

WIRRAL COUNCIL

DELEGATED DECISION BY PORTFOLIO HOLDER

26 SEPTEMBER 2014

SUBJECT:	Charging in Day Services
WARD/S AFFECTED:	All Wards
REPORT OF:	Director of Adult Social Services
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Christine Jones
KEY DECISION?	Yes

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 A recent consultation on the proposed changes to charging for the employment/training type day services was undertaken. The purpose/aim was to recommend a change to the charging policy to ensure equity across the service and generate income.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Introduction of the charges to the employment/training type services will ensure a consistent charging policy and reduce the inequity across all in-house day services.

2.2 The proposed cost has been calculated as £25 per session or £50 per day. Financial assessments will determine the amount each individual person will be liable to pay.

2.3 A safeguard does exist to ensure the charge would not cause income to fall below the minimum income guarantee + 25%.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 Increased charges could lead to reduced demand.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Not to charge for these services was considered, however for equity reasons this was not considered feasible and would have left the council vulnerable to challenge from those using services and being charged for them.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The eight week targeted consultation process commenced in March 2014 and involved individuals who use the services and their parents and carers from the in-house day services.
- 5.2 The consultation took the form of meetings held at services during week commencing 19 March 2014, and which were separated into those held for parents/carers, and those for individuals using the service across 9 venues.
- 5.3 Many people were unaware that some services were treated as non chargeable. Less than half of those consulted felt the charge would cause financial difficulty; over half felt the charge was unreasonable.

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

- 6.1 None.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 7.1 None.

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

- 8.1 It is anticipated that the revised charging arrangements could potentially generate up to a maximum of £250,000 a year. This figure includes the introduction of charges to the private, voluntary and faith organisations.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(b) No because there is no relevance to equality.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 None.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 None.

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 That this report is noted and charging process agreed.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 To ensure equity across the service and generate income.

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APPENDICES

N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY

Briefing Note	Date
N/A	

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
N/A	