

Budget Scrutiny- Reduction in Spend on Care Packages (Children with Disabilities 0-17)

Rodica Cobarzan- Head of Service, Social Work with Families and Children with Disabilities

Jodie Cabrera- Service Manager, Children with Disabilities

Scrutiny CYP Committee -18th January 2022

Context- What is the Access to Resources Panel

New care packages or variations to packages for children with disabilities aged 0-17 are heard by the children's Access to Resources Panel (ARP)

The Children's Access to Resources Panel:

- ensures consistency of practice and decision making across children's social care
- ensures that limited resources are managed as effectively as possible.

The Access to Resources Panel (ARP) hears requests in relation to care packages for children in need and children looked after.

Access to Resources Panel

The Access to Resources Panel (ARP) sits every Friday

The panel members include:

- Head of Service for Children with Disabilities (CWD);
- Service Managers – CWD,
- Special Educational Need (SEN) Representative,
- Continuing Health Care (CHC)– representative,
- Calleydown representative

Social workers or Team managers present the request following assessments or changes in children's circumstances or needs

Urgent adhoc support is considered by the Head of Service with Service Manager's support as required outside the panel

Breakdown of requests at ARP in November 2021

- Over November 2021 the Panel heard 32 requests:
 - **9** involved **continuation** of existing care package
 - **6** considered **changes** of the way the care package is provided (provider change)
 - **5** involved **additional one off payments**
 - **6** involved temporary or long term **increases** to existing care packages
 - **2** considered **reduction** in existing care package
 - **4 new requests** for a care packages

How does Access to Resources Panel make decisions?

Care packages are recommended and reviewed according to:

- Children's needs and their circumstances
 - Impact that the disability has on the child and family
 - Support that is already in place
 - Family's overall circumstances
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- Social workers and managers are requested to ensure that young people who approach transition are referred to Transition Service for Care Act Assessments and discussed at the monthly joint Operational meetings as set out in the Transition protocol.

Case Studies

Child A- example of reduction in care package

- **Child A-** a young child with additional needs who has an EHCP, she struggled to travel to school without an assistant, as would not keep her seatbelt on.
- New package started September 2021.
- Additional hours were initially provided to ensure safety and provide travel training.
- This was achieved and the child is now able to travel safely without the need of an assistant
- Therefore support was reduced to hours of support at weekend
- Initial package during assessment and travel training 10h support £160/week reduced after training to 4h/week at weekend for an activity session £60. **Total cost for the year £2330.**

Child B- example of temporary increase in care package

- **Child B:** a young person with a very rare genetic disorder that is characterized by a variety of physical and development abnormalities.
- Also has Severe Learning Disabilities and presents with behaviour which can at times be challenging. His health needs have changed significantly and as a result he can't attend school for a period of time.
- To enable the family to care for him at home and provide some short respite to his carers a temporary increase in his care package was agreed.
- This is 15h /week for 8 weeks – total cost of increase £2,340. The YP's total care package for the year is **forecasted at £9,730.**

Child C- example of an increase to care package

- **Child C:** Young Person with a diagnosis of autism, severe learning disability, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and sleep disorder.
- Currently out of education as his provision felt unable to meet his needs.
- Whilst a search for an alternative Residential Education setting takes place an increase in his support at home has been provided to prevent harm to the young person and his family.
- His challenging behaviour has increased substantially in the last year.
- His safety and care at home is at risk and various options are explored for his long term care. He also has regular stays at Calleydown.
- Increase from 56h weekly at £1260 to 84h weekly at £1890. The high number of hours are due to the need to have two carers present at any one time. The total **forecast for the year is £63,380.**

Child D- example of new care package

- **Child D:** New referral received in relation to this young child. He has a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), severe delays in the development of his expressive and receptive language, social communication and play skills.
- His parents identified some activities that would be appropriate for him such as the "Enterprise swimming club" and "Wheels for well being cycling".
- 6h of support weekly were agreed so he can access these activities with a carer and give parent a break .
- **Cost £96/week.**