

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REPORT**

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: Home Care Charges 1997/98
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 22 April 1997	
REF: JD/RP/MD	

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To approve the charging policy in respect of domiciliary services for 1997/98.

**2. HISTORY**

The present charging policy and rates were introduced in January 1994 by Strathclyde Regional Council and were adopted by North Lanarkshire Council in April 1996. The charges were to cover all domiciliary services, i.e. home help, flexicare, carer support, homemakers and meals on wheels with the charge levied being based on an individual's assessed need and taking account of their ability to pay. The charge to date has only been applied to those who receive the home help service and meals on wheels and the rates which have been charged since January 1994 to date are shown in appendix I.

**3. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CHARGES**

It is proposed to make two changes to the charging made for domiciliary services as follows:

- ◆ Apply the charges for home care services to all types of home care and not only to the home help service.
- Increase charges in recognition of the increase in costs since the charges were first introduced in 1994.

The application of the charges to all types of home care service is in line with the charging policy as it was originally intended and is fairer than the present system where people receiving the home help service are treated differently from those receiving very similar services which are provided by in house projects or independent providers.

The proposed charges which will apply in 1997/98 are shown in Appendix II.

#### 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW CHARGES

The department recognises the importance of maximising clients income as an essential part of implementing a charging policy. People in receipt of home care services will therefore be offered benefits advice to ensure that they are aware of their full benefit entitlement.

In addition, proposed charges will exclude from charging those clients who have income of less than £110 per week.

The new charges will be applied to clients from the date in 1997/98 on which a detailed financial assessment is carried out and charges will not be applied retrospectively to periods prior to the date of assessment.

#### 5. ONGOING REVIEW OF CHARGES

Previous reports have highlighted the need for a detailed review of the charging policy since many anomalies exist in the present system. This is true both in the context of the variance charges for different services within North Lanarkshire and the differing policy applying across Scotland.

The Director intends to review the charging policy of the department during the early part of 1997/98 and will bring a report to committee during the year with further proposals on how the policy can be rationalised.

#### 6. RECOMMENDATION

Committee is asked to :

- ♦ Approve implementation of the new charges in Appendix II
- ♦ Approve the application of the charges to all home care services both in - house and those provided by the independent sector.
- ♦ Endorse the policy of maximising clients income as part of the process of implementing the new charges.
- ♦ Note the Director of Social Work is reviewing the current charging policy of the Department and intends to bring a further report to committee in 1997/98.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**7 April 1997**

*For further information on this report please contact, Ronald Paul, Head of Social Work Resources (TEL: 01698 332023)*

## Home Care Charging Policy 1996/97

### SINGLE PERSON

Income Bands	Charge Rate
Under £110.00	NIL
£111.00	£1.00
£112.00	£2.00
£113.00	£3.00
£114.00	£4.00
£115.00	£5.00
£116.00	£6.00
£117.00	£7.00
£118.00	£8.00
£119.00	£9.00
£120.00 - £145.00	£10.00
£150.00 - £185.00	£15.00
£190.00 - £285.00	£20.00
£290.00 +	£25.00

Sliding Scale on Intermediate ranges

### COUPLES

INCOME BANDS	CHARGES
Under £135	Nil
£135 - £144	Between £1 & £9
£145 - £170	£10
£175 - £210	£15
£215 - £300	£20
£300 +	£25

Sliding Scale on Intermediate Ranges

Singleton Service

3.00

### COMMUNITY MEALS

No. of Courses	1993 to Date
2	0.75
3	0.81

## Home Care Charging Policy 1997/98

### SINGLE PERSON

Income Bands	Charge Rate
Under £109.00	NIL
£109.00	NIL
£110.00	£1.00
£111.00	£2.00
£112.00	£3.00
£113.00	£4.00
£114.00	£5.00
£115.00	£6.00
£116.00	£7.00
£117.00	£8.00
£118.00	£9.00
£119.00	£10.00
£120.00 - £145.00	£11.00
£150.00 - £185.00	£16.50
£190.00 - £285.00	£22.00
£290.00 +	£27.50

### COUPLES

INCOME BANDS	CHARGES
Under £134	Nil
£135 - £144	Between £1 & £10
£145 - £170	£11
£175 - £210	£16.50
£215 - £300	£22
£305 +	£27.50

Sliding Scale on Intermediate Ranges

Singleton Service

4.00

### COMMUNITY MEALS

No. of Courses	Revised Charge
2	0.82
3	0.89