

This survey has been sent out to all resident members of the Leeds City Council Citizens' Panel.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE - REVIEW OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CARE

The Council is currently reviewing the contributions service users make towards the cost of non-residential services that help people to remain living in their own homes. These services include home care, day care and the delivery of meals. As an example, the home care service can help someone to get out of bed and get washed and dressed in the mornings.

A national debate is under way into the long-term funding of social care services. This is being done in the light of population trends which show that people are living longer and will need higher levels of support, if they are to remain at home for as long as they would like. People's expectations of the care they receive are rising all the time and as a result, the nation's bill for care and support for older and disabled people living at home is growing.

In Leeds we want to make sure that we have enough money to provide the level of services that people need now and in the future. We also want to improve some important services. We are looking to increase the income from service users to enable us to invest more in Adult Social Care services.

We get a large amount of funding from the government and the Council Tax. However, we get less government funding than most other big cities and we do not get as much from service user contributions as most authorities. We want to make the contributions we ask service users to pay fairer and to reduce the differences between Leeds and most other authorities.

At present, Leeds takes much more generous approach than almost all other authorities in calculating how much people contribute towards the cost of non-residential care, for example we do not take savings into account and we take a lower percentage of people's disposable income (after living costs).

Example

Michael, 80, receives 11 hours of home care every week, since his arthritis makes moving around the house difficult. He receives £295 every week from his pension, and has a nest egg of £20,000 in savings. He currently pays £49.54 per week for the care he receives. If Michael moved to a neighbouring authority that took into account 100% of his disposable income (and also his savings), he would expect to pay between £85 and £112 per week for the same care.

Given that the amount of income directly impacts on the quantity and quality of services, it is time for the Council to reconsider the level of contribution service users make towards the cost of their services.

- The government's "Fairer Charging" guidance has to be followed and all service users have a financial assessment to ensure that no-one will be asked to pay more than they can afford.
- The service user contributions for non-residential services at the moment are less than half the total cost of providing them. For example, the contribution for home care at £8.80 per hour is only 39% of the actual cost - and for day care the contribution is only 7% of the actual cost.
- Subsidised services for those assessed as needing them will remain, although the level of subsidy may reduce.

N.B. Questions 1 to 10 relate to the leisure centres element of this survey

Q11. Have you ever received any Adult Social Care services or do you know someone who has?

Please tick one box only

I have received them myself	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
A relative has received them	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Someone I know has received them	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
I have not received any of these services and do not know anyone who has	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

Q12. Were you aware that service users are asked to contribute towards the cost of their social care services?

Please tick one box only

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
No	<input type="checkbox"/> 2

There are four ways in which income from service users could be increased and we would like your views on each. Service users will be financially assessed to make sure that no-one pays more than they can afford.

Q13. Leeds could increase the amount people pay for each service e.g. the rate for an hour's home care or for a day's attendance at a day centre.

How far do you agree with an increase in the contribution for services to enable us to invest more in Adult Social Care services?

Please tick one box only

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

Q14. The maximum weekly contribution covers all the individual services a person receives and is the most anyone pays whatever their financial circumstances or the level of service they receive. Currently in Leeds the maximum weekly contribution is £88 per week, regardless of whether people have enough money to pay more towards the cost of their care.

How far do you agree with increasing the maximum weekly contribution?

Please tick one box only

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

Q15. In the financial assessment we look at people's income and then give them allowances for day to day expenses, housing costs and any costs related to their disability. We deduct all these allowances from their income and if there is anything left over this is called disposable income. The government guidance says that councils can take 100% of disposable income as being available as a contribution towards the cost of someone's

services. Most other local authorities take 100%, but in Leeds at the moment we only take 50% of disposable income as a contribution.

How far do you agree with increasing the disposable income percentage to enable us to invest more in Adult Social Care services?

Please tick one box only

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

- Q16. In Leeds we currently ignore any savings or investments that people have in assessing the amount they can pay towards the cost of their services. Almost all other local authorities take savings and investments into account. The Government says that we must ignore the value of a person's home and any savings and investments below £13,500.

How far do you agree with taking savings and investments over £13,500 into account to enable us to invest more in Adult Social Care services?

Please tick one box only

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

- Q17. **If the Council increased the contributions service users make towards their non-residential Adult Social Care services, how far do you agree that this would affect people's take-up of these services?**

Please tick one box only

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

- Q18. **Are there any other comments you would like to make about service user contributions for adult social care services?**

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Thank you for completing this survey. Please return by **Friday 17th October** in the Freepost envelope provided.