

Decision Record – Parent Carer Assessment Review

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| Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision | Councillor Jeff Morgan Children's Services |
| Date of Decision (not before 18 October 2019) | 04/11/2019 |

Decision Taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services authorises the undertaking of a consultation exercise on the process, procedure and outcomes for Parent Carer Assessments

Reasons for Decisions

Before a consultation exercise can be undertaken the permission of the relevant Portfolio Holder must be obtained.

Background Information

It is time to update the Parent Carer Assessment (PCA) so that it reflects the current challenges and needs of parents. Warwickshire County Council has a statutory obligation to complete a PCA on request from any parent. The mechanism of how an assessment is undertaken and the outcomes it achieves are within the LA remit to decide.

The current assessment form has been in operation for several years and a formal process/procedure was never designed but evolved on a reactive basis depending upon the request. The process in place has never been reviewed or scrutinised in line with changes to practice and parental needs. There is no transparent guidance for parent carers or practitioners to follow.

Currently, requests for a PCA become an assessment of the child on the basis that they are processed through MASH. This results in a lengthy and intrusive assessment process when the need for social care has not necessarily been requested. For mainstream social care cases, if an assessment of the child results in no further action, the parent carer needs may become lost in the system on the basis that the large majority of these cases are closed.

Alignment with the adult social care process would alleviate issues when it is time for the transition into adult social care.

Financial Implications

This decision is primarily concerned with the processes and procedures for the assessments from both a customer/ client as well as practitioners' points of view and their user experience. There is a risk that financial payments could increase due to greater awareness. Current total forecasted expenditure for 2019/20 (before any changes) is in the region of £30,000 to £40,000. It is presumed there will be little or no additional pressure on the budget as a result of the outcomes of this paper. Any risks are mitigated by addressing the issue of ongoing payments without review and will also signpost people to non-financial alternatives as well as one-off payments as opposed to ongoing payments.

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| Report Author | Jo Boyes |
| Assistant Director | John Coleman |
| Strategic Director | Nigel Minns |
| Portfolio Holder | Councillor Jeff Morgan |

Checklist

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| Urgent matter? | N |
| Confidential or Exempt?(State the category of exempt information) | N |
| Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework? | N |

List of Reports considered

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/Calendarofmeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/4539/Committee/588/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers

None

Members and officers consulted or informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor
Corporate Board
Legal – Jane Pollard
Finance – Virginia Rennie
Equality – Keira Rounsley
Democratic Services – Paul Williams

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Councillors Dahmash, Chattaway, Morgan, Roodhouse, Chilvers, Williams, Hayfield and C. Davies