

SLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Executive Meeting
Date:	14 February 2017
Subject:	Community based Non-residential Social Care Services – 2017/18 charges & Fees
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Aled Morris Jones
Head of Service:	Alwyn Rhys Jones – Head of Service
Report Author: Tel: E-mail:	Dafydd Bulman – Strategic Transformation a Business Manager 01248 752013 Dafyddbulman@ynysmon.gov.uk Delyth LI Jones – Senior Finance Officer 01248 752785 DelythJones@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	All members

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s
<p>1. Background</p> <p>1.1 It is usual practice to review the charges in respect of domiciliary services annually to coincide with Central Government revision of benefit and pension levels which will apply this year from 01/04/17</p> <p>1.2 The report sets out community based non-residential social care charges & Fees for 2017/18 in accordance with the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.</p> <p>2. Review of Local Charging Policies and Practices – 2017/18</p> <p>2.1 <u>Home Care Services</u></p> <p>2.2 The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 indicated that Local Authorities set the minimum residual income levels in respect of the coming year. As in previous years, the Authority will need to confirm the following residual income levels having allowed for a 45% buffer together with the uplift in benefit and pension levels effective as of 01/04/17. Below are the residual income levels to be applied during 2017/18 :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persons of Pension Age: £231.06 - Persons below Pension Age: £153.19 <p>2.3 The charges noted in table 1 have been set historically by the Council as a blanket charge for all individuals in receipt of Higher Attendance Allowance.</p>

Table 1 Current Home Care Charges:

Category	2016/17 Charge
1. On means tested benefits – NOT receiving higher Attendance Allowance (£82.30)	NO CHARGE
2. On means tested benefits – IN RECEIPT OF higher attendance allowance (£82.30)	£15.00
3. Not in receipt of means tested benefits and subject to the residual income level	£60.00 (Welsh government are currently consulting on raising this to £70 to come into force in April 2017)

2.4 A report was presented to scrutiny in November 2016 recommending that this position be reviewed, and recommending a consultation period with relevant individuals in relation to a banded approach to charge for individuals in receipt of Higher Attendance Allowance.

2.5 The proposed charging structure for 2017/18 and upon which our consultation was based is as follows:-

Table 2 – Ynys Mon Proposed Charges*

If you are above pension age with a current weekly income of £231.06 or above in 2017/18:	Weekly charges	If you are below pension age with a current weekly income of £153.19 or above in 2017/18:
And your income is below £236.05 per week	NO CHARGE	And your income is below £158.18 per week
And your income is between:		And your income is between:
£236.06 - £241.05	£5.00	£158.19 - £163.18
£241.06 - £242.44	£10.00	£163.19 - £164.57
£242.45 - £246.05	£11.39	£164.58 - £168.18
£246.06 - £261.05	£15.00	£168.19 - £183.18
£261.06 - £276.05	£30.00	£183.19 - £198.18
£276.06 - £286.70	£45.00	£198.19 - £208.83
£286.71 - £291.05	£55.65	£208.84 - £213.18
Income at or above £291.06 or savings above £24,000.00	£60.00	Income at or above £213.19 or savings above £24,000.00

*These figures vary marginally from those used within the consultation document as yearly benefit changes made by the Department of Work & Pensions have been confirmed since this process began.

2.6 As noted in Table 1 a further increase in the maximum charge from £60 to £70 is likely to occur in April 2017. This increase is as a result of Welsh Government recommendations.

2.7 The following table reflects the change should this be implemented

If you are above pension age with a current weekly:	Weekly charges	If you are below pension age with a current weekly:
Income at or above £ 301.06 or savings above £24,000.00	£ 70.00	Income at or above £223.19 or savings above £24,000.00

2.8 As part of our consultation people were asked to consider a number of options for changes in charging. There were 5 options available to the Council for current service users:

1. No Change.
2. Implementation of the banded approach for people that are new to the service.
3. Phased implementation of the banded approach 50% per year over 2 years (gradual increase for people currently receiving home care)
4. Phased implementation of the banded approach 33% per year over 3 years (gradual increase for people currently receiving home care).
5. Implement recommended banded approach from 1/4/2017.

2.9 Option 3 generates a further £62.5k of additional income per year over 2 years, Option 4 generates a further £41.6k of additional income per year over 3 years or Option 5 generates a further £125k of additional income in 2017/18

2.10 The consultation occurred between the 8th of December, 2016 and the 13th of January 2017. 82 questionnaires were received. Feedback received indicated:

- 66% of people said that they would not consider stopping the service if they had to pay more for the service. 3% (3 people) said that they would consider stopping the service if they had to pay more for it.
- 56% of people preferred option 1 – no change, 20% preferred option 4 – phased approach over 3 years and 10% preferred to implement the banded approach from the 1st of April 2017.
- 61% agreed with the statement “*I understand why Anglesey Council’s Adult Services Department are proposing these changes to charges. The recommended changes (if approved) would mean that people who are able to afford to do so will contribute towards their care and that the charges for the service will be fairer for all*”.
- 38% of people say that they’re not sure how the proposed changes might affect them. 30% say that the proposed changes will slightly affect them, and 18% (15 people) say that the proposed changes will have a substantial affect on them.

- 2.11 If option 3, 4 or 5 is implemented, a full financial review of people currently receiving home care will be completed and a reasonable period of notice of increased charges will be provided.
- 2.12 The Social Services and Well Being Act 2014 indicates that charging for care, where it occurs should be consistent, fair and clearly understood and that people who are asked to pay a charge must only pay what they can afford.
- 2.13 Having due regard to the outcome of the consultation and with reference to the charging and financial assessment framework introduced by the Social Services & Well Being Act 2014, the department recommends that **Option 5** is implemented.
- 2.14 Option 5 allows both for a more equitable charging arrangement in the short term, and provides the council with additional income to support statutory service delivery.
- 2.15 Should any individuals decline future services the department will refer the case for social work support to consider ongoing support options
- 2.16 Should any individuals indicate that they cannot afford the increase in charges, they are able to appeal the financial assessment. In such cases the Head of Service will be able to consider whether exceptional circumstances exist, and consider whether there is justification for an full or partial exemption should be considered.

3.0 Meals in Day Services

- 3.1 This charge applies to meals and refreshments supplied at all Day Service locations.
- 3.2 The following principles are proposed:-
- Apply a 3% increase in respect of the provision of all meals/refreshments.
- 3.3 The following table summarises the proposed charges.

Table 3 : Provision of Meals 2017/18 Proposed Charges

	2016/17 Charges	2017/18 (Proposed Charges)
Meals in Day Services for adults (excluding people with Learning Disability)	£5.50	£5.70*
Mid-day snack in day services for people with Learning	£2.25	£2.30*

Disability		
Other refreshments (tea/coffee/cake) in day services	£1.25	£1.30*

**2017/18 Proposed Charges have been rounded to the nearest Zero in order to reduce administration*

4.0 Telecare Charges

4.1 The following factors must be taken into account when determining a fair charge for the Telecare service:

- Local Authority Contribution to the Regional Monitoring Galw Gofal Service;
- Maintenance charges;
- Telecare equipment costs;
- Finance and Administration costs;
- Installation costs;
- Costs of recycling equipment;
- Costs of bi annual Health & Safety visual checks ;
- Impact on current business.
- Transformation of Adults' Services.

4.2 Telecare : 2017/18 Proposed Charges

4.3 Historical charging arrangements mean that by now Anglesey Council is charging people different amounts for the same levels of support which isn't fair and consistent for all. The recommendation is to charge a flat rate fee for all individuals who receive Telecare Services, and also for the provision and installation of minor equipment such as handrails. A report was presented to scrutiny in November 2016 recommending that this position be reviewed and recommending a consultation period with relevant individuals.

Table 4: Telecare 2017/18 Proposed Charges

Tier 1 Equipment, service and maintenance (unit, pendant and smoke alarm)	Everyone will be paying £45.24 per quarter (£3.48 a week)
Tier 2 & 3 Equipment, service, monitoring and Maintenance (Equipment other than unit, pendant and smoke alarm)	Everyone will be paying £90.22 per quarter (£6.94 a week)

4.4 Telecare Annual Charges Apply a 3% increase for 2017/18

Table 5 – Telecare Annual Charges for 2017/18

	2016/17 Charges	2017/18 (Proposed Charges)
Service and Maintenance	£101.40	£104.44
Services Only	£65.52	£67.49
One Off Installation	£40.52	£41.74

4.5 There will be no changes to Supported people fully funded or partially funded packages and a further review will be conducted in 2017/18.

4.6 The Council has 4 options:

1. No change
2. Phased approach of 33% per year over 3 years – increase for some of up to £8 per quarter in 2017/18, a further £8 per quarter in 2018/19 and a final £8 per quarter in 2019/20. (Total maximum increase of £31 per year for each of three years, at the end of the three years everyone will pay the same amount for the same level of service).
3. Phased approach of 50% per year over 2 years – increase for some by up to £12.50 every per quarter in 2017/18 (up to £50 a year) and a further £12.50 every per quarter in 2018/19 (up to a further £50 a year).
4. No phased approach and all charges to be realigned for 2017/18 maximum increase for some of less than £24 per quarter (£93 per year) applied from April 2017.

4.7 A consultation on the proposed changes to telecare fees was held between the 8th of December, 2016 and the 13th of January 2017. 174 questionnaires were received:

- 69% of people would not consider stopping the service if they had to pay more for it and 15% (27 people) said that they would consider stopping if they had to pay more.
- 40% preferred option 1 – no change, 33% preferred option 3 – phased approach over 2 years and 19% preferred option 2 phased approach over 2 years.
- 73% agreed with the statement: *"I understand why Isle of Anglesey County Council's Adult Services Department are proposing these changes to charges. The recommended changes (if approved) would mean that people will be charged the same amount for the same service so that it is fairer for all"*.
- 43% of people believe that they will be slightly affected by the proposed changes, 18% (30 people) believe they will be substantially affected and 13% aren't sure how they might be affected.

4.8 The departments preferred and recommended option is option 3

5.0 Direct Payments

5.1 Direct Payments enable individuals to independently purchase services that the Local Authority would otherwise have provided. Direct Payments support independent living by enabling individuals to make their own decisions and have control over their own lives. In Wales, the Scheme has gradually been extended to include:-

- Older People
- Carers
- Parents of Children with Disabilities
- Adults with Disabilities

5.2 An hourly Direct Payment rate of £10.50/hour will be set for 2017/18. A full review of this rate will be conducted during 2017/18

6.0 Modernisation of Blue Badge Scheme in Wales

6.1 It is recommended that a charge of £10 / badge levied in respect of organisational and replacement badges (lost / stolen) be levied for 2017/18.

7.0 Purchasing Day Care Services in Independent Residential Care Homes

7.1 The charge for purchasing day services was £30.37 in 2016/17. We propose to increase the fee by 3% to £31.28 to be consistent with increases in council charges. This increase will help to ensure the sustainability and continuation of day care services purchased from independent residential care homes, and in order to meet the individual needs of service users.

8.0 Domiciliary Care Fees

8.1 At present adult social care commissions domiciliary care from the independent sectors at a unit cost of £15.50 per hour or part thereof. There is a need to acknowledge pressures within the sector in 2017/18 consistent with those within residential care. The majority of these relate to employment costs. This would require the fee to be increased to £15.90. This increase acknowledges the changes in the living wage (£7.20 to £7.50) and 10p to cover employers' oncosts.

8.2 The fee paid providers supporting individuals with a learning disability is currently variable. We intend to offer all providers a base rate of £14.50 for 2017/18 and agree some packages on an individual basis for 17/18. During the course of the year we intend to work with providers to agree a consistent rate for future years

Recommendations

The Executive Committee is requested to approve the:-

R1 Home care charges outlined in table 2.

R2 Adopt the recommendation as outlined in 2.13 to implement the new banding for domiciliary care 2017/18

R3 Charges for meals in day services outlined in table 3.

Meals in Day Services for adults (excluding people with Learning Disability) - £5.70

Mid-day Snack in day services for people with Learning Disability - £2.30

Other refreshments (tea/coffee/cake) in day services - £1.30

R4 Charges for Telecare services as outlined in table 4.

Tier 1 everyone will be paying £45.24

Tier 2 & 3 everyone will be paying £90.22

R5 Adopt the recommendation as outlined in 4.7 to implement a 50% per year over 2 years on the increase agreed under recommendation 4.

R6 Rate for Direct Payments at £10.50/hour as outlined in paragraph 5.2 above.

R7 Maintain a charge of £10.00 for the administration in relation to blue Badge requests and replacements as outlined in paragraph 5.2 above

R8 Increase the fee for purchasing day care services in independent residential homes by 3% to £31.28

R9 Agree to an increase in fees paid for commissioned domiciliary care from £15.50 to £15.90 per hour.

R10 Offer all providers a based rate of £14.50 for Learning Disability packages and agree packages on an individual basis for 17/18.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

The options noted are consistent with the councils overall approach to fees and charges in 2016/17.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

Decisions on Fees and charges have financial implications for the Local Authority's budget in terms of income received and the affordability of payments made in the prevailing financial climate.

CH – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

Yes

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

DD – Who did you consult?

What did they say?

1	Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	Supportive of report when presented to Senior Leadership Team on the 16/1/2017
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	Supportive of report when presented to Senior Leadership Team on the 16/1/2017
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	Supportive of report when presented to Senior Leadership Team on the 16/1/2017
4	Human Resources (HR)	
5	Property	
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	
7	Procurement	
8	Scrutiny	
9	Local Members	
10	Any external bodies / other/s	

E – Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)

1	Economic	
2	Anti-poverty	
3	Crime and Disorder	
4	Environmental	
5	Equalities	Full EIA has been drafted for the telecare and domiciliary care changes and will be finalised before the executive in February.
6	Outcome Agreements	

7	Other	
---	-------	--

F - Appendices:

--

FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):
--

--