

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LEADER

DATE: 14 DECEMBER 2011

**REPORT OF: PAUL CAREY-KENT, SENIOR FINANCE
MANAGER**



**SUBJECT: VIREMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT AND BENEFITS TO
ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

To approve the virement of the Financial Assessment and Benefits function from the Change & Efficiency directorate to Adult Social Care.

DETAILS:

- 1 The Financial Assessment and Benefits (FAB) service works across the county on the benefits available to residents and the charges they will need to pay. The operation and budget of the Financial Assessments and Benefits service has previously been located within the Change and Efficiency Directorate.
- 2 The Director of Change & Efficiency and the Director of Adult Social Care have agreed that the Financial Assessment and Benefits (FAB) function should transfer from Change and Efficiency (CAE) to Adult Social Care (ASC). The Adult Social Care Select Committee was informed of the transfer at its meeting on 22 November 2011). Essentially the aim is to align the FAB function more closely with ASC in light of the increasing role of personalisation, the development of reablement and the introduction of a more unified Adult Information System, all of which increase the need to involve ASC fully in issues associated with charging. The debt collection function will remain with CAE, facilitating a clear concentration on maximising the amount collected.
- 3 The proposed virement from Change and Efficiency to Adult Social Care will cover the transfer of 21.8 Full-Time Equivalent staff. It will be for £357,696 in 2011/12 (to cover the period from 1 Dec 2011), with a full year effect of £900,407 from 2012/13 onwards.
- 4 The virement involved is more than £250,000 and involves a transfer between portfolios and so requires the agreement of Leader.

Consultation

- 5 Consultation has taken place with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health and the Adult Social Care Select Committee.

Financial and value for money implications

- 6 There are no value for money implications arising from this virement.

Equalities implications

7 There are no equalities implications arising from the virement.

Risk management implications

8 There are no risk management implications arising from this virement.

Implications for the Council's Community Strategy priorities

9 The new arrangements will make it easier to move towards a locality basis for FAB administration, which is helpful in terms of the community strategy.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

10 The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change. There are no implications arising from this report.

Legal implications/legislative requirements

11 There are no legal implications.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications - None.

Section 151 Officer commentary

12 The Section 151 Officer confirms that all material, financial and business issues and risks have been considered in this report

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the virement be approved to transfer responsibility for the Financial Assessment and Benefits service from the Director of Change and Efficiency to the Director of Adult Social Care

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To align the Financial Assessment and Benefits function more closely with Adult Social Care in light of the increasing role of personalisation, the development of reablement and the introduction of a more unified Adult Information System, all of which increase the need to involve Adult Social Care fully in issues associated with charging.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

Once approval is received the budget virement will be reflected in monthly budget monitoring.

Contact Officer:

Paul Carey-Kent, Senior Finance Manager
0208 541 8536; paul.carey-kent@surreycc.gov.uk

Consulted:

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Adult Social Care Select Committee

Sources/background papers:

Report to Adult Social Care Select Committee – 22 November 2011
