when these informal circles of support are lost private organisations that are much more expensive will set up to fill the gap and people will be forced to use them or the Council pay for them.

If people can't afford to go out people become isolated leading to mental and physical health issues and increasing possibilities of undetected hate crime.

Day care services are businesses and are making money. This means we have to pay more.

“My son was under ILF and was re-assessed under DLA. These are two different rates of pay and limit his opportunities.”

There are some good examples of joined up EHSC plans of people coming out of King Park School.

If you're lucky enough to be under 25 and in the Education system then you have a chance of joined up assessments. Even when this happens this is still a massive shock for people as the support for

adults is not joined up (e.g compare the information on the Local Offer to the lack of information on Connect Support).

People need to know they are entitled to a Carers Assessment and encouraged to have one. It's still not widely known or people are sceptical about it.

My son's contribution will double: He can't afford that!

If it wasn't for us carers it would cost a lot more!

What happens when the carer is no longer around? Who picks up the cost of care then? It costs a lot less when things are supported in working well.

Care Plans: How often am I entitled to get a re-assessment?

If you phone the finance department the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing?

- Better communication is needed across all Council Departments:
- Better understanding of care plans/assessments and the reality of what things cost needs to be worked on.
- Independent Living Fund: Some people appear to be paying twice (e.g under ILF assessment and Assessment of Needs).
- Better communication needed (there were examples of people in credit but the council didn't know and were chasing fees already paid which then include interest).

There was a debate around savings:

- Not clear how much can you have in savings?
- Is it fair that people can have savings when some people have none but have to pay the same?

Could increase be averaged out so that everyone pays a little more rather than some groups having a high increase.

How long before financial assessments take place?

Some service users will need help doing financial assessment.

Still don't feel that they have reached LD service users.

Struggled with examples.

If you are paying more on the old system and your financial is taking a long time will you be paid back the difference?

Not having clear information do not understand how this will affect me.

What will it take for the changes not to take place? Share the cost across the board ie LD elderly. Some clients will be worse off.

The most vulnerable members of society are being penalised.

Concerns that there will be further increases next year and the next and the next....when will it end?

Re examples none included any tariff income.

Comments about the process

Information sent out and used for this meeting is hardly any different from previous and still very difficult to understand.

The majority of the consultation still doesn't reach people with Learning disabilities / difficulties – same paperwork and still too wordy. Therefore consultation techniques discriminate against people with a learning disability.

Examples are too vague of Disability Expenditure.

Will everyone who wants a face to face new financial assessment really get one?

Suppose they want a reassessment of their care plan first because they feel that their disability related expenditure is not evidence in it. How will this work?

How will the changes be implemented?

If you have a new assessment will the new costs be implemented straight away for that individual or will you await until everyone is reassessed – seem unfair if you are the first one picked. As you said it would take up to a year to reassess everyone that last person assessed will be much better off.

Can we share the consultation notes before the deadline for the consultation ends. This will allow us to add any further comments on line if we felt they had been missed.

Can you check that people can send in comments on line – one person thought you could only download the form and write in it then send in by post.

When sending things relating to this out make sure the first sentence in bold and block capitals is **IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS SHOW IT TO YOUR PARENT OR CARER.**

Will this consultation make a difference is a done deal?

Letter received from Mencap

I am writing in relation to the consultation being held around adult social care and the charging policy.

It is imperative that where possible the local authority protects monies for services pertaining to people with a learning disability.

Often services provided or commissioned by the local authority provide not only primary and essential support but also secondary support allowing people with a learning disability to have quality of life and become integrated in the wider community.

Aside from the legalities that the local authority is subject to in relation to support and services provided, there is a moral obligation to work toward equality

I have noted that you are looking to make changes to your charging policy that will significantly impact on the lives of many people with a learning disability.

In an increasingly difficult financial environment for people with a learning disability, I have no qualms in stating that this will severely and adversely impact on many people with a learning disability.

Your proposed changes will further isolate many of the 1670 people with a learning disability that you currently support. This will result in an increase in need and ultimately an increase in cost to the Local authority. I would also question how you can make an informed equality impact assessment when only 495 people have received personal assessments and just 792 people have received a financial assessment in the last 12 months

Within adult social care you will no doubt be aware that each consultation should be transparent, accessible and inclusive of a dual direction dialogue with those affected and their families.

You will also be aware that a full equality impact assessment should be carried out.

Having spoken to a plethora of local charities and local people, it is apparent that your previous attempt at a consultation fell way below par and so I am encouraged you are holding the consultation again. I will point out though that many people are still unaware of your intentions and people, including people with a learning disability, are still very much unaware of the impact of such changes.

Should you choose to implement the changes, and I hope you do not, you should make it very clear to each and every person affected that they can challenge decisions and how to go about this. I would also expect a full and thorough assessment under the care act for ALL of those affected and financial assessments that are a true reflection of need.

Please do take the time to fully consider the impact of the changes that you are proposing.