

Scrutiny Committee
19 August 2020

Item 5; Public Questions

Question received from Marilyn Heath:

Adults with Learning difficulties often have physical difficulties. Disability Network Norfolk Group (DNNG) members fit this category, cared for by family, often also in the shielded category.

To aid the health and well-being of the young person, members have requested money from the young adult's direct payment money for vital items during lockdown.

Why are these requests being routinely refused, not just at the beginning of the lockdown as indicated by Craig Chalmers at Cabinet, but eg June 10th which is 3 months into lockdown, and contrary to Government advice, and when will the extremely slow response time improve as they are delaying meeting vital needs?

Response from the Chairman:

All requests for equipment or services are examined within the scope of the Care Act and the new Direct Payment advice from Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS)/Local Government Association (LGA). This has offered advice on greater flexibility within the scope of a Direct Payment but still within the criteria of the Care Act. In this context some requests have been rejected on the basis of meetings needs while others have been granted. It is an individual needs assessment process, based on guidance which includes recent LGA/ADASS guidance. Throughout the period of lockdown and since this guidance has been relaxed, thousands of calls have been made to people with a learning disability and their carer's from ASSD LD Teams. The lack of flexibility with Direct Payments has not been widespread reported or been the subject of widespread complaints. If examples can be given, I will investigate and ensure where the request is within the guidance provided and within the scope of the Care Act, we will agree to it