

CÙRAM IS SLAINTE NAN EILEAN SIAR

INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD



Meeting date:	22 February 2024
Item:	9.1
Title:	Assisted Transport Policy
Responsible Officer:	Emma MacSween Head of Partnership Services & Community Care
Report Author:	Kirsty Street

1 Purpose

This is presented to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) for:

- Decision

This report relates to a:

- Local policy

Competence:

- There are no legal, financial, or other constraints associated with the report.

2 Report summary

2.1 Situation

2.1.1 Assisted Transport Policy – Aims and Objectives

The Assisted Transport Policy's core aim and objective is to reflect national and local priorities by promoting service user choice and control, independence, and an improved quality of life in the provision of local accessible services.

2.1.2 Transport Provision

Eligibility Assistance with travel should only be considered after all other options have been exhausted and this includes assistance with transport from family and friends including unpaid carer. This needs to be evidenced in an application for transport costs.

2.1.4 Affordability

An Outcome focused Assessment should consider the travel and transport arrangements that can be made from the individual's own resources. If they have access to a Motability car or other type of transport to and from community services, they would be expected to

use that method. Mobility benefits should also be used regardless of the SDS option that is chosen.

2.1.3 Exceptional circumstances

Additional assistance can be considered if e.g., a carer is caring for more than one dependent and the competing demands mean that the carer is not able to provide support with transport and/or there is a risk of financial hardship.

2.2 Background

In 2013 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, approved a comprehensive redesigned of its transport services; moving away from the integrated transport model managed by the Technical Services department to both Adult Services and Childrens Services managing their own transport requirements.

A change in service delivery was also required following the Introduction of Self-Directed Support and personalisation. In addition, it was recognised that increased flexibility was required within the service to address the wishes of individual service users not wishing to receive the traditional model of day care.

Day Services vehicles were no longer driven by designated staff employed purely to drive the mini buses and mini buses were not replaced once they had become no longer fit for purpose. Employee terms and conditions changed, with all remaining transport being driven by care staff with full driving licences.

Up until June 2019 the mini buses were travelling to areas out with Stornoway to pick up service users who were attending either Grianan or Ardseilleach and if there were empty seats in the mini bus they would transport service users who were attending other services such as MacAulay College or Lews Castle College.

Following the Covid Pandemic a number of service users had found alternative day opportunities, with less of nan emphasis on building based services.

2.3 Assessment

The Policy consultation was officially launched on the 5th of November 2022 with all supporting Information being uploaded onto the Comhairle website. The consultation period ran until the 7th of December 2022. Two live Q&A sessions took place, via MS Microsoft Teams, on the 15th and 23rd November: one in the evening and one in the afternoon. (Please see 2.3.8).

2.3.1 Quality/ Patient Care

The report has no direct impact on quality of care (and services).

2.3.2 Workforce

There is no direct impact on the workforce including resources, staff health and wellbeing.

2.3.3 Financial

The Policy operates within the existing budgetary provision for Adult Social Work Services through Self Directed Supports. There is no dedicated transport budget within the Department.

Accountants Name	Signature
Comment from the Chief Finance Officer:	

2.3.4 Risk Assessment/Management

The Impact Assessment is appended to the Report.

2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities.

The Impact Assessment is appended to the Report.

2.3.6 Climate Emergency and Sustainability Development

State how this report will support or impact on the Scottish Government's policy on Global Climate Emergency and Sustainability Development DL(2021)38.

An impact assessment has not been completed because it is not required.

2.3.7 Other impacts

Not applicable

2.3.8 Communication, involvement, engagement, and consultation

Two live community consultation events were conducted:

- Community Consultation Event 1: 15/11/22
- Community Consultation Event 2: 23/11/22

In addition, Advocacy Western Isles collated and submitted comments on behalf of the Speak Out Group. Furthermore, individual comments were also received.

The consultation information was available from 28th of October 2022 and 7th of December 2022.

2.3.9 Route to the Meeting

Agenda item of the October meeting of the Integrated Corporate Management Team.

2.4 Recommendation

Decision - Approval of the Assisted Transport, Adult Social Care: Policy Statement and Procedure as detailed in Appendix 1.

3 List of appendices

The following appendices are included with this report:

- Item 9.1.1 - Appendix 1: Assisted Transport, Adult Social Care: Policy Statement 2023
- Item 9.1.2 - Appendix 2: Initial Integrated Impact Assessment