

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	10 th October 2012	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E2461
TITLE:	Personal Budgets: Review of Policy Budget Framework & Resources Allocation (Progress Report) COVER REPORT	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1 - Personal Budgets: Review of Policy Framework & Resource Allocation (Progress Report) MAIN REPORT		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The report summarises work undertaken since March 2012 (and before) to review and revise the Personal Budgets policy framework and Resource Allocation System (RAS) currently used to deliver social care services in Bath & North East Somerset.

1.2 This review and revision is necessary in order to:

- (1) Achieve financial sustainability and meet the Council's efficiency targets for adult social care.
- (2) Achieve the central Government target to deliver PBs to 100% of all adult social care users by April 2013.
- (3) Address a range of equalities issues which have been identified in the current social care system.

1.3 A project group has been established to assess the benefits of adopting the **National RAS** in Bath & North East Somerset. This is a tool commissioned by the Department of Health, currently in use by the majority of local authorities (122) as the primary mechanism for allocating funding to meet the social care needs of individual service users.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees that:

2.1 Based on the modelling contained in the main report, the **percentile model** for calibrating the national RAS locally is further explored and tested.

- 2.2 Based on the above recommendation, **further engagement and consultation** with service users, carers and social care staff takes place.
- 2.3 Based on the modelling contained in the main report, **scenario 4** of the five transitional scenarios is adopted when roll out of the national RAS begins.
- 2.4 Implementation of the national RAS should take place in early 2013 following a period of statutory consultation.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 A report to the Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel on 13th March 2012 set out the financial context for the proposed changes to the Personal Budgets Resource Allocation System, the implementation of which is assumed to be cost neutral overall.
- 3.2 The project group has identified potential transitional costs of implementation which will vary according to a) the RAS calibration model adopted and b) the mitigation measures approved by B&NES. Detailed analysis is contained in the main report.

4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- *Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone*

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The main report (Appendix 1) provides details of:
- (1) Background & context for Personal Budgets in B&NES
 - (2) Financial modelling to illustrate the Resource Allocation System currently used in B&NES
 - (3) Financial modelling of options for calibrating the National RAS for use in B&NES

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 Equalities considerations are detailed in the main report including impact assessment and modelling of potential implementation options. A formal EIA is in the process of being completed with support from the Equalities Team who have advised the project group throughout.

8 RATIONALE

- 8.1 The main report sets out the rationale for implementing the national RAS which comprises three key strands:

- (1) Equalities considerations – the current system is inequitable and therefore open to potential challenge
- (2) Financial – the current system is not financially sustainable
- (3) Capacity/sustainability – the current system places a bureaucratic/processing burden on practitioners which is not sustainable.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None. Failure to revise the current system is not a viable option for the reasons set out above.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 *Ward Councillor; Cabinet members; Overview & Scrutiny Panel; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies*

10.2 Statutory consultation period to commence in October 2012 including service user focus groups, mailshots and network meetings.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 *Sustainability; Other Legal Considerations*

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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Sponsoring Cabinet Member	<i>Councillor Simon Allen</i>
Background papers	<i>Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel Report: 16th March 2012 'Personal Budgets: Review of Policy Framework & Resource Allocation System'</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	