

Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group

Statement from the Review of Residential Placement Cost Fee Task & Finish Group

The Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group was invited by Leicestershire County Council to be involved in the Review of Residential Placement Cost Fee, in particular, to consider the Equalities & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) work and to discuss the draft findings from the consultation process.

LECG set up a Task & Finish Group to that purpose and members of the group met twice with Dave Pruden, the County Council Commissioning Officer from Adults & Communities Department.

At the first meeting on 14th January 2019, the Group received a briefing on the review; they considered the key issues of the pricing mechanisms, use of deferred and top up payments, the impact on self-funders and proposals.

At the second meeting on 16th May 2019, the group discussed the initial findings from the public consultation and engagement process and the draft EHRIA.

The following statement was agreed by members of the Group:

We appreciate that although there are significant budget pressures on the Council, this review was not expected to achieve any savings but rather to pursue value for money.

The group acknowledged that although equalities considerations were taken into account in the County Council's approach to the review, disappointingly but not surprisingly the response rates to both the online consultation and public meeting were extremely low.

LECG also recognised the challenges of engaging with 180 care homes across the county, small independent providers, members of public, carers, EMCARE, etc

Response rates:

- 14 Providers representing 35 care homes (5% of providers) attended consultation meetings or completed a questionnaire
- 6 people attended a public meeting; some of them were representing people in care homes.
- 2 family members sought further info and 3 attended a public meeting
- No response from advocacy agencies.

LECG members made following suggestions:

- Promotion of the feedback results to those who participated in the consultation process and to wider public
- Consultation timescales were too short – consider longer time scales in future.
- Avoid use of long web links on online questionnaires – shorter URL's should be considered.

- Better use of language format. Contextually information meant very little to general public. Plus would appear that complexity of the topic easily lent itself to confusion i.e. some members of public assumed that the consultation was just for providers and LCC, whilst some providers thought it was between public and LCC.
- More data analysis to be done/provided on the ethnicity of service users in early stages of EHRIA stage
- More follow up work to be done with those who did not engage or contribute to the consultation process i.e. advocacy agencies
- More comparison/track record info from other nearby Council's or even nationally.
- Would be helpful if information was provided task group members on the average levels of engagement within LCC consultations:
 - by phone
 - at meetings
 - by email
 - by web

The Group wish to thank Dave Pruden for his time and particularly for updating the EHRIA following LECG's request for further ethnicity analysis information on service users by protected characteristics. New info indicated that:

- vast majority of users are white
- difficult to draw conclusions with the very small number of black service users
- similar pattern of transfer to the new banding for Asian and White service users
- no apparent discrimination by ethnicity

LECG Task Group Members

Peter Lewis	LECG Chair
Resham Sandhu	Leicester Faith Forum
Liz Blackshaw	Young Family Education
Mina Rodgers	Older Persons Engagement Network
Micheal Smith	Healthwatch, Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland
Tad Stenzel	Leicestershire Ethnic Minority Forum
Carine Cardoza	LECG Engagement Officer

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