

ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 29 NOVEMBER, 2017

Integration Joint Board Members:

Councillor E A Stirling (Chair), Councillor A M Allan, Ms A Anderson, Mrs S Duncan, Provost W Howatson, Councillor A Ross, Councillor D Robertson, and Mr E Sinclair.

Integration Joint Board Non-Voting Members:

Mr A Coldwells, Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership; Mr A Wood, Chief Finance Officer; Ms S Kinsey, Third Sector Representative; Ms I Kirk, Unison (Aberdeenshire); Dr C Allan (GP Representative); and Ms E Chisholm (Nurse Practitioner Representative).

Officers: Mr A Stobie, Mrs S Ross and Mr N David, all Aberdeenshire Council; Mr M Ogg, Ms A Wood, Mr M Simpson, and Mr I Ramsay, all Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

Apologies: Mr A Gray, Dr I Lynch and Mr D Hekelaar.

1. SEDERUNT, DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chair asked for declaration of interests from both voting and non-voting members. No interests were declared.

2. STATEMENT OF EQUALITIES

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Joint Board **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (2) where an Equality Impact Assessment was provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching their decision.

3. CHARGING POLICY 2018/2019

There was circulated a report dated 31 October, 2017, by the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership on the Charging Policy 2018/2019.

The report explained as background that the Integration Joint Board, in line with the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, had a number of services delegated to it from Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian. The setting of charges was not delegated to the Integration Joint Board and remained a power held by Aberdeenshire Council. In this respect the Council had agreed, through the Social Work and Housing Committee that the Integration Joint Board would be a formal consultee on issues that had a direct impact on the Integration Joint Board and its ability to discharge its duty. The report before the Joint Board initiated this

process with the Integration Joint Board making recommendations to Aberdeenshire Council's Communities Committee about charges.

Aberdeenshire Council currently had charging policies for non-residential and residential care. The purpose of a charging policy was to explain how charges were made for care and support services.

Following discussion, the Joint Board **agreed**:-

- (1) to recommend to the Communities Committee of Aberdeenshire Council that Aberdeenshire Council move towards full cost recovery as part of its Charging Policy for all chargeable social care services,
- (2) that the costs and charges that Aberdeenshire Council had the discretion to set, be increased, as a minimum, each year in line with HM Treasury Forecast Retail Price Index,
- (3) to recommend that the Charging Policy for Non-Residential Care and Support 2018/2019 to Communities Committee on 21 December, 2017 be:
 - (a) as detailed in the refreshed charging policy document appended to the report,
 - (b) unit costs being agreed as detailed in the report,
 - (c) miscellaneous charges being agreed as detailed in the report,
 - (d) external charges being agreed as detailed in the report,
 - (e) the model of care for the delivery of very sheltered housing to be considered as part of a review exercise with residents and other members of the community; there to be no change in charging until the review is completed and findings considered by Committee,
 - (f) capital limit to be agreed as detailed in the report,
 - (g) equivalency model be agreed as detailed in the report, and
 - (h) the deprivation of capital be agreed as detailed in the report,
- (4) to recommend the Charging Policy for Residential Care 2018/2019 to the Communities Committee of Aberdeenshire Council on 21 December, 2017 be:
 - (a) as detailed in the report,
 - (b) residential care charges to be phased in for existing residents for either 3 years or some other longer period, and
 - (c) to explore with service users and families provision of Christmas gifts to service users in Council residential homes; there to be an awareness of the potential impact on individuals with no close family or friends around, whilst balancing this against the equity with other service users,
- (5) that the report to the Communities Committee include examples of service users who will be required to pay more under the revised policy,
- (6) that staff be briefed to ensure that clarity could be given to service users affected by changes to the Charging Policy; that frequently asked questions be compiled and made available to service users; that the communication strategy be thorough and include sharing information with the Third Sector; that face to face sessions be organised with service users to work alongside the written communication; and that the wording in the policy document about non-payment of contribution be improved, and

- (7) that officers conduct, and thereafter report to the Joint Board, a light touch review on the implementation and rollout of the Charging Policy 2018/2019 at the end of financial year 2018/2019, and annually thereafter; the review to highlight the financial implications for the Joint Board and service users themselves; also to be included in the review: an audit of service users whom declined care for reason of financial choice; and clarification of implications of any change to the retail price index.

