

Mayor And Cabinet			
Report Title	Matters referred by the Healthier Communities Select Committee - Adult Social Care – Changes to Eligibility and Charging		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	2 (addendum)
Ward	All		
Contributors	Healthier Communities Select Committee		
Class	Part 1	Date	December 12 2007

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments/views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee arising from discussions on the consultation exercise undertaken on proposed changes to the eligibility criteria and charging for Adult Social Care. These are set out in section three below.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to:

- (i) note the views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee as set out in section three; and
- (ii) agree the Executive Director for Community Services and the Executive Director for Resources be asked to comment and provide advice on the comments of the Select Committee.

3. Healthier Communities Select Committee Views

- 3.1 On 21 November, the Healthier Communities Select Committee considered the report of the consultation exercise undertaken on proposed changes to eligibility criteria and charging for Adult Social Care. The Committee considered written reports from officers and verbal evidence from ASC Service Users at the meeting.
- 3.2 The Select Committee resolved that despite concerns raised about the clarity of certain aspects, the consultation undertaken was adequate and the Committee endorsed the processes used by the Council.

The following are specific comments were made by the Select Committee:

- 3.3 The Select Committee acknowledged the pressures on the ASC budget which stem from a number of causes, including increased life expectancy and higher expectations. The Select Committee therefore recommends that ASC is allocated a larger slice of the Council's budget and that the Mayor continues to lobby for additional resources for Lewisham.
- 3.4 Whilst the Select Committee did not identify a preference for any of the proposals outlined in the officer report, the Committee recommends that:

- (i) not all disposable income (as described to the Committee) should be taken into account by the Council; and
- (ii) any applied changes to the charging policy should be as simple and transparent as possible, in order that people know what they are being charged for and why.

3.5 The Select Committee acknowledges that the message from the consultation is that both users and carers are against the proposals. The Committee endorses the view that alternatives to the current proposals be sought, and in particular that better efficiency savings be found across the council to safeguard funds for vulnerable residents.

3.6 Additionally, the Select Committee recommends that in making its decision, the Mayor and Cabinet are mindful of the following:

- (i) the anticipated Green Paper on more integration which is expected to place additional burdens on the Council; and
- (ii) the risk that the proposals will result in an increased cost to the Council in the medium to long term.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Constitution provides for the Select Committees to report to the Mayor and Cabinet and for the Executive to consider the report within one month of receiving it.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Consultation on Adult Social Care: Eligibility Criteria and Charging – report to HCSC

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Geoff Heyes, Scrutiny Officer (ext. 49446), or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business and Committee (ext. 49327).