

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: CHARGING FOR CARE AT HOME SERVICES	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK			
Date: 5 OCTOBER 2004	Ref: REF: JN/DR		

1. Purpose of Report/Introduction

To advise Committee of the arrangements in place for Charging for Care at Home Services.

2. Background

- 2.1. At the Operations and Services Sub Committee of 10th August 2004, members asked for information on charging for Care at Home Services.
- 2.2. In common with other local authorities in Scotland, North Lanarkshire Council applies charges, based on the ability to pay, for Care at Home Services.
- 2.3. Prior to any charge being applied each service user has their income checked to ensure that they are not missing out on any benefit entitlement. Only when income is maximised are charges applied and even then only if appropriate. Where charges are applied, the impact of income maximisation can result in the service user being financially better off than before.
- 2.4. The Care at Home Service provides 3 related components of care to people in their own homes, all 3 of which may be charged for with some exceptions.
 - i) Personal Care – assistance with personal care tasks is provided free to people aged 65 and over.
 - ii) Housing Support – service users in receipt of housing benefit or whose services were funded by Special Needs Allowance Package, or receive a short term service such as homeless assistance or were residents in local authority sheltered housing accommodation prior to April 2004 are not charged for this component.
 - iii) Domestic assistance – all domestic tasks are chargeable, based on ability to pay.
- 2.5. The policy allows for charges to be waived where the service user will experience genuine hardship if required to pay.

3. Current Situation

- 3.1. Around 5,200 people receive Care at Home Services in North Lanarkshire. Of these, around 2,000 pay approximately £50 every 4 weeks for services.
- 3.2. The estimated projected income for this financial year will be £1.2M subject to a number of variables including the actual proportion of paying service users remaining constant.

4. **Financial / Personal / Legal / Policy Implications**

4.1 This report is for information only.

5. **Recommendation**

5.1 Committee is asked:

(i) to note the contents of this report


Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
(20th September 2004)

For further information on this report please contact Jim Nisbet, Manager, Community Care (Older People) on telephone 01698 332031.