

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

Which of the following best describes your council's approach to resource allocation of personal budgets in adult social care?

A points-based resource allocation system based on the Common Resource Allocation Framework developed by Think Local Act Personal (see here for details

http://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/library/Resources/Personalisation/Personalisation_advice/Common_Resource_Allocation_Framework_Updated_June_2010.pdf). Please go to question 2.

Another points-based resource allocation system (where individuals are scored using points and an indicative budget is decided on the basis of how many points they score). Please go to question 2.

Another type of resource allocation system that is not based on points. Please go to question 3.

No resource allocation system in operation. Please go to question 3

Response

The response which best describes Leicester City Council's approach to resource allocation is (b). It should be noted that whilst we do not use the Common Framework documents themselves, they have heavily influenced the development of the ones that we use. Given the potential range of ways in which resource allocation can take place, the structure of the RAS in Leicester is very similar to that within the Common Framework. However, the wording of questions, the range of responses, the scoring of responses, the carers' questions, and the allocation table are sufficiently different for us to respond (b) rather than (a) to this question.

If your council operates a points based resource allocation system, please provide the following:

A copy of the questionnaire used to identify an individuals' score (i.e. the "personal needs questionnaire" or equivalent, see here for an example: http://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/library/Resources/Personalisation/Personalisation_advice/Common_resource_allocation_framework_-_personal_needs_questionnaire_final_-_Appendix_4.doc)

Please find attached at Appendix A our Community Care Assessment Form (the assessment questionnaire, the responses to which are used to generate the RAS allocation). It should be noted that not all of the questions within this form will influence the RAS allocation; questions 1 to 8, and question 14 are the ones that feed into the RAS calculation.

Any documents you have that explain how needs identified in the questionnaire are converted in to points (i.e. the “questionnaire scoring sheet” or equivalent, see here for an example:

[http://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/library/Resources/Personalisation/Personalisation advice/Common resource allocation framework - questionnaire scoring sheet final - Appendix 5.doc](http://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/library/Resources/Personalisation/Personalisation%20advice/Common%20resource%20allocation%20framework%20-%20questionnaire%20scoring%20sheet%20final%20-%20Appendix%205.doc))

Please find attached at Appendix B a copy of the points weightings for questions, including brief notes on how the calculation works when people require 2:1 support, have carers, or need support during the night.

Details of how the number of points identified in a questionnaire is translated in to a cash amount for the calculation of an indicative personal budget (for many councils this takes the form of an “allocation table”. See page 9 for an example

[http://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/library/Resources/Personalisation/Personalisation advice/Common resource allocation framework - financial framework final - Appendix 6.pdf](http://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/library/Resources/Personalisation/Personalisation%20advice/Common%20resource%20allocation%20framework%20-%20financial%20framework%20final%20-%20Appendix%206.pdf))

Rather than have a points allocation table, we use a fixed ‘price per point’ of £4.50. This is simply multiplied by the number of points that result from the calculation.

NB. If your council uses different versions of any of the above for different client groups (for example people of different age groups or with differing types of need), please provide details for each client group.

It should be noted that Leicester City Council does not distinguish between different client groups at any stage of the RAS process.

If your council does not operate a points based resource allocation system, please provide details, and any relevant documents, describing how cash amounts for personal budgets are calculated. If this differs for different client groups, please provide details for each client group.

This question is not applicable, as the authority does use a points-based resource allocation system.

How many service users in the older people client group (i.e. aged 65 and over including mentally ill) are currently receiving personal budgets (direct payments or otherwise) in your council?

There are estimated to be 916 service users over the age of 65 who are in receipt of a personal budget or direct payment.

What are the current mean and median gross weekly personal budget amounts for older people in your council, including any contributions made by individuals (as described by the Fairer Contributions Guidance, DH 2010)?

The current gross mean weekly personal budget for people over 65 years is £164.

The current gross median weekly personal budget for people over 65 years is £128.

In the year 2010-11, in what percentage of cases among older people was the final gross personal budget (inclusive of individual contributions) allocated to an individual more than the "indicative budget", generated by the resource allocation system and used for support planning?

The percentage of older people for whom their final gross personal budget exceeded the initial indicative allocation was 11%.

It should be noted that this is an estimate based on sampling. The percentage is not based on all cases for the 2010/11 year as requested in the question.

There were 172 persons aged 65 years and over who were in receipt of direct payments as at 31st March 2011, and the number of persons aged 65 and over who were in receipt of direct payments at some stage during the year 2010-11 would therefore be higher. The information you request is not available in ready-collated form, nor via automated reporting and to provide a precise response would require us to undertake a manual check of all the service user records concerned. Even if there were no more than 172 persons aged 65 and over who were in receipt of direct payments at some stage during the 2010-11 financial year and if it were to take only 7 minutes to locate and extract the relevant information from the service user's record, it would take in excess of 20 hours to locate and extract the information with which to answer this question and your question 7 below.

To the extent that the percentage figure provided in our response to your question 6 is derived from sampling rather than actual figures, this is a Refusal Notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act, because under the provisions of section 12.1 of the Act, the Council estimates that to comply with your request will exceed the appropriate limit.

In the year 2010-11, in what percentage of cases among older people was the final gross personal budget (inclusive of individual contributions) allocated to an individual less than the “indicative budget”, generated by the resource allocation system and used for support planning?

The percentage of older people for whom their final gross personal budget was less than (or equal to) the initial indicative allocation was 89%. It should be noted that this is an estimate based on sampling. The percentage is not based on all cases for the 2010/11 year as requested in the question.

Please see our response to your question 6 above for an indication of the work that would be entailed in locating and extracting figures from our records in order to calculate a percentage based on a full set of actual figures for response to this question and to your question 6.

To the extent that the percentage figure provided in our response to your question 7 is derived from sampling rather than actual figures, this is a Refusal Notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act, because under the provisions of section 12.1 of the Act, the Council estimates that to comply with your request will exceed the appropriate limit.

On April 1st 2010, what (if any) was the maximum amount per week that individuals would be expected to contribute towards their community care services and/or personal budgets?

The maximum weekly amount that people could be asked to contribute towards the cost of their community care services as at 1st April 2010 was £203.

On April 1st 2011, what (if any) was the maximum amount per week that individuals would be expected to contribute towards their community care services and / or personal budgets?

The maximum weekly amount that people could be asked to contribute towards the cost of their community care services as at 1st April 2011 was £203.

When submitting your request you asked that we note that any information we provide will not be used for commercial purposes and that for the avoidance of doubt, you were requesting Leicester City Council's permission to re-use the information supplied in our response for the purpose of research and non-commercial purposes including news reporting under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations (2005). This request is being made by the national organisation Age UK and is independent of our local Age UK network.

I can confirm that you have Leicester City Council's permission to use the information supplied for non-commercial purposes. In the event that you

were to decide that you wish to use the information for other purposes, then please contact the Head of Information Governance using the contact details supplied below.

May I apologise for the delay in responding to your request and for any inconvenience this may have caused.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Head of Information Governance
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG
e-mail: foia@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to Head of Information Governance before contacting the Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

Lynn Wyeth
Head of Information Governance