

Extract from draft minutes of People and Health Overview Committee – 14 December 2020

Current & Future Changes to the Financial Assessment and Care Contributions Policy

The Committee considered a report by the Interim Executive Director of People - Adults on changes to the financial assessment and care contributions policy.

The current policy had been unchanged since the Care Act was introduced in 2014 and in some appeals the Local Government Social Care Ombudsman had found the local authority at fault. The changes would not alter the way that contributions were collected but provided greater clarity as to how certain situations would be treated and examples were given to illustrate this. Comments were welcomed on the policy either at or following the meeting.

Members discussed the report in detail and the follow changes/amendments were suggested:-

- there should be reference to people having their own home;
- there should be a reference to married couples;
- the policy should be written in a way to make it more easily understood;
- this was a new policy for Dorset Council yet there were references to dates in 2015;
- the risk rating for the policy was low yet the activity carried some financial risk;
- the need to encourage people to make plans for their future health and financial position before they had care needs;
- that a similar approach to the mid autumn adjusted system be adopted;
- was there anything in the policy about people who were uncooperative?
- links be provided to the two policies referred to on Page 30.

Having made the above suggestions, the Committee:-

Recommended

That the updated policy as set out in appendix A is agreed. This incorporates the changes identified with this report under section 2.2.

That agreement is sought for the Executive Director and the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health to have delegated authority to sign off future minor amendments and clarification of decision-making processes within the policy.

Reason for Recommendations:

To update the Charging and Financial Assessments Policy to support the continued delivery of the Service ensuring care contributions could be assessed and collected in a timely manner supporting fairness and equitability across the county.