

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: CHARGING FOR HOME CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 27 FEBRUARY 2003	Ref: JD/GMcI/DH	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To seek approval to establish a rate of charges for home care services for the period 2003/2004 and to request approval of Committee to defer consideration of charges for support services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. North Lanarkshire Council currently operates a means tested system of charges for people who receive a home care service. Currently home care services are free to individuals who have a net income of less than £111. For those with an income in excess of the threshold figure (£111) charges are determined by a percentage contribution taken from the excess income above the threshold figure. The percentage contribution is 25% of the service users assessable income. No service user pays a charge which exceeds the actual cost of the service.
- 2.2. The level of income which a single service user begins to contribute towards the cost of the service is taken from COSLA guidance. For the current year this is £111 from April 2003 the figure will be £115. [See appendix 1].
- 2.3. The introduction of support services under Supporting People arrangements allows the Council to levy a charge for such services. If the Council consented to charges for housing support services the most appropriate way to proceed would be to amalgamate the home care charge arrangements with housing support services. However, under the new rules which will apply from April warden services provided as part of the sheltered housing arrangements would be deemed to be a housing support service. Whilst people in receipt of Housing Benefit would be exempt from this charge, those with an income which takes them above the level of entitlement to Housing Benefit would require to pay the full cost of the warden service.
- 2.4. The cost of warden services provided varies widely across the Authority depending on the nature of intensity of the services provided. Charges range from £6 per week at the lower end to £75 per week for intensive support.
- 2.5. From research which has been conducted by Social Work and Housing and Property Services staff it is estimated that approximately 1,200 local authority tenants receive a warden service. For Housing Association tenants, the figure is 770. Further research suggests that in local authority tenancies there would be approximately 27 people who because of their circumstances would require to pay the full cost of the warden service. In Housing Association properties the figure is estimated at 210.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. The full impact of the number of people who would be liable to pay for their warden services has only recently come to light. In the circumstances any consideration for charging for warden services should be deferred until 2004.
- 3.2. The costs associated with such action are estimated at, £143,664 for Housing Associations, and for local authority tenants a further £47,188 making a total cost £190,852.
- 3.3. The Council if it decides to defer charges for warden services and housing support services, will have to fund the shortfall of £190,852. Social Work Department and Housing and Property Services are currently exploring how the cost can be met from Supporting People resources.
- 3.4. In line with the COSLA recommendations for Home Care Service charging arrangements, the level of income at which service users become liable for a charge be uprated from £111 to £115 for single people and for couples the figure will increase from £169 to £175. It is further proposed that the percentage contribution which service users make towards the cost of the service be maintained at the current level of 25% of the excess income.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 By maintaining the current taper of 25% of the excess income and raising the threshold to £115, the Council will maintain the revenue currently collected from charges for Home Care Services.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- i) Agree not to charge for housing support services.
- ii) Agree proposals and arrangements for home care charges.
- iii) To remit the report to Housing & Property Services Committee for information.
- iii) To otherwise note the report.



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Director of Social Work
29 January 2003

For further information on this report please contact Goerge McNally, Manager Social Work Strategy
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Appendix 1; Example

2002/2003

The typical income, for a single person in receipt of income support and attendance allowance is, £178.05
The threshold for 2002/2003 is £111.

£ 178.05
-£ 111.00
£ 67.05

£ 67.05 x 25% = £ 16.76 charge.

2003/2004

The typical income, for a single person in receipt of income support and attendance allowance is £183.35.
The current threshold for 2003/2004 is £115.

£ 183.35
-£ 115.00
£ 68.35

£ 68.35 x 25% = £ 17.03 charge.

On average this will increase the charge for service users by £00.27p per week.