

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

21ST JULY 2011

SUBJECT:	INDIVIDUAL BUDGETS PROCEDURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR ANN MCLACHLAN
KEY DECISION	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve a proposed procedure (Appendix 1) to give families of children or young people with disabilities the option of accessing an Individual Budget to meet their support needs. The Green Paper published 9th March 2011 states that by 2014 all families with children with a statement of SEN will have the option of a personal budget.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 Cabinet approves the implementation of an Individual Budget procedure with effect from 1st August 2011.
- 2.2 Cabinet review the procedure in 12 months time.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 As this will be a requirement by 2014 this will enable the procedure to be implemented and reviewed with a small number of families to ensure it is effective and robust.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Several workshops have been held offering parent/carers a briefing about what individual budgets are and how they operate. From these workshops 17 families have registered an interest in being part of an initial scheme.
- 4.2 Social workers within the Children with Disabilities Team have been trained by the national lead for Individual Budgets 'In Control' to carry out assessments.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 There is a potential risk that the local authority will lose control of funding that will be placed with families. However, families are clear about their responsibilities and that they can not overspend their budgets. Evidence from

other authorities suggests that the planning process is so thorough that families are clear what funding will be spent on before it is activated removing the risk of an individual budget overspend.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 None applicable.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 A steering group was formed which has met regularly since September 2010 to plan the process, consisting of:

- Project Manager, Aiming High for Disabled Children
- Interim Service manager, Children with Disabilities
- Social Work Team Leader, Children with Disabilities
- Direct Payments Coordinator, Children with Disabilities
- Continuing Care Coordinator, NHS Wirral
- Advocate, Wired
- Parent/Carer, Wirral Family Forum

7.2 To develop this procedure we have consulted in detail with the Department of Adult Social Services and intend to keep the 2 systems similar giving greater continuity to families.

7.3 Using funding from Aiming High for Disabled Children we have purchased a support package from In Control. This national organisation has supported local authorities in establishing procedures for accessing Individual Budgets and offer guidance, knowledge and models of good practice.

7.4 We have consulted and have held many workshops with families throughout the development of this process.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 Families can choose to purchase the required service from any source they wish. The project manager will work with local providers to develop their services and increase their ability to respond to these requests. This will increase the use of services within the voluntary, community and faith groups. and will reduce the reliance upon local authority services where demand has often exceeded capacity.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 As families are currently in receipt of services there will be no additional financial implications from Individual Budgets. Funding will be from the following existing budgets:

- Independent Domiciliary Care – £284,500

- Direct Payments - £214,400

- Carer's Grant - £224,700

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Appendix One section 'Step Three- Getting the Plan Agreed' states that each family must have a signed off support plan detailing what they can use the money for before it will be released.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None applicable.

11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- (a) Is an EIA required? Yes
(b) If 'yes', has one been completed? Yes, 24/6/11

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None applicable.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None applicable.

REPORT AUTHOR: *Dawn Tolcher*
Project Manager
Telephone: (0151) 606 6805
E-mail: dawntolcher@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Individual Budgets Procedure for Children and Young People

REFERENCE MATERIAL

The Green Paper 2011

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen/a0075339/sengreenpaper>

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	23 July 2009