

North Lanarkshire Council

Report

Adult Health and Social Care Committee

approval noting

Ref JC/PMcA/ES

Date 12/05/20

Charges For Non Residential Services, Meals Provision, Independent Sector Care Homes, In House Residential Care & Respite Care

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the charging levels to be applied for non residential services, meals provision, independent sector care homes, in house residential care and respite care in 2020/21.

The Council's charging policy has been updated for 2020/21 to reflect the new rates.

The Council's leaflet on charges will be revised and updated to reflect the changes for 2020/21 and made available to residents /service users.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee notes:

- a) the threshold figure for payment of home support charges set at £218 for single people and £332 for couples;
- b) the hourly rate for home support of £18.06;
- c) the daily rate for attending an Integrated Day Service of £10.00;
- d) the charge for meals provided in day services of £5.10;
- e) implementation of the increase to Independent Sector Care Home fees as negotiated via COSLA, Scottish Care and the Scottish Government;
- f) a charge for in house residential care of £661 per week;
- g) an uplift in charges for residential respite in line with increases in pensions and allowances; and
- h) free personal care and nursing care will rise from £177 to £180 and £80 to £81

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority Improve economic opportunities and outcomes

Ambition statement (12) Ensure our residents are able to achieve, maintain, and recover their independence through appropriate supports at home and in their communities

1. Background

- 1.1 Local Authorities are empowered through the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and the Housing Scotland Act, 2001 to apply charges for services. In setting its charging levels, North Lanarkshire Council has followed the national guidance issued by COSLA in respect of charging.
- 1.2 The COSLA guidance operates on the principle that people on the lowest levels of income do not pay for the service and that those who do pay contribute according to their means. This objective is achieved by setting a charge threshold which is up-rated annually and applying a taper contribution of income above the threshold level (see 2.1).
- 1.3 In accordance with COSLA guidance, North Lanarkshire Council maximises the income of all service users who are liable to make a contribution towards the cost of the service. In 2019/20, the Financial Inclusion Team generated benefit income in the region of £2.1m for people receiving a non-residential service.

2. Report

Non Residential Services

- 2.1 In line with the COSLA recommendations, the charge threshold for 2020/2021 will be £218 per week for a single person and £332 for couples (2019/20 £210 and £320). Persons with income less than those figures will not be required to pay for home support services.
- 2.2 When calculating maximum service users charge, the Council deducts from their assessable income any costs which the service user is liable for in respect of housing costs, i.e. rent, mortgage, council tax and water charges. A taper contribution of 50% of excess income is then applied. For example, a single person with income of £245 per week after deductions would have their charge assessed as follows:

Income	£245
Threshold	£218
Disposable Income	£ 27

Client charge = £27 x 50% = £13.50
- 2.3 The hourly rate for Home Support Services will increase by 1.8%, from £17.74 to £18.06.
- 2.4 The charge applied for attending an Integrated Day Service will be £10.00 per day.
- 2.5 Charges for meals provided in day services will also increase by 1.8% from £5.00 to £5.10 for 2020/21.
- 2.6 Following Council Committee Approval, a charge for Community Alarms will be made, at the rate of £3.40 per week.

Independent Sector Care Home Fees

- 2.7 Care home fees are negotiated annually via COSLA, Scottish Care and the Government. The weekly rates for 2020/21 are £740.00 (Nursing Care) and £635.79 (Residential Care) both effective from 6 April 2020.

The Nursing and Residential Care Home Rates are based on the previously agreed benchmarks for direct care costs in the NCHC Care Home Cost Model. There will be further discussion on the Cost Model in 2020, but with regard to the current challenges the priority is to ensure that direct cost increases, particularly in salaries and wages can be met.

The financial settlement requires all providers delivering publicly funded care to pay all care workers, regardless of age, experience or time in employment, a minimum of £9.30 per hour from 6th April 2020, in line with the commitment to the Living Wage policy. The settlement also commits providers employing nurses and delivering publicly funded care to pay nursing staff Agenda for Change band 5 top point as benchmarked in the Care Home Cost Model.

In-house Residential Care

- 2.8 The Council is required to set a rate for residential care provided in its own homes. The current rate of £649 would be increased to £661 per week in line with the inflationary uplift applied to other social work services.

Respite

- 2.9 The weekly charge for residential respite (£101.45 in 2019/20) will rise in line with increases in pensions and allowances to £105.50 for 2020/21.

Free Personal Care

- 2.10 The rates to be applied to free personal care and nursing care for people in residential homes for 2020/21 will rise in accordance with the Scottish Government directive from £177 to £180 and £80 to £81.

3. Equality and Diversity

- 3.1 Fairer Scotland Duty
- 3.2 Equality Impact Assessment

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Impact

The new threshold figure at which service users will become liable for home support charges is in line with the existing policy of the Council. It affords protection to those on incomes less than £218 for single people and £332 for couples. People with income below these thresholds will be exempt from charges.

The hourly charge for support services, meals and in house residential care for 2020/21 is increased by 1.8%.

The actual amount which a person will contribute towards the cost of their care in a residential home will be determined by a financial assessment applying national guidance.

4.2 **HR/Policy/Legislative Impact**

Free Personal Care (FPC)

Free Personal Care (FPC) for over 65s was introduced in 2002, following recommendations of the Royal Commission on Long-Term Care which recommended that personal care should be funded from general taxation.

Legislation was passed in June 2018 to extend FPC to under 65s and this came into force on 1st April 2019.

Self-funders in residential care are eligible to receive a payment direct to the care provider for their personal care, as set out in Regulations. At present this is £180 per week for personal care

The change in legislation to extend FPC to under 65's does not automatically mean that service users will not be charged, as many under 65's receive other types of support, other than FPC.

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, which came into force in April 2018 was developed to support carers through a rights based and preventative approach. The Act introduced the power and the duty to support carers, including the requirement to waive charges for supports identified through an Adult Carer Support Plan or Young Carer Statement.

4.3 **Environmental Impact**

No implications.

4.4 **Risk Impact**

There is no significant risk with the changes to the Non Residential Charging Policy.

5. Measures of success

- 5.1 Through the income maximisation and charging policy, service users have their income fully maximised through the social security benefit system.
- 5.2 This policy ensures that disability benefits etc are claimed and the Council in turn receive revenue from charges for services.

6. Supporting documents

- 6.1 N/A



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