

OFFICER DECISION RECORD (ODR2)

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(All blue guidance notes to be deleted prior to submission)

Date of Decision	
Decision Taker (including Job Title)	Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children’s Services
Specific Delegation	<p>Corporate Policy Committee on the 5th October 2023 – item no.34 Financial Review.</p> <p>‘approves a delegation to Executive Directors, in consultation with the relevant committee chair and vice-chair, to engage in formal consultations on proposals for budget mitigations if required.’</p> <p>MTFS direct payment savings have been identified for 2023/2024 and consultation is required with regard to the Direct Payment Policy supporting the implementation of prepaid cards, and for Direct Payment recipient to move from traditional services such as home care services to employing a Personal Assistant to meet their care and support needs.</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to make clear the Council’s approach to Direct Payments, and the responsibilities for the Direct Payment recipient.</p>
Brief Description of Decision	<p>To approve a 12-week period of consultation in relation to the ‘all age’ Direct Payment Policy. The consultation will commence on 20th November 2023 to 21st January 2024.</p> <p>The consultation is seeking views on several significant changes to the Direct Payment Policy, including: An ‘all age’ Direct Payment Policy; prepaid cards;</p>

	<p>self-employed personal assistants; pooled budgets; roles and responsibilities; emergency and contingency arrangements; safeguarding/DBS checks; client contributions (adults).</p> <p>Consultation feedback will be considered by Council officers and will be incorporated into a report containing recommendations for the final 'all age' Direct Payment Policy, which will then be taken to Adults and Health Committee, and Children and Families Committee in 2024 for consideration and approval.</p>
Reasons for the Decision and alternatives considered	<p>Currently, Adults and Children's Services have separate policies in respect of personal budgets. An 'all age' Direct Payment Policy will provide clarity for all ages in one document and ensure that there is a consistent approach across all ages, and it is clear to current and future Direct Payment recipients, irrespective of age.</p> <p>The draft 'all age' Direct Payment Policy has been informed by representatives from adult and children's social care and legal services, business and finance and commissioning, and pre-consultation feedback has been gathered as part of the Direct Payment personal assistant recruitment campaign.</p>
Member consultation and interests declared	<p>A Policy briefing by way of a presentation is taking place on 15.11.23 to Committee Members for Adults and Health and Children and Families Committees.</p>
Significant Decision	NO
Legal Implications	<p>The delegation above makes it clear Executive Directors may decide to engage in consultation exercises regarding potential budget mitigations in consultation with the chair and vice chair of the relevant committee. Therefore, this proposed consultation may lawfully proceed on this basis with the authority of the relevant executive directors.</p> <p><i>Ceri Kay, Principal Lawyer (Childcare), 10.11.23</i></p>

Financial Implications	<p>The cost of running the consultation will be delivered through existing staffing resources and therefore does not incur any additional costs. The outcome of the consultation may result in proposed changes which would need to be approved through the appropriate governance processes, with financial implications detailed.</p> <p>Nikki Wood-Hill, Lead Finance Partner, 10.11.23</p>
Confidential/Exempt Information	n/a
Background Papers	

Signed



Dated 15 November 2023