

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 23 NOVEMBER 2009
REPORT ON: IMPLEMENTATION OF HOME CARE ENABLEMENT MODEL
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK
REPORT NO: 529-2009

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Committee of the proposed development of an enablement approach to providing home care services across Dundee City.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:-

- 2.1 endorse the introduction of an enablement approach to the delivery of home care services;
- 2.2 endorse the measures being adopted to improve the level of independence of service users, and to increase the efficiency of the home care service;
- 2.3 note that this is an interim report. Following a six month pilot of home care enablement the enablement model of home care will be introduced on a phased basis. A further report that outlines the implications of full implementation will be brought back to committee.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no additional financial implications at this stage as the model is being developed by re-organising existing home care resources.
- 3.2 The final report will detail any financial implications. It is expected that there will be efficiency savings in the longer term. It is proposed that any efficiency savings made, be reinvested in front-line services as a contribution towards affecting a shift in the balance of care.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 What is Enablement?

Home care staff who have been trained in enablement, provide time limited intensive care and support to service users in order that they can learn new skills or re-learn old ones in order to maximise their long term independence, choice and quality of life. Occupational therapy equipment and assistive technology such as telecare equipment may also be used to support the person in maximising their independence.

4.2 Background to Enablement

An enablement approach to home care has been taken by most English Local Authorities and some Scottish Local Authorities with some authorities having used this approach for almost ten years now.

Studies, such as the one carried out by De Montfort University¹, and a retrospective longitudinal study² that was completed by the Social Policy Research Unit at the University of

¹ *CSED Homecare Re-ablement Discussion Document Volume 2: Case Studies - Leicestershire: External Evaluation of the Home Care Re-ablement Pilot Project, De Montfort University*
² *Retrospective Longitudinal Study (November 2007) - Retrospective Longitudinal Study - Homecare Re-ablement - Efficiency Solutions - Care Services Efficiency Delivery - Homepage - DH Care Networks*

York, evidenced that enablement is not only beneficial to service users in terms of their increased levels of independence, but it also reduces the number of care hours required per person.

Dundee City Council Social Work Department's Home Care Intensive Care Teams, in partnership with health, currently use a rehabilitation and enablement approach to the delivery of service. The teams can only be accessed by service users who are discharged from certain wards of certain hospitals. The introduction of an enablement approach across home care would ensure that we provide equity across the city, and give all service users the opportunity to maximise their levels of independence.

4.2 **Proposal**

It is proposed that Dundee Community Health Partnership Allied Health Professionals work in collaboration to adopt an enablement approach to home care.

Initially, the city will be divided into two halves, east and west, with one team covering each half of the city. The teams will concentrate on individuals living at home who are entering the support system for the first time, either through the intake team, or via discharge from hospital. The service will then be extended to existing service users who are discharged following a hospital admission.

The objectives will be to:

- to maximise service users long term independence, choice and quality of life; and
- to appropriately minimise ongoing support required,

and thereby, minimise the whole -life cost of care

Each new service user will receive a service from the home care enablement teams, which will be outcome focussed, and time limited, up to a maximum of a six weeks. Some people will be fully independent following a period of home care enablement; other people may require ongoing support from a mainstream home care team or from an approved provider of services.

The teams will consist of existing mainstream social care workers who have received specific training in rehabilitation and enablement, and an enablement organiser. The teams will receive training and support from the social work occupational therapy service, and by health colleagues. An NHS physiotherapist will be to be seconded to the enablement teams for a six month period, to develop the skills of the workers.

4.3 **Meeting Dundee City Council's Key priorities and Service Objectives**

An enablement approach addresses two of the Council's key priorities:

Improve and protect the health and fitness of the population - it is expected that following a period of home care enablement most service users will see an improvement in their fitness level

Deliver efficient services and keeping any council tax increases low - as enablement increases service users' levels of independence, it also reduces the level of ongoing home care services, therefore making the service more efficient.

Enablement will also meet a number of Service Objectives as outlined in the Social Work Department Service Plan (2007-2011):

Increase range and Scale of alternatives to Residential Care - Increase range and scale of care at home services - home care enablement will increase the range of home care services, and by increasing the levels of independence and for some services users will delay the need for residential care.

Achieve best practice in managing our people and resources - an enablement approach will make better use of the existing home care service

Further develop Partnership working that leads to improved services and better outcomes for People - enablement is a joint health and social work initiative which focuses on achieving better outcomes for people in terms of their level of independence.

4.4 **Purpose of the phased introduction**

Studies from other parts of the country and research as indicated above demonstrate an enablement approach is successful, in terms of increasing levels of independence of service users and reducing the need for ongoing services. The purpose of the phased introduction is therefore to assess what the requirements would be of introducing this approach across Dundee City.

5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

6.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Director of Finance have been consulted in preparation of this report.

7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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DATE: 5 November 2009