

Notice of:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Decision Number:	PH6/2020
Relevant Officer:	Karen Smith, Director of Adult Services
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Decision:	7 February 2020

ADULT SOCIAL CARE FEES AND CHARGES 2020/21

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the 2020/21 proposed fees and charges for Adult Social Care services as detailed in the accompanying fees and charges schedules.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree the 2020/21 proposed fees and charges for Adult Social Care services as set out in Appendix A.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To recognise the increasing cost of providing services as a result of increases in the National Living Wage and other inflationary factors. To ensure the continued generation of income from assessed charges in order to support the provision of non-residential and residential care services in the context of reduced government funding. To continue to comply with the requirements of the Care Act 2014 and the statutory guidance issued by the Department of Health and Social Care.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 To not increase assessed charges for services.
If assessed charges are not increased in line with pay and non-pay pressures, then alternative sources of income will need to be identified or alternative savings proposed in order to ensure the Council can achieve a balanced budget. The requirement to find

alternative savings may impact on the level and range of services currently provided.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.

6.0 Background information

6.1 In order to support the continued provision of services, the fees and charges for adult social care have been reviewed to take account of the increased costs of providing care due to pay and non-pay inflation.

The proposed changes are as follows:

- a. To increase the charge for care at home, day care, sleep-ins and supported living services in line with any increase in contract rates 2020/21. These rates are currently under review following the National Living Wage 2020/21 announcement on 31 December 2019. This announcement was delayed as a result of the general election but it has now been confirmed that the rate which will apply for workers aged 25 and over on 1 April 2020 is £8.72 per hour. This represents an increase of 51p per hour or 6.2%. The actual cost of care based on the contract rate is included in a personal budget, which represents the total cost of all the services a person receives. A financial assessment is then undertaken to determine the amount a person can reasonably afford to contribute towards the overall cost of their personal budget.
- b. To increase the maximum weekly charge from £670 to £695 per week. This would currently impact on five service users. If the charge is increased above this amount this would generate additional income in the short term but risk a more rapid depletion of savings.
- c. To increase the charges for the maintenance of technology enabled care equipment by approximately 5% to reflect increased staff costs and the investment in a new digital platform designed to improve performance. Where service users receive the technology assistance as part of a package of care, the financial assessment process will determine the amount that is contributed towards the costs of care. Private subscribers will be required to pay the full amount of the increased charges.
- d. To increase the flat rate charge for transport from £2.50 to £2.60 per journey to reflect the general increase in passenger transport costs. This charge is still below the true cost of providing the service. This compares to the cost of a BTS 7 day bus pass at £16.60, a 3 day pass at £13.50 or a single fare at £2.40 for a medium journey.
- e. To increase the administration fee for setting up a non-residential package of care from £60 to £65, where service users have assets above the upper capital limit, currently £23,250. To increase the annual administration fee from £60 to £65 per annum to cover the costs of contract monitoring etc. The set-up fee represents approximately 3 hours of staff time to co-ordinate the initial care arrangements and the on-going administration charge allows for any subsequent changes to the

package, processing of payments.

f. It is proposed that the amount currently charged for setting up a Deferred Payment Agreement remains unchanged at £700 and the annual administration fee remains at £340 per annum. The initial set up fee covers the cost of inspecting the property and preparing a valuation report, legal costs associated with the preparation of the agreement and the time spent by Social Care Benefits Team co-ordinating the process. The valuation of the property is currently being undertaken by a private sector firm with charges which begin at £200 for a property valued up to £100k. The annual administration fee covers a two yearly inspection of the property to ensure that it is being maintained and the production of bi-annual statements.

g. The tenants of the Extra Care Housing Schemes currently contribute towards the "Peace of Mind" service which allows access to on-site care and support available 24/7. It is proposed that the current charge of £12.70 per week is uplifted in line with the increase in the care at home contract rate (to be determined). In addition to the charge for the "Peace of Mind" service, there is also a charge levied on tenants for the cost of providing an out-of-hours intensive housing management service. The current charge for this service is £7.10 per week and it is proposed that this is increased in line with the percentage increase in the care at home contract rate. Those service users entitled to housing benefit will have this cost covered as an eligible service charge.

h. The flat rate charge for an overnight stay in residential accommodation for the purpose of providing respite care is currently £15.90 per night. The Council requests this fixed rate contribution towards the daily living costs of food etc. that would otherwise be incurred. The increase in the state pension from April 2020 will be 3.9%, therefore an increase in the charge to £16.50 per night is proposed. Service users can request a full financial assessment if they prefer.

i. A similar increase in the flat rate charge for an overnight short stay in residential accommodation from £15.90 to £16.50 per night is proposed. This charge is fixed for the first two weeks and then a financial assessment is undertaken. However, service users can request a full financial assessment from the start of their stay if they prefer.

j. The provisional financial assessment rate for long term residential care pending a full financial assessment is currently £142.35 per week based on the standard minimum pension credit rate less the personal expenses allowance (i.e. £167.25 less £24.90 = 142.35 per week). The relevant rates for 2020/21 have not yet been announced but when published will be used to determine the provisional financial assessment rate in 2020/21.

k. When non- residential services are being provided and the financial assessment has not been completed, the full cost of the care will be charged on a provisional basis

until a full financial assessment has been completed.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix A: Adult Social Care Fees and Charges Schedules 2020/21

8.0 Legal considerations:

8.1 Charges are being adjusted with due regard to the requirements of the Care Act 2014, the Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014 and the Department of Health and Social Care's statutory guidance.

9.0 Human resources considerations:

9.1 Not applicable

10.0 Equalities considerations:

10.1 There is a higher take up of adult social care services by older people and people with a disability because these groups are more likely to need help with personal care as a result of ill-health, frailty, long term conditions, mental health issues and be at risk of physical injury. As a result they are dependent upon care and support to help meet their basic personal care needs and maintain their independence.

10.2 Therefore the proposals will disproportionately impact on older people, in particular older women who are more likely to need care as a result of a longer life expectancy and disabled groups. A full equality assessment has been undertaken.

11.0 Financial considerations:

11.1 Whilst the contract rates for the provision of adult social care services are yet to be confirmed following the relatively late announcement of the National Living Wage, the estimated additional income generated by increasing charges in 2020/21 by an amount of between 3% and 5 % is £57,000. This covers increases in charges for non-residential services and residential respite services (but not long-term residential care).

12.0 Risk management considerations:

12.1 There is a risk that people will not pay the increased contributions towards the cost of their services or that they may cancel their care.

13.0 Ethical considerations:

13.1 Not applicable.

14.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

14.1 The proposals form part of the Council's overall budget 2020/21 budget proposals which are subject to an ongoing consultation exercise.

15.0 Background papers:

15.1 Care and Support Act 2014
Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations
Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014

16.0 Key decision information:

16.1 Is this a key decision? No

16.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

16.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

16.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

17.0 Call-in information:

17.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

17.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

18.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

19.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

19.1 None.

20.0 Executive decision:

20.1 The Leader of the Council agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely:

To agree the 2020/21 proposed fees and charges for Adult Social Care services as set out in Appendix A.

21.0 Date of Decision:

21.1 7 February 2020

22.0 Reason(s) for decision:

22.1 To recognise the increasing cost of providing services as a result of increases in the National Living Wage and other inflationary factors. To ensure the continued generation of income from assessed charges in order to support the provision of non-residential and residential care services in the context of reduced government funding. To continue to comply with the requirements of the Care Act 2014 and the statutory guidance issued by the Department of Health and Social Care.

23.0 Date Decision published:

23.1 7 February 2020

24.0 Executive Members in attendance:

24.1

25.0 Call-in:

25.1

26.0 Notes:

26.1