

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Adult Services

Date of Meeting: 25th October 2010
Report of: Adult and Community Health & Wellbeing
Subject/Title: Adult Services Transport Consultation

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 Adult Services transport budget is £1.6m (2010/11) delivering transport to 520 adults to and from their day care provision through Integrated Transport shared service fleet vehicles (43 mini-buses) or hired transport.
- 1.2 Adult Services have an efficiency challenge to save £1.3m from the transport budget 2011/12. In order to provide a range of options to meet that challenge, a formal public consultation is required.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Adult Services agree to a public consultation to explore the options available to make required savings by reductions in service, increases in charges or a combination of both.

3.0 Options

- 2 Month separate and discreet consultation process (preferred option) or
- Consultation linked to the full budget setting process along with other items such as Adult Services Charging Policy Review.

4.0 Process

Linked to the above process a number of key actions will follow:

- Release an approved press and public statement, proactively managing publicity to protect the Authorities' reputation.
- Communicate directly with service users through bill-flyer, letter, direct consultation and through support groups (Carers Forum, OP Forum, LD Partnership Board, Third Sector partners) to encourage feedback and participation in consultation.
- Take account of any Equality Impact issues following consultation in future plans for transport provision within Cheshire East Council.
- Keep Places Directorate informed of consultation plans and outcomes in order to manage staff/resource issues and market development of accessible transport with associated policies at an appropriate pace to enable transition.
- Issue timeline of process.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendations

Transport is a discretionary service for the Directorate, work is already underway to stimulate alternative market provision and make efficiencies within the transport provision and budget. Economic climate and growth demands on Adult Services accelerate the need to rationalise services.

6.0 Wards Affected - All

7.0 Local Ward Members - All

8.0 Policy Implications

Climate change: in line with Total Transport objectives.

Health: to ensure service users with complex needs continue to receive essential support.

Concessionary Travel: to meet anticipated greater demand on concessionary travel by service users, carers/escorts to meet personalisation agenda.

Public Information: in accessible format for all and brokerage to assist customers to access appropriate transport.

Whole System Commissioning: Children's, Adults Services and Health

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 There will be some costs associated with the consultation which will be met by the service.

10.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 10.1 Where an assessment under Sec 47(1) NHSCCA highlights an unmet substantial or critical need for a service that the local authority has a duty to provide and their transport needs are also assessed as unmet critical or substantial, then the need for transport must be reflected in the care package. The Local Authority does not have to provide transport and can provide funding through a personal budget.

- 10.2 Consultation must contain four elements:

- 1 Must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage.
- 2 Must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit of intelligent consideration and response.
- 3 Adequate time must be given for any consideration and response.

- 4 Result of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising any proposals.

10.3 An Equality Impact Assessment must be completed before reaching any final decision to substantially vary service provision.

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