

166. Neighbourhood and Community Services Directorate

Name of policy, procedure or function: Direct Payments		
Service Area: Neighbourhood and Community Services Directorate	Equality Impact Assessment completed by: Direct Payments Co-ordinator Social Service Department.	Date: March 2010
Summary of Findings:		
<p>The main aims of the Direct Payments service are to promote and market the Direct Payments Scheme within adult social care and Children's Services, to educate, train and support Care Managers in the use of Direct Payments. This service aims to ensure that all workers supporting all eligible client groups are fully aware and knowledgeable in the aims and use of Direct Payments. The service is also in place to advise and support service users, external providers, and members of the public.</p> <p>The Councils Direct Payments service ensures that funds are processed, used and spent appropriately by way of auditing designated bank accounts of those in receipt of a Direct Payment. This not only supports the Service User in the management of their Direct Payments and flag up any potential safe guarding issues but also ensures that the Councils funds are used appropriately and effectively.</p> <p>Though direct payments are available to all disability groups and is promoted across adult social care through leaflets and events, the take up alters. The number of people from mental health services appears to be a lower representation than other service user groups. Warrington adhere to the changes to direct payments that occurred from November 2009 affecting people who lack mental capacity and people subject to the mental health act. People who are subject to drugs and alcohol-related provisions of some criminal justice legislation remain excluded from receiving direct payments as stated in guidance and legislation.</p> <p>There is the flexibility with a Direct Payment for an individual to consider options for meeting their cultural and religious needs and their beliefs. Monitoring of religious groups needs to be developed as there are a high number of null/unknowns recorded.</p> <p>The highest number of those in receipt of Direct Payments is in Children's Services, the Direct Payments being paid to parents or those with parental responsibility for a child with a disability. The number of people on direct payments seems to reduce at 65+. Further work is needed to consider how the service can be made more accessible for those who need a higher level of support at the point of set up and or during the time they are receipt of their Direct Payment</p>		