

## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE

**DATE:** MONDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2012

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

**SUBJECT:** UPDATE ON ADULT SOCIAL CARE TRANSPORT  
POLICY

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To provide a final update report on the outcome of the transport policy

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 In October 2011 Flintshire County Council introduced a fair and equitable Transport Policy for Social Services for Adults.

2.02 The policy recognised that some service users were in receipt of benefits to support transport costs.

2.03 Adult Social Care Transport was overspent in 2010/11 by over £75,000. This overspend had been increasing year on year.

2.04 The introduction of eligibility criteria for transporting adults was in keeping with neighbouring authorities and was also recommended by the Regional Transport Project.

2.05 Consultation on the policy was undertaken with stakeholders over a 12 week period between June and September 2011.

2.06 A workshop was held with elected members, and a number of update reports and frequently asked questions information sheets provided.

2.07 Following the consultation a number of amendments were made to the policy, and it was given final approval in October 2011.

2.08 A Social Worker was appointed in October 2011 to undertake individual transport assessments for 420 people.

2.09 Robust processes were put in place to agree assessment outcomes, to hear appeals and complaints and consider issues of hardship and waiver requests.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.01 All individual service user assessments have been completed. The total number of transport assessments completed was 416.
- 3.02 All appeals have been heard and outcomes agreed.
- 3.03 One case is being considered by the public services ombudsman.
- 3.04 Overall 47% of individuals assessed remain eligible for funded transport, 17% of people have joint funded transport arrangements in place and 36% of individuals are no longer eligible for funded transport.
- 3.05 All new service users have been assessed under the policy since its implementation in October 2011 and no issues have been raised. The transport panel processes remain in place to consider all new cases.
- 3.06 The hired transport contracts has recently been retendered in line with OJUE regulations and in conjunction with procurement guidance. The outcome of this exercise is pending
- 3.07 A lessons learned session has been undertaken and messages shared with the Community Services Directorate Senior Managers.

### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 Members to note this report as a final summary of the implementation of the transport policy.

### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 The Implementation of the policy accrued £269,000 efficiency saving for 2011/12, with an estimated further £50,000 saving expected for 2012/13.
- 5.02 The transport tender exercise may lead to further efficiencies.

### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 None reported

### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 None reported

### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.01 None reported

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None reported

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None reported

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 None reported

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 None

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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