

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Executive
Date:	2 March 2023
Subject:	Community based Non-residential Social Care Services – 2023/2024 Fees & Charges
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Alun Roberts
Head of Service / Director:	Arwel Wyn Owen, Adult Services Manager
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Local Members:	All Members
A –Recommendation/s and reason/s	
<p>1. Background</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The report sets out community based non-residential social care fees and charges for 2023/24, in accordance with the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.</p> <p>2. Home Care Services</p> <p><u>Home Care Charges 2023/24</u></p> <p>We are awaiting confirmation from Welsh Government of the maximum charge, as per legislation. We will charge up to the maximum amount permitted.</p> <p>3. Telecare Charges</p> <p>The following factors must be taken into account when determining a fair charge for the Telecare service:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	

Due to changes in Technology, BT / Openreach are currently working on upgrading connections from analogue to digital, therefore, we will implement two tariffs in 2023/24, one for Analogue platforms and one for Digital platforms. The digital platform cost is higher than the analogue platform as the initial hardware costs are higher due to the advances in technology.

Table A: Telecare 2023/24 Proposed Charges

<p>Tier 1 Analogue</p> <p>Analogue Equipment, service and maintenance (unit, pendant and smoke alarm)</p>	<p>Everyone will be paying £55.90 per quarter, an increase of £5.07 per quarter compared to 2022/23 fees.</p> <p>(£4.30 a week, an increase of £0.39 per week compared to 2022/23 fees)</p>
<p>Tier 2 & 3 Analogue</p> <p>Analogue Equipment, service, monitoring and maintenance (Equipment other than unit, pendant and smoke alarm)</p>	<p>Everyone will be paying £111.41 per quarter, an increase of £10.14 per quarter compared to 2022/23 fees).</p> <p>(£8.57 a week, an increase of £0.78 per week compared to 2022/23 fees)</p>
<p>Tier 1 Digital</p> <p>Digital Equipment, service and maintenance (unit, pendant and smoke alarm)</p>	<p>Everyone will be paying £71.50 per quarter. This is a new provision, therefore no comparative figures (£5.50 a week)</p>
<p>Tier 2 & 3 Digital</p> <p>Digital Equipment, service, monitoring and maintenance (Equipment other than unit, pendant and smoke alarm)</p>	<p>Everyone will be paying £142.48 per quarter. This is a new provision, therefore, no comparative figures (£10.96 a week).</p>

Table B – Telecare Annual Charges for 2023/24

	2022/23	2023/2024 (Proposed Charges)
Service and Maintenance	£121.07	£133.18
Services Only	£78.25	£86.08
One Off Installation	£48.41	£53.25

4. Direct Payments

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.

An hourly Direct Payment rate of £13.10 per hour was set for 2022/23. In light of the increase in the Real Living Wage we, propose to increase this to £14.50 per hour for 2023/2024.

The Authority is contemplating setting a separate fee for Micro Carers.

5. Modernisation of Blue Badge Scheme in Wales

It is recommended that a charge of £10 / badge levied in respect of organisational and replacement badges (lost / stolen) be levied for 2023/24.

6. Purchasing Day Care Services in Independent Residential Care Homes

The charge for purchasing day services was £37.58 in 2022/23. We propose to increase the fee for 2023/24 to £41.55, this uplift is in line with increase in costs for external residential care services. 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.

7. Domiciliary Care Fees

At present, Adult Social Care commission domiciliary care from the independent sectors following a tender exercise in 2018, the Island is currently split into three patches for older people domiciliary care. The contract stipulates that we must allow for statutory increases in legislation, this equates to an increase of £1.55 per hour as a result of the increase in the Real Living Wage in 2023/24. It must be noted that this service is being re-tendered during 2023, therefore, this will be a temporary rate until the tender exercise draws to a conclusion.

8. Meals in Day Services

For 2023/24, we recommend a 10% increase on the fees (rounded down to the nearest £0.05)

Table C – Meals in Day Services Charges for 2023/24

	2022/23	2023/2024 (Proposed Charges)
Meals in Day Services for adults (excluding people with learning disabilities)	£6.60	£7.25
Mid-day snack in Day Services for people with learning disabilities	£2.80	£3.05
Other refreshments (tea / coffee/ cake) in Day Services	£1.55	£1.70

Recommendations

The Executive Committee is requested to approve the following:-

R1 Charges for Telecare services as outlined in Table A:-

Tier 1 Analogue - everyone will be paying **£55.90** per quarter;

Tier 2 & 3 Analogue - everyone will be paying **£111.41** per quarter;

Tier 1 Digital - everyone will be paying **£71.50** per quarter

Tier 2 & 3 Analogue - everyone will be paying **£142.48** per quarter.

R2 Charges for Telecare Annual Charges, as outlined in Table B:-

Services and Maintenance **£133.18**;

Services Only **£86.08**;

One off Installation **£53.25**.

R3 Rate for Direct Payments at **£14.50**/hour.

R4 Maintain a charge of **£10.00** for the administration in relation to blue Badge requests and replacements as outlined.

R5 Increase the fee for purchasing day care services in independent residential homes by 10.57% to **£41.55**

R6 Increase Domiciliary Care fees by **£1.55** per hour to comply with new legislation

R7 Charges for Meals in Day Services fees as outlined in Table C:-

Meals in Day Services for adults (excluding people with learning disabilities) - **£7.25**;

Mid-day snack in Day Services for people with learning disabilities - **£3.05**;

Other refreshments (tea / coffee/ cake) in Day Services - **£1.70**.

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 Council’s overall approach to fees and charges in previous years.

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?

Yes

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):

1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island?	Not applicable
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	No
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom	Not applicable
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.	Not applicable
5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	The inflationary increases recommended in this paper for like with like services is below the 10.1% inflationary uplift for state benefits, including Universal Credit and State Pension. However, the statutory movement from Analogue to Digital platforms for Telecare services equates to a 40.66% increase, and may have a negative impact on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010. This service is optional, and the most vulnerable adults are funded through CHC.

6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	As above, the inflationary increases recommended in this paper for like with like services is below the 10.1% inflationary uplift for state benefits, including Universal Credit and State Pension. However, the statutory movement from Analogue to Digital platforms for Telecare services equates to a 40.66% increase, and this will have a direct impact on those individuals experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. This service is optional, and the most vulnerable adults are funded through CHC. Individuals are not tied into a contract and can choose to cancel the service at any given time.
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	No impact on the Welsh Language.
E - Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Leadership Team (LT) (mandatory)	
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	
4	Human Resources (HR)	Not applicable
5	Property	Not applicable
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	Not applicable
7	Scrutiny	
8	Local Members	Not applicable
9	Any external bodies / other/s	Not applicable
F - Appendices:		
None		
FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):		
None		