

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – ADULT SOCIAL CARE** held on 9 October 2013 at County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Councillor C Neill (in the Chair)

Also in attendance were Councillors R Davison, P Jones and W Major.

08/13 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet member.

09/13 **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT CARE ASSESSMENT AND PERSONALISATION** (The Cabinet Member agreed that this report should be moved into the open section of the meeting on the advice of the Director of Legal Services). Approval was sought for expenditure of up to £50,000 for the purchase of assistive technology and associated running costs to support care assessment and personalisation.

The assistive technology referred to in the report involved collecting detailed information about a person's daily activities when they were unable to tell the authority directly. For example, it could establish accurately whether people get up during the night, and if they did, how many times and for what purpose.

The proposal was designed to determine how much care a person required. It involved the collection of considerable information about their actions and activities during the day and at night. This information could then be used to inform decisions about the appropriate level of care and support required for the client.

Assistive technology was now available such as "Just Checking" that was particularly useful in recording people's actions and activities in an unobtrusive way and required no active input from those being assessed. Its use was particularly helpful in relation to people with dementia and people with learning disabilities who could find it difficult to tell social workers accurately what their pattern of daily activities was. "Just Checking" was only used with consent from the client and or their carer.

The approach had already been used by the Adult Care Department in a limited pilot and there was scope to extend its usage for a wider number of people.

The assistive technology solution required no active input from the person being assessed because as a person conducted their daily living activities sensors were triggered which record data on a chart. This data provided an objective, reliable and continuous information about the individual's abilities to perform daily tasks. This activity data was collected and analysed by Adult Care to determine the appropriate care package which was personalised and appropriate to meet the individual's assessed needs.

The pilot undertaken by the Adult Care Department had been cost effective. Its use for 3 people resulted in an annual gross saving of £15,416. Taking into account the equipment and data analysis costs; there was a net saving to the council of £4,972. The pilot also was associated with enhanced care packages which enabled greater choice and support to people in their own homes for longer. Any reduction in care packages was only done within the context of a full reassessment of care needs.

The equipment and support would be procured via the Government Procurement Service's (GPS) Assistive Technology Framework Agreement. In the event that it was not possible to determine which supplier within the framework could deliver the best value for money from the detail given in the framework catalogue then the Council would need to carry out a further competition in accordance with GPS guidance notes.

The GPS established the Framework Agreement via a compliant EU competition and to cover its costs levied a management charge on suppliers on the framework which was currently calculated at 1% of all charges for equipment and services invoiced to customers (net of VAT) by the supplier. The supplier was not entitled to recharge this management charge to the Council or any customer.

One off funding to cover the whole contract term of up to £50,000 had been obtained from the local NHS to meet the equipment and running costs. Implementation and staff training costs will be covered by existing resources.

RESOLVED (1) to approve the expenditure of up to £50,000 for the purchase of Assistive Technology to support care assessment and personalisation; and

(2) that a progress report be received in approximately 12 months 'time.