

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: HOME CARE CHARGING
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 25 January 2001	
REPORT AUTHOR: George McNally	
REF: JD/GMCI/JMCF	

1 CONTENT AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the approval of the Social Work Committee to amend the home care charging system to ensure that any increase in charge is contained within the rate of inflation.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Social Work Committee at its meeting on 3 March 1998 approved the current arrangements for calculating home care charges. For single people there is no charge to those who have an income of less than £100, the level of payment for client whose income exceeds the £100 threshold is based on a 25% contribution of the excess income. However, the charge can not be greater than the cost of the actual service.
- 2.2 For couples there is no charge for home care services to those whose income is less than £120, similar to single people, the charge is based on 25% contribution of the balance of income above £120 threshold.
- 2.3 As it is almost three years since the current policy was approved, it is appropriate therefore for the Social Work Committee to review the charging structure. Such action will ensure that people at the lower end of the income spectrum are not brought into a charge band. In addition, it also ensures that those who are paying a charge are not subject to an increase which is greater than the inflationary rate.

3 AMENDMENT TO CHARGING STRUCTURE

- 3.1 It is proposed that the threshold at which charges are applied are increased as follows:

Current		Proposed	
Single Person	£100	Single Person	£107
Couple	£120	Couple	£130

- 3.2 By amending the charge threshold it ensures that following the uprating of Social Security benefits in April 2001, any increase in the home care charges will be limited to that appropriate to the rate of inflation. It also provides that persons receiving a home care service and who are eligible to contribute to the overall costs are not paying a disproportionate increase. The appendix attached to this report illustrates typical income levels for those receiving a home care service and the resultant charges which have to be met.
- 3.3 In calculating the home care charge, housing costs ie. rent and mortgage are deducted from the person's income ensuring that they do not form part of the calculation. In addition any payments which are received in respect of winter fuel allowance are similarly disregarded.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 In consequence of the amendment to the home care charge threshold, the Council is ensuring that persons who have limited levels of income are not incurring a charge for the service and the annual increase in charges is affordable to those people who have to pay for the service.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Committee is requested to:
- (i) Approve the amendment to the home care charge threshold
 - (ii) To otherwise note the report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
18 December 2000

For further information on this report please contact, George McNally, Principal Officer (Strategy) (TEL: 01698 332063)

Person in receipt of Income Support and Low Rate Attendance Allowance

<u>Weekly Income</u>	<u>Threshold</u>	<u>Excess Income</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>% Increase on</u>
£ 162.50	£100	£62.50	£15.51		
£ 170.70	£107	£63.70 (25%)	£15.92	36p	2.3%

Person in receipt of Income Support and High Rate Attendance Allowance

<u>Weekly Income</u>	<u>Threshold</u>	<u>Excess Income</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>% Increase on</u>
£179.80	£100	£79.80 (25%)	£19.95		
£189.00	£107	£82.00 (25%)	£20.50	55p	2.7%

Person in receipt of Income Support and one in receipt of Low Rate Attendance Allowance

<u>Weekly Income</u>	<u>Threshold</u>	<u>Excess Income</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>% Increase on</u>
£166.85	£120	£46.85 (25%)	£11.71		
£177.55	£130	£47.55 (25%)	£11.88	17p	1.4%

one in receipt of Income Support and one in receipt of High Rate Attendance Allowance

<u>Weekly Income</u>	<u>Threshold</u>	<u>Excess Income</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>% Increase on</u>
£184.60	£120	£64.60 (25%)	£16.15		
£195.85	£130	£65.85 (25%)	£16.46	31p	1.9%