
**Meeting of Executive Members for Housing
and Adult Social Services and Advisory Panel**

30th October 2006

Report of the Director of Housing and Adult Social Services

**Withdrawal Of The Waiver Of Customer Charges On Discharge
From Hospital**

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to ask the Executive Member to amend the current charging policy so that, with effect from the 4th December 2006, new social services customers discharged from hospital do not receive the first 2 weeks of their service free of charge.

Background

2. The current policy of not charging for the first two weeks service when a new social services customer is discharged from hospital was introduced in order to encourage people to leave hospital and prevent bed blocking. The purpose of this was to offer an incentive to those customers. All customers receive a benefits check and a financial assessment to ensure that no one has to pay more than they can afford which will ensure that no customer is placed at risk through the removal of the 2 week waiver.

Consultation

3. Consultation has been carried out with senior managers in the Primary Care Trust (PCT).

Options

4. Option 1 – to retain the current policy whereby any new customers discharged from hospital receive the first 2 weeks of their service free of charge.
5. Option 2 – to amend the current policy so that all customers pay for their services from the date the service starts, regardless of how they are referred to social services. This is the recommended option.

Analysis

Option 1

6. The current policy is inequitable as those customers who start to receive home care without having been in hospital have to pay for this as soon as the service starts.

Option 2

7. Amendment of the current policy would ensure that all customers are treated the same and pay the amount they can afford.

Corporate Priorities

8. This report supports the corporate priority to improve efficiency and generate additional income.

Implications

Financial implications

9. The recommended option of removing the 2 week waiver would generate additional income of £15k in the current financial year and £30k in a full year. Customers will only contribute the amount they can afford and some customers will not have to contribute anything towards the cost of their care.

Human Resources (HR) implications

10. There are no HR implications.

Equalities

11. There are no equalities implications.

Legal

12. There are no legal implications.

Crime and Disorder

13. There are no crime and disorder implications.

Information Technology (IT)

14. There are no IT implications.

Property

15. There are no property implications.

Other

16. There are no other implications.

Risk Management

17. There are no known risks associated with this report.

Recommendations

18. That option 2 be approved so that the 2 week waiver of charges on discharge from hospital is no longer applied with effect from the 4th December 2006.

Reason: To ensure the charging policy is fair and applied equitably. To generate additional income for the council.

Contact Details

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Report Approved Date 16 October 2006

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes:

None