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| Decision title: Introduction of respite care policy for adults |
| Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care |
| February 2015 |
| Deadline date: 6 th February 2015 |

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| Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director: | Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Jana Burton, Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Health & Wellbeing |
| Is this a Key Decision? | NO If yes has it been included on the Forward Plan : N/A Unique Key decision Reference from Forward Plan : N/A |
| Is this decision eligible for call-in? | YES |
| Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information? | NO If yes, specify number of exempt annex (eg Annex 1), the reason for exemption and explain the application of the public interest test |
| Is this a project and if so has it been registered on Verto? | NO |

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet Member is recommended to approve the introduction of a respite policy for adults who are eligible for social care services; to take effect from the date of decision.

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of the Cabinet Member to introduce and implement a formal adult social care respite policy that should help to ensure consistency and equitability of the Council's respite offer across all client groups - providing the opportunity for better use of limited resources and savings on care package costs.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 2.1 This report is for the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.38 (a) of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph 3.10 (b)

3. TIMESCALE (If this is not a Major Policy item, answer **NO** and delete second line of boxes).

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| Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan? | NO | If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting | |
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4. DETAILS OF DECISION REQUIRED

- 4.1 Peterborough has not previously adopted a formal respite policy, relying instead on the identification of the need for short term respite care through individual client assessment. While this has served the needs of individuals, it has not fostered or encouraged consistency and equitability of the Council's respite offer across client groups. The adoption of a considered respite policy would therefore address these concerns, and provide the opportunity for savings and better use of limited resources.
- 4.2 A key element of a formal respite policy is the introduction of guideline appropriate respite allocations based on a graded respite needs classification identified during the assessment process. If deployed across the department, this classification will go some way to ensuring consistency of the respite offer, and transparency in its allocation.
- 4.3 The use of guideline respite allocations will also enable the Council to limit its respite offer to an appropriate and reasonable funding allocation that is commensurate with the limited financial resources available to the Council. The policy also promotes the use of direct payments as the method of delivery which will help to achieve a more personalised approach to respite, allowing families more choice and control over the support they receive. This should help to improve outcomes for service users, and reduce pressures on family carers.
- 4.4 The Care Act 2014 introduces new and strengthened rights to assessment and support for carers in recognition of the valuable contribution that they make in providing care and maintaining family and other important personal relationships. The provision of respite care helps to maintain physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing for both cared-for and carer alike, and helps to reduce, prevent or delay the need for care and support. The respite policy's aims of better targeted respite provision with a clearer focus on outcomes should help the council to properly discharge these duties and provide carers with the support they need.
- 4.5 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care is therefore asked to approve the adoption of the respite policy by the Adult Social Care, Health & Wellbeing department for immediate operational use.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The adoption of a formalised respite policy represents a change of procedural approach to the method used to allocate respite funding allocations following an individual's assessment of care and support needs, and has been judged not to require extensive consultation. A briefing note will however be presented to the next available Scrutiny Commission for Health Issues for information and comment purposes.
- 5.2 An equality impact assessment has been produced, and is attached as an annex.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 The adoption of the respite policy will promote consistency amongst the respite allocation offered by the Council across all client groups, will focus funding resources on those most in need to ensure that resources are used effectively, and should achieve savings to contribute towards balancing the Council's budget.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS & ANY RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 7.1 The respite policy sets out Peterborough's approach to respite care provision and how it can help in meeting the needs of both carers and cared-for, and aims to provide appropriate guideline respite allocation amounts on a fair, transparent and equitable basis across all client groups, and within a considered framework. The policy also reaffirms Peterborough's commitment to delivering personalised care by promoting and facilitating service users'

choice and control in line with Government direction and the new requirements of the Care Act 2014.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The option of continuing with current practice was considered and rejected as this would prolong the potential for inconsistency of approach in the allocation of respite, and the benefits associated with the introduction of the policy in terms of increased personalisation of the Council's care offer, and cost savings would not be realised.

9. IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Improvements in consistency of approach, cost efficiency and personalised service user outcomes from respite care should result from the approval and implementation of the respite policy, and will not be fully realised if the policy is not approved. The introduction of the respite policy will therefore impact on the Council's financial position. There are no HR or legal implications from this, but there are positive implications in terms of the Council's equality responsibilities in that clients of all types will be treated in a consistent way. The introduction and implementation of a respite policy which standardises respite allocation was an element of the ASC department's 2014/15 savings plan that was approved as part of the 2014/15 Medium Term Financial Strategy. If the policy is not adopted and the savings are not achieved, then this will create an additional financial pressure that will need to be mitigated elsewhere.

10. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

None

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985) and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Respite policy 2014

Equality Impact Assessment - Respite Policy 2014