

# COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Directorate / Service Area		Officer undertaking the assessment
ADULT SOCIAL CARE  OLDER PEOPLE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES		Name: Theodore Mfuni  Job Title: Strategy Manager .....  Contact details:01223 729 113 .....
Service / Document / Function being assessed		Date completed: 09/05/2016 .....
PROVISION OF STANDARD RATE OF DISABILITY RELATED EXPENDITURE IN FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT FOR SERVICE USER CONTRIBUTION TO PERSONAL BUDGET		Date approved:09/05/2016.....
Business Plan Proposal Number (if relevant)	XXX	
Aims and Objectives of Service / Document / Function		
<p>The business planning process for 2016/17 included consideration of ways to increase income to offset expenditure required to meet people's assessed and eligible needs for adult social care. A target of £500K increase in income was agreed in February 2016. The main way of raising income for adult social care is through the contributions made by people in receipt of support following a financial assessment, carried out in line with Department of Health guidance. One aspect of the contributions process that has been looked at is Disability Related Expenditure.</p> <p>People who are allocated a Personal Budget for care and support, funded by Cambridgeshire County Council, also have a financial assessment to see how much they should contribute to the cost of their care and support. The financial assessment is a means tested assessment which means that those who can afford to pay will be asked to make a contribution towards their care at home. The assessment takes into account capital, income and also makes allowances for certain expenditure; housing related costs and Disability Related Expenditure (DRE).</p> <p>DRE is what the Department of Health defines as any reasonable cost that a customer may incur as a result of their disability. For example, the person might pay for extra laundry costs or extra heating. These costs are taken into account when determining how much income people have left and working out how much they need to contribute to the cost of their care and support. To be eligible for DRE, people must be in receipt of Attendance Allowance or the care components of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment.</p> <p>DRE may be taken into account by looking at evidence of someone's spending, such as invoices and receipts, or a standard amount may be used. People eligible for DRE have a right to request an assessment of their expenditure if they wish, however it is sometimes difficult to establish precisely so the Council uses a standard rate to avoid this problem.</p> <p>The proposal that is the subject of this community impact assessment is to change the standard rate of Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) when doing financial assessments for people who live in their own home in the community.</p>		

**What is changing?**

Where relevant, consider including: how the service/document/function will be implemented; what factors could contribute to or detract from this; how many people with protected characteristics are potentially impacted upon; who the main stakeholders are; and, details of any previous or planned consultation/engagement to inform the CIA.

At the moment, the standard rate of DRE is £26 per week. The Council is proposing to retain a standard rate for DRE, but to reduce it to £20 per week. People eligible for DRE would continue to have the choice of using the standard rate of DRE or requesting an individual assessment and providing evidence of relevant expenditure.

This change is being proposed after considering the standard rate of DRE used in a number of other Local Authorities that showed that the rate was higher in Cambridgeshire. This change will assist Cambridgeshire County Council in managing the financial challenges it faces whilst ensuring that there is a fair and equitable way to reflect the additional costs that people with disabilities have to manage.

To qualify for DRE the service user must first be in receipt of one of the following disability related benefits: DLA Care, Attendance Allowance or Constant Attendance Allowance.

In addition they must have a need which incurs additional expense. In the case of non-standard and exceptional DREs these need should be identified by the service user's statement of need, care plan or should be recommended by their GP. In most cases evidence will need to be produced by way of receipts, invoices etc. to show how much these cost.

There approximately 2500 social care users in Cambridgeshire who will be affected by the proposed change at any given time.

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

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

**Council officers**

Council Officers have been involved in discussions about the proposed changes and the potential impact on disabled people and how best to mitigate the negative impacts.

**Consultation**

A public consultation on this proposal has been undertaken with service users. The majority of respondents, who were directly contacted for the purpose of this consultation, agree with the proposal to maintain a standard rate of DRE but disagree with the proposed change to reduce the standard rate of the DRE from £26 per week to £20 per week.

In many cases, they explained how difficult the challenges of living their daily lives were. They also pointed out that losing £6 a week was a large amount. Many of these comments did not include anything specific about the option of providing evidence for an individual assessment to determine DRE. However, some respondents felt that it was fair and reasonable to provide evidence of expenditure for the rate of DRE to be determined.

## What will the impact be?

Tick to indicate if the expected 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. Consider whether the impact could be disproportionate on any particular protected characteristic. 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.

<b>Positive Impact</b>
N/A
<b>Negative Impact</b>
The proposed changes only relate to people who have been assessed as having needs that meet the eligibility criteria for care and support and are in receipt on specific disability related benefits i.e. Attendance Allowance or the care components of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment. The proposal to reduce the standard rate of DRE has the potential to impact on disabled people, leaving them with less money each week. However, the option of providing evidence of disability related expenditure will be available to inform an assessment to determine the amount of DRE applicable for the individual.
<b>Neutral Impact</b>
This proposal will have neutral impact on all other groups.
<b>Issues or Opportunities that may need to be addressed</b>

The main issue to be addressed is the potential impact on people whose expenditure related to their disability is higher than the proposed new standard rate for DRE of £20 per week. It will be essential that people who are eligible for DRE understand the options available to them i.e. accept the standard rate or provide evidence for an individual assessment of the level of DRE to be used for them.

It will also be important for Officers to make it as easy as possible for people to provide evidence. To support this, Officers will ensure that there is clear guidance on the evidence that would be required for an individual assessment of DRE and consider how people can be supported to gather this evidence, if necessary.

The implementation plan for the proposed change is designed to ensure that people and their families understand the options and what is required if they require an individual assessment for DRE. It is proposed that implementation would happen as follows:

- Existing service users: implementation of the new standard rate of DRE (£20 per week) would happen from the date of the next financial assessment, which would allow for full discussion on DRE and the options of the standard rate and individual assessment.
- New service users: implementation of the new standard rate of DRE (£20 per week) would happen from the date of the start of services, in line with the start of the financial contribution. The initial financial assessment would allow for full discussion on DRE and the options of the standard rate and individual assessment.

### Community Cohesion

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

N/A

### Version Control

Version no.	Date	Updates / amendments	Author(s)
V1.0	09-05-16	Amendments	Claire Bruin