

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Adult Health and Social Care Committee

approval noting

Ref MF

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Self Directed Support

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Executive Summary

This report is brought to committee to provide additional information on Self Directed Support following the Special Meeting of the Adult Health and Social Care Committee on the 17 April considering the IJB Financial Plan and associated workforce implications. This report details the way savings of £422,000 will be managed to avoid significant impact on people requiring supports.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee

- i. Note the content of the report

Supporting Documents

The plan for North Lanarkshire

- Improve the health and care of communities
- Reducing inequalities
- Prevention and early intervention
- Targeting resources to those most in need
- Enhancing self-help abilities

1. Background

- 1.1 The National SDS Strategy 2010 – 2020 and the Social Care (Self Directed Support)(Scotland) Act 2013 sought to empower people with greater choice and control over their own support through individual budgets along with the development of accessible and responsive services, supports and communities.
- 1.2 The development of individual responses to need through the development of individualised funding has seen significant change to the service models within North Lanarkshire, has improved quality of life for people significantly and has managed financial resources to offer the most cost effective way of supporting people to achieve their outcomes.

- 1.3 The Integrated Joint Board met on 26 March 2019 and agreed nine saving options relating to Council services that totalled £3.328m, including £422,000 relating specifically to Self Directed Support.
 - 1.4 The total SDS budget for the financial year 18/19 was £49.3m. £422,000 represents a 0.8% saving.
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2. Report

- 2.1 Within the overall context of increasing demand, the savings will be mitigated through a number of key actions:

Whole System Approach

- 2.2 Self Directed Support in North Lanarkshire is a whole system approach. As a whole system approach, achieving positive health, wellbeing and inclusion is not just about services and supports. SDS adopts an assets based approach to people's own abilities, interests and strengths; it recognises the importance of people's own social capital with family, friends and relationships being one of the most important factors in people's lives; requires local communities to be welcoming and inclusive, recognising the important role of universal and 3rd sector services; as well as encourages openness and transparency in the allocation of individual resources available to organise more formal supports where people have priority 1 or 2 needs.
- 2.3 The whole system approach adopted in North Lanarkshire has resulted in the successful award of £441,776 over the next 2 years through the Support in the Right Direction Fund administered by Inspiring Scotland. Two bids from Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire and The North Lanarkshire Advocacy Project were successful. The focus of the bids was specifically designed to work hand in hand with the approach through statutory services, promoting community connection as the route to achieve empowerment, wellbeing and connection rather than through individual budgets. The increased capacity created through advocacy services again complements the contracts already in place to meet statutory and legislative advocacy provision, to increase support for people to be represented to empower choice, control and connection within families, neighbourhoods and communities.

Promoting reablement, rehabilitation and empowerment

- 2.4 A range of services and supports focus specifically on supporting people with disabilities including physical disability, long term conditions, mental health difficulties, learning disability or frailty and their families to be as independent as possible. The integrated rehabilitation teams, reablement teams and locality support services in particular focus on rehabilitation with a preventative and early intervention approach which reduces the reliance on individual budgets. There will be an increased focus on these teams working more intensively with service users to build resilience, independence and self-management through their wider community, including third sector supports, reducing the demand on individual budgets.

Further roll out of the revised Guided Self Assessment

- 2.5 For people eligible to receive ongoing support because they have Priority 1 or Priority 2 needs, a Guided Self Assessment is used alongside a formal outcomes based assessment to identify an indicative budget to inform planning. The Guided Self Assessment is designed to capture the impact of disability and identify a realistic indicative budget. The format of the Guided Self Assessment has sought to ensure that people with broadly similar needs get broadly similar allocations of resources in an open and transparent manner.
- 2.6 In light of the experience of using the Guided Self Assessment and following feedback from frontline practitioners, first line managers, provider organisations, people who lived experience of disabilities, family carers and interest groups, a major review of the design, content and funding structure was concluded in 2018.
- 2.7 The review made changes as noted below:
- Simplifying the calculation of individual budgets remove methods of inflating and deflating budgets which existed in the previous version.
 - Reducing the assessment domains from 8 to 4 main areas – personal care, eating and drinking, managing a home and risk.
 - Making the indicative financial allocations clear on the GSA
- 2.8 A phased roll out of the revised Guided Self Assessment will continue, particularly in relation to older adults

Continued partnership working with independent sector providers

- 2.9 Work continues to shape the market of providers in North Lanarkshire. Knowing the financial resources available to organise support is not in itself empowering but requires providers who can demonstrate the ability to meet individual need flexibly and responsively. There are 19 adult providers and 11 providers of support to children on the Framework of providers supporting people individual budgets. Quarterly development sessions continue to strengthen the partnership approach to supports involving the framework providers, augmented by individual meetings to discuss financial sustainability of organisations individually, these meetings take place at least twice annually with senior care group managers and accountants of the Council.

3. Equality and Diversity

3.1 Fairer Scotland

There are no specific impacts to note

3.2 Equality Impact Assessment

Individual equality impact assessments are available to view on the Council's website.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Impact

The implementation of these savings will ensure that the IJB achieves a balanced budget position for 2019/20

4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact

There are no specific HR, policy or legislative impacts for staff of the Council

4.3 Environmental Impact

No implications

4.4 Risk Impact

Risk impacts are reflected through the service's risk register and managed as above.

5. Measures of success

- 5.1 Progress of achieving the financial savings is monitored monthly through the service's financial monitoring reports.



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