

SUBJECT: Adult Social Care Assisted Transport Policy

MEETING: Adult Select Committee

DATE: 24 Jan 2017

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: all

NON-PUBLICATION

(Insert appropriate non publication paragraph if necessary and complete attached certificate – paragraphs of exemption are contained within the constitution)

Please ensure that if this report is not exempt that the report does not contain information which may be in breach of the data protection act. Do not hesitate to contact Democratic Services for further guidance.

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 To provide a policy to clarify Monmouthshire County Council's responsibilities for providing transport to people requiring social care support. To provide consistency across teams and areas of MCC business

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 For members to consider and agree to the implementation of the attached policy

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 sets out the council's duty to assess an individual's need for support services. The Local Authority will have a duty to meet that need if the need cannot be met by the person's own resources or community resources.

3.2 The need for transport is not an eligible need in its own right, but simply a means of accessing services and support

3.3 Assisted Transport usually helps people to access day opportunities, respite care, leisure services, and employment and training opportunities.

3.3 Monmouthshire County Council is able to provide transport through a variety of options to its residents with learning disabilities, people with physical disabilities, older persons and people with mental ill health. The Council funds several community transport schemes across the county, mainly covering areas with less reliable transport links but not restricted to these areas. These options can be either dial-a-ride, Grass Routes, Bridges Community Car Scheme or befriender schemes. The Council also operates the disabled bus pass and the concessionary (age-based) bus pass schemes, allowing anyone with a disability over the age of 5 and anyone above the retirement age who is a resident of Monmouthshire to apply for free bus travel out of peak times

4. REASONS:

4.1 Without a policy there have been different approaches across teams with transport being provided on an ad hoc and inequitable basis.

4.2 To ensure the decision to provide assisted transport is based on needs, risks and outcomes and on promoting independence, as part of the Council's commitment to social inclusion and independence.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:** This policy will generate savings in line with the agreed transport mandate saving of £59K which is part of the 2017/18 MTFP.

6. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

The significant equality impacts identified in the assessment (Appendix 1) are summarised below for members' consideration:

6.1 Some people who are currently transported by the Council will not receive this service in the future, however their independence will be enabled through the application of this policy. The proposal promotes increased independence for individuals, the use of their own or community resources. Individuals will be supported to maximize their independence and therefore releasing the potential for increased social inclusion.

The actual impacts from this report's recommendations will be reviewed every 3 years and criteria for monitoring and review will include:

- Audit of assessments to ensure correct and equitable application of the policy.
- Evaluation of any customer comments that may arise as a result of this policy change

7. CONSULTEES:

DMT

Social Services Finance

Team leads, Social Care and Health

Direct care leads

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

See attached policy document

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10. **CONTACT DETAILS:**

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