



Social Care Services Board
Thursday 23 June 2016

Consultation on a revised Charging Policy for Adult Social Care Services

Purpose of the report: Scrutiny of Services and Budgets/ /Policy Development and Review

Income from charging is an important contribution to Adult Social Care's budget. In the light of the very significant pressures facing the Council, a review of the charging policy was undertaken to ensure that services are not subsidised unnecessarily. Proposals to revise the charging policy were considered by the Cabinet and approved for consultation. This report outlines the proposed changes to the charging policy in advance of the further report to Cabinet on 14 July 2016.

Summary:

1. At the Cabinet meeting on 22 March 2016, it was agreed that the Council would consult on proposals to revise the charging policy for Adult Social Care services. The Cabinet report setting out the proposals is attached at Annex A, together with the initial Equalities Impact Assessment.
2. The consultation commenced on 7 April 2016 and closed on 16 June 2016. A further report, including an updated Equalities Impact Assessment, will be presented to Cabinet on 14 July 2016 detailing the responses to the consultation.
3. At the time of writing this report, 1,500 responses to the consultation have been received. These responses are currently being analysed and a verbal update of the responses will be provided to the Social Care Services Board on 23 June 2016.
4. The proposals to revise the charging policy, if agreed, will bring the Council's charging policy in line with the charging policies of many other local authorities. The proposals will not change charging for people in long term residential or nursing care but may impact on people receiving care and support in their own homes or receiving respite care. The four proposals are summarised below:

4.1 The Council will charge an administration fee in any case where the person is able to pay the full cost of their care and support at home but nevertheless asks the council to commission care on their behalf;

4.2 The Council will increase the amount of available income contributed in charges for non-residential services from 90% to 100%;

4.3 The Council will include the full rate of Higher Rate Attendance Allowance/Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payment (excluding mobility elements) in the calculation of income;

4.4 The Council will no longer give a discretionary allowance of £20 per week when calculating the available income for respite services.

Recommendations:

5. It is recommended that the Social Care Services Board considers the proposals to revise the charging policy and receives an update on the consultation outcomes.

Report contact: Toni Carney, Head of Resources and Caldicott Guardian, Adult Social Care

Contact details:

Email: toni.carney@surreycc.gov.uk

Tel. 01483 519473

Sources/background papers:

Annex A: Cabinet Report; containing:

- Annex 1: Comparison with other local authorities
- Annex 2: Equalities Impact Assessment