

## **EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR DECISION: 8 – 9 APRIL 2020**

### **REVISED ADULT CARE CHARGING POLICY AND IMPROVEMENTS TO FINANCIAL ASSESSMENTS**

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This report was considered by members of the Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee as part of a conference call on 7 April 2020.

The members of the Committee agreed to support the three recommendations set out in the report to the Executive Councillor. However, in the case of recommendation 3, clarification was provided on the scope of the proposed delegation, which would include:

- changes to any business processes, which would have limited direct impact on service users;
- other changes with limited impact on service users; and
- changes to the policy to reflect the levels of benefit, which are set by the Department of Work and Pensions and incorporated in the annual statement of charges; and
- changes to the rates, fees and allowances which are set by the Council and prepared as part of the budget process by the Executive Director – Adult Care and Community Wellbeing (These may be reflected in the regular budget monitoring reports to the Committee).

Other changes to the policy, which significantly and directly affect service users, are will be subject to further decision. These changes would be considered by the Committee in the usual way prior to a decision being made.

The members congratulated the officers on the clarity of the information presented in the report and supporting documents, and particularly welcomed the streamlining of the business processes, by linking three separate IT systems.

During the conference call, the following points were also clarified:

- A pilot scheme had been in operation to support those who could not access the online form, and the learning from the pilot scheme would be used in the future.
- The proposed changes to the policy had been shared with the Lincolnshire Care Association, who had supported them.
- The law relating to mobile and park homes was complex, and the individual circumstances of each home needed to be taken into account.
- The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman had currently suspended their activities, so it was not known when their report would be available.