

Directorate / Service Area		Officer undertaking the assessment
Children, Families and Adults		Name: Andy Mailer  Job Title: Strategy Manager  Contact details: 01223 715699
Service / Document / Function being assessed		
The policy framework to support the implementation of the Care Act 2014		
<b>Business Plan Proposal Number (if relevant)</b>	n/a	
Aims and Objectives of Service / Document / Function		
<p>To support the delivery of the requirements of the Act, the Council has developed a policy framework that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide clear direction to staff who are implementing the provisions of the Act and transparency for service users, carers, the general public and partner organisations.</li> <li>support the most efficient and effective use of the Council's resources</li> <li>underpin the new model of social work/ social care (Transforming Lives)</li> </ul>		
What is changing?		
<p>Clear direction for stakeholders will be provided in the policy framework regarding the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Market shaping and provider failure</b>            A set of principles underpinning the council's commissioning and market shaping activity will be outlined. This will support the Council to ensure that the local care market is shaped to meet the care and support needs of residents. The policy framework will also provide clear direction on how, and under what circumstances, the Council should intervene if providers are found by the Care Quality Commission to be at risk of failing.         </li> <li> <b>Financial assessments and charges</b>            The overarching principle that people should only pay what they can reasonably pay towards their care costs remains as it was. However, in line with national Care Act guidance, a new administration charge will be introduced for those who have been financially assessed as being able to pay 100% of their care costs that will be levied to cover the costs of arranging care for those who receive care in their own home. For those who contribute to care costs, charges will now apply from the start of a service, rather than from the date that the financial assessment is undertaken.         </li> <li> <b>Deferred payments</b>            Although the Council has administered a deferred payment scheme for a number of years, from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 it will be a mandatory requirement to do so, supported by a new legal framework. The Care Act enables local authorities to operate these schemes on a cost-neutral basis (the Council pays the costs of care and recovers the money, plus interest, at a later date) which is a change to the current system.         </li> <li> <b>Support planning</b>            The provision of care and support planning becomes a duty for the Local Authority and users will have a legal entitlement to personal budgets. Currently this is only considered as best practice. The option of Direct Payments is embedded within the new legal framework. The policy emphasises that the Council has a duty to meet needs rather than provide specific services and so will develop and review flexible support plans for each person that are tailored to circumstances and needs and referencing latest best practice and technology. The policy statement clarifies how the Council will ensure that resources are used in the most efficient and effective way possible.         </li> </ul>		

**Who is involved in this impact assessment?**

e.g. Council officers, partners, service users and community representatives.

Strategy Team:

James Wilson

Andy Mailer

Sarah Leet

**What will the impact be?**

Tick to indicate if the impact on each of the following protected characteristics is positive, neutral or negative.

Impact	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Age		X	
Disability		X	
Gender reassignment		X	
Marriage and civil partnership		X	
Pregnancy and maternity		X	
Race		X	

Impact	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Religion or belief		X	
Sex		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
The following additional characteristics can be significant in areas of Cambridgeshire.			
Rural isolation		X	
Deprivation		X	

For each of the above characteristics where there is a positive, negative and / or neutral impact, please provide details, including evidence for this view. Describe the actions that will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts and how the actions are to be recorded and monitored. Describe any issues that may need to be addressed or opportunities that may arise.

**Positive Impact**

None identified

**Negative Impact**

None identified

**Neutral Impact**

The introduction of the policy framework is not expected to have any impact on protected characteristics.

Care and support planning currently is still designed to ensure a person's eligible needs are met, but the way those needs are met may change over time. Therefore the policy framework is expected to have a neutral impact on users.

The introduction of administration fees will only apply to those who can afford to pay them and will be negated by the lower cost of care that self-funding users will purchase through the medium of the Council. Some self-funding users will have protected characteristics, for example, disability, but the impact of the policy framework is envisaged to be neutral.

**Issues or Opportunities that may need to be addressed**

None identified

**Community Cohesion**

If it is relevant to your area you should also consider the impact on community cohesion.

Neutral impact

