

Social Care Services Board

Item under consideration: Consultation on a Revised Charging Policy for Adult Social Care Services

Date Considered: 23 June 2016

1. The Board was given a preliminary summary of the responses to the consultation and heard from representatives from the Surrey Coalition of Disabled People and Action for Carers.
2. It noted that there was strong resistance to the proposed changes and concerns about the detrimental impact on disabled people, their carers and families given the reduction in disposable income.
3. The Board expressed the view that there was not sufficient evidence of how the proposed changes would affect individuals in the Equalities Impact Assessment.
4. The Board was informed by the Cabinet Associate for Adult Social Care that the decision would see Surrey move in parallel with other local authorities. It was highlighted by the Board and external witnesses that the cost of living in Surrey was comparable to London, and not the local authorities cited in the consultation document.
5. The Board commented that it was not apparent whether the additional revenue generated as a result of the proposed changes would also mean additional implementation and administrative costs to the Council.
6. The Board expressed support for a set-up administration charge but questioned what weekly costs were being incurred that justified making an additional charge.
7. The Board understands the need for potential cost saving measures, but does not endorse the proposals as they currently stand, with the exception of the administration set-up fee.

It recommends:

- That the Cabinet demonstrate they have taken the impact of carers and families into account and have sought to mitigate this impact through a more robust Equalities Impact Assessment

- That Cabinet provide greater evidence for the cost-benefit of implementing the proposed changes to Adult Social Care charging policy
- That the Cabinet provide evidence as to how the administration fee is calculated and when it will be subject to review
- That, taking individual concerns into consideration, the Cabinet establish there are no indirect impacts on an individual's package arising from:
 - the implementation of the national living wage;
 - the review into the grants programme.

Keith Witham
Chairman of the Social Care Services Board