Self-Directed Support

Report by Eibhlin McHugh, Acting Director, Communities and Wellbeing

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to describe how Midlothian Council seeks to deliver transformation in social care, through adopting self-directed support as its mainstream approach.

2 Background

2.1 Since 2008, Midlothian Council has been at the forefront of work nationally, to make social care services more personalised. This work has centred on ensuring that what matters most to people is reflected in the way services are built around them.

2.2 In 2010 Scottish Government published a new National Strategy, describing a fundamental shift from how services are currently designed and delivered to one where the mainstream approach is that of self-directed support (i.e. people having informed choice and control over the services they use).

2.3 In March 2012, Scottish Government will bring legislation to the Scottish Parliament which builds on this Strategy, placing new duties on local authorities to transform how services are currently organised. This transformation will see informed choice and control over services sitting with the people who use those services, rather than with the local authority.

2.4 Further detail on the impending legislation; current position in Midlothian and intended next steps is contained in Appendix 1.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

The resource implications of transforming to an approach where self-directed support is the mainstream are significant. While the level and volume of services will continue to be based on an assessed level of need, the nature of what those services look like and how they are delivered will be directed by individuals’ decision-making to a significantly greater degree.

Therefore it is reasonable to anticipate that the profile of resources will have to change to adapt to a new landscape. These changes can be anticipated to encompass the full range of activity in designing and delivering services, from the first engagement with people to how services are actually delivered.
3.2 **Risk**

Failure to manage the transformation to a mainstream approach of self-directed support creates a risk of the Council failing to meet statutory duties.

Failure to manage the transformation to a mainstream approach of self-directed support creates a risk of the Council failing to achieve better outcomes in partnership with people using services.

3.3 **Policy**

**Strategy**

Transforming to a mainstream approach of self-directed support is consistent with Scottish Government’s National Strategy on Self-Directed Support

Transforming to a mainstream approach of self-directed support is also consistent with a number of local outcomes identified within the Single Outcome Agreement and with the Community Plan themes 1a, 1b and 5.

This transformation is also consistent with the Community Engagement Strategy and with strategic objectives around service user and carer involvement at Divisional and Service levels, where relevant.

**Consultation**

No consultation was carried out specifically for this report, although the report builds on consultation carried out around self-directed support and with community care service users in formulating strategy and policy.

**Equalities**

The transformation to a mainstream approach of self-directed support is fundamentally about creating a more equal partnership, where individuals using services exercise informed choice and control.

While this transformation is consistent with existing strategy it is reasonable to anticipate that the programme of transformation will generate changes to policy in order to ensure the genuine shift of power, choice and control to people. Therefore, as policy changes are identified, there will be a need to ensure equalities impact assessments are carried out.

**Sustainability**

Social care services for adults and children face unprecedented pressures as a consequence of the tension between increasing demand; static or decreasing resources; and increased expectations around the personalisation of services. Transforming to a mainstream approach of self-directed support offers the opportunity to
address the issue of increased expectations directly, but also offers the opportunity to strengthen the role of individuals in the design and delivery of services, thus creating the potential to secure better outcomes and contribute to the long-term sustainability of services.

3.4 IT Issues

While there are no IT issues directly associated with this report, it is possible to anticipate implications around IT as self-directed support becomes the mainstream approach. These will be identified and acted upon in the course of our transformation programme.

4 Summary

Over the last few years, Midlothian Council has played a significant role nationally in developing approaches that personalise social care services.

The Council will now be given both an opportunity and a statutory duty to fundamentally change the nature of social care services by supporting a comprehensive shift in power, choice and control to people using services.

This shift can be anticipated to lead to significant changes in how services are designed and delivered, while producing better outcomes for individuals and contributing to the sustainability of services in the long-term.

5 Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to note:-

1) the success of Midlothian Council in developing more personalised social care services

2) the implications of impending legislation

3) the intention to transform social care to a model where self-directed support is the mainstream approach, building on our previous success and in line with statutory duties

4) the intention to provide a further report in autumn 2012, describing plans for implementation of the legislation.

21/02/2012

Report Contact: John Skouse 0131 271 3421 john.skouse@midlothian.gov.uk

Background Papers:
Appendix 1: Self-Directed Support in Midlothian – Position Paper