

AGENDA ITEM No. 5

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: IMPLEMENTATION OF SELF DIRECTED SERVICES
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 27 FEBRUARY 2003	Ref: MD/SMacV	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to establish rates payable to people who choose to exercise their forthcoming statutory right to receive a Direct Payment to meet their assessed needs, as an alternative to having a service organised on their behalf by Social Work.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The development of self directed services previously reported to Committee on 19th December 2002, promotes choice and control for people with disabilities, including people with a learning disability.
- 2.2 The use of direct payments to facilitate self directed services will soon become a duty of the local authority with legislative changes effective from June 2003, which will shift the status of direct payments from a discretionary to a mandatory requirement of local authorities.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Committee is asked to approve the setting of three rates designed to reflect the different range of support individuals may require.

		EMPLOYEE RATE	GROSS COST PAID BY NLC
Employing Support Staff Directly	RATE 1	£5.57	£7.06
Employing Support Staff Directly	RATE 2	£6.09	£7.74
Employing Support Staff Directly	RATE 3	£7.49	£9.38
Buying from a Provider	N/A	N/A	£9.51

- 3.2 Gross costs are estimated at 27% above the wage paid to an employee to cover National Insurance contributions; holiday and sickness cover; and travel and subsistence costs. Any specific training costs will be considered in the context of each package. The costs have been set at a level designed to ensure service users have a real choice between receiving an arranged service and taking a payment to organise such services themselves.
- 3.3 Criteria for receiving a specific rate is based on the assessed care and support needs for each individual. In most instances it will be straightforward to determine at which rate the support tasks should be paid. Where a person requiring support has significant health, physical or learning related condition or needs, communication difficulties or behaviours which challenge, this may be more difficult to accommodate within rates 1 or 2, in such instances the rate applied may be 3.

3.4 The rates and duties have been aligned with comparable services already provided or purchased by the Department.

3.5 In choosing to purchase service/s from an agency the rate paid will be rate 3 where the service is being purchased from an approved specialised provider and this represents the average rate paid by providers currently on the list of authorised services. Where the service is to be purchased from a provider not on the authorised list a lower rate may be paid

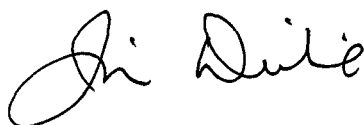
4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of providing Direct Payments will be met from existing community care budgets given that a Direct Payment is paid in lieu of the Department arranging services directly. At this stage it is not possible to estimate the likely take up of Direct Payments.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Committee is asked to

- (i) approve the proposed rates for Direct Payments; and
- (ii) otherwise note the content of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
15 January 2003

*For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Planning & Development Manager
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