

# Adult Social Care Consultation on Charging for Non-Residential Services Briefing Note



## 1 Reasons for the Charging Review

- 1.1 Although changes were made to the Adult Social Care charging policy in 2009 & 2011, customers in Leeds continue to pay less than in most authorities. Also, the demands on social care services are increasing and government funding to councils is reducing. In this context, in July 2012 Executive Board approved a consultation process on further proposed changes. At this stage no decisions on any changes to charges have been made.
- 1.2 There are some anomalies in the current charging arrangements that give rise to potential inequities e.g.
- Charges are made for respite care provided in a residential home, but respite care provided in community settings such as sitting services in the customer's home do not currently attract a charge
  - The services people receive through mental health day centres are not currently treated as chargeable services, but this is not consistent with day services for other client groups

## 2 Scope of the Review & Consultation Proposals

- 2.1 The Council has direct responsibility for setting customer charges for services provided to meet assessed social care needs following a care assessment and for any other services for which the Council is the provider. These services are within the scope of this charging review. For social care services commissioned by the Council that are not necessarily accessed via a care assessment the Council will seek to achieve consistency in charging arrangements through the commissioning process. This process will follow on from the current charging review rather than being dealt with as part of this review.
- 2.2 The proposals for consultation are:
- introducing new charges for some services that are currently free, and
  - changing the way that we charge people and how much they will be asked to pay towards the services that they receive
- 2.3 The proposed new charges are:

	Indicative Charges	Mainly Charged for Elsewhere
<u>Home Based Sitting Services</u> Shared Lives Outreach Shared Lives Day Support	£13.00 per hour daytime, £14.50 waking night-time £13.00 per hour	Yes
<u>Mental Health Services</u> Directly provided day services	£9.00 per session (group), £18.00 per hour (one to one)	Yes
<u>Care Ring &amp; Telecare</u> Care Ring (1st generation - pendant alarm) Telecare (2nd generation - peripheral monitors) Telecare (3rd generation - GPS system) Telecare Just Checking (usually short-term) Mobile Response Service	£2.00 per week + £1.20 equipment rental (+VAT) £3.00 per week + £2.50 equipment rental £9.00 per week + £3.50 equipment rental £9.00 per week + £7.50 equipment rental £3.00 per week	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes

- 2.4 For mental health housing support services there is a proposed increase in the charge from £13.00 per hour to £18.00 per hour to reflect the cost of providing the service.
- 2.5 The two proposed changes to the financial assessment methodology are:
- Adopting the same approach to capital (savings and investments) as is used for residential assessments (but excluding the value of a person's home)
  - Assessing 100% of disposable income (after allowances for daily living, housing and disability related costs) as being available to contribute towards care services (currently 90%)

### 3 Impact of Proposals

- 3.1 These proposals would generate estimated net additional income the Council of £2.7m in a full year. As with previous charging reviews, the additional income arising from the proposals within this review will be reinvested to support service improvements and help to mitigate future financial pressures within Adult Social Care services.
- 3.2 For customers who have been financially assessed 3,450 (65%) would see no change in their payments. For 140 people (2%), mainly those with savings over £23,250, the increase would be more than £50 per week.
- 3.3 The impact of the proposals to introduce new charges cannot be determined accurately as the substantial majority of customers are not receiving other chargeable services and so have not been financially assessed. Overall, 43% of people who are financially assessed do not contribute towards their care services. The Care Ring charge was proposed in the consultation to be applicable to all customers without being subject to a financial assessment, unless it forms part of a care package to meet eligible social care needs.
- 3.4 When changes have been made to charges previously, transitional arrangements have been put in place to limit the impact on existing customers initially to give them time to adjust to the new charges. These phased arrangements will apply to any changes arising from this review.

### 4 Consultation Approach, Outcomes & Decision Making Timescales

- 4.1 The consultation process is being supported by a Service Expert Advisory Group. This group has reviewed the overall consultation approach and the consultation documentation that was sent to customers. It is now considering the feedback received through the consultation process and preparing a report on it. The group is also supporting the preparation of the Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Impact Assessment.
- 4.2 A Members Advisory Board with representatives from all political groups has also been overseeing the charging review from the outset and will consider the final proposals before they are submitted to Executive Board.
- 4.3 The consultation period was September to December 2013. Consultation documents outlining the proposals and seeking feedback on their potential impact were sent to approximately 20,000 customers and just over 3,000 have been returned. Drop-in sessions for customers have taken place across the city and focus groups have been held with VCFS organisations and other stakeholder groups.
- 4.4 The consultation process has yielded a wealth of information that is currently being analysed and shared with the Service Expert Advisory Group. The main concerns raised in the consultation relate to affordability and this is a particular issue for Care Ring as people would not be financially assessed. The charging review team is looking into possible ways of mitigating the impact of this proposal. People living in sheltered accommodation also raised concerns about whether they would be able to opt out of the service or whether it was a requirement in their tenancy. Environments & Neighbourhoods have confirmed that people living in sheltered accommodation will be able to exercise their choice about whether to use Care Ring in the same way as people living elsewhere.
- 4.5 Taking account of the consultation feedback and the Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Impact Assessment the charging review team is considering whether any changes to the original proposals should be recommended to Executive Board.
- 4.6 A report with final recommendations is currently scheduled for Executive Board in April 2013. All customers will be advised of the outcome and given a minimum of one month's notice of any changes that will affect them.