

SERVICE USER IMPLICATIONS

1. Appendix 11 shows the impact on Adult Social Care service users of the options for financially assessed services. It shows the numbers of service users in various weekly payment bands and the amounts by which their weekly payments would increase. The impact of taking capital into account cannot be modelled accurately as we do not have data on capital for all our service users. The options will have a greater impact on older people rather than younger adults as on average they are likely to have higher incomes and higher levels of savings.
2. Changes to flat-rate contributions will impact on some service users in addition to those outlined above for financially-assessed services. The option in respect of respite care relates to older people, placing the contribution methodology on a consistent basis with that for younger adults. This is based on basic benefit levels to ensure that the contribution is affordable for all. This would add £25.75 (33%) for a week's residential respite or family placement care for approximately 270 service users.
3. The option for an increased meal contributions is 80p (36%) per main meal. There are currently around 1,300 recipients of meals and the maximum impact on someone receiving a main meal seven days a week would be an increase of £5.60 per week. A second meal is currently available through a pilot scheme at £1.30 and the contribution option included within the consultation was £1.90 per meal. Plans are being developed to roll-out this service city-wide and this will include an assessment of likely service user numbers.
4. Any changes to the financial assessment methodology may also impact on those who only receive Supporting People (SP) services. Most people getting SP services are in receipt of Housing Benefit, which makes them automatically eligible for SP subsidy and so they do not pay for their SP services. Those not receiving Housing Benefit are entitled to a financial assessment, which this is the same as the one used for Adult Social Care services, to determine whether they are eligible for SP subsidy.
5. The majority of these people will be in sheltered housing and in receipt of warden services. They may be affected by the higher percentage of disposable income and by capital being taken into account. However, it is intended to retain the existing financial assessment criteria used to assess qualifications for SP subsidy for tenants not in receipt of housing benefit. This means that most people currently receiving SP subsidy continue to do so.