

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Executive Committee
DATE:	1st March 2016
TITLE OF REPORT:	Community based Non-residential Social Care Services – 2016/17 charges & Fees
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	Confirm the charging policy and fees in respect of non-residential community based services during 2016/17
Contact Officers:	Alwyn Rhys Jones, Head of Adult Services
REPORT BY:	HEAD OF ADULTS SERVICES
CORPORATE DIRECTOR:	Caroline Turner
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr. Aled Morris Jones

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

1.0 Background

- 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 **Wednesday 6 April, 2016.**
- 1.2 The Social Care Charges (Wales) Measure and associated Statutory Regulations and Guidance – that came into force in April 2011 - enabled Authorities to continue to retain the discretion to charge for non-residential social care services.
- 1.3 The above revised legislative framework has established the parameters within which Local Authorities can apply charging policies in respect of all domiciliary based care services from now on. It is fair to conclude that the aforementioned measure places clear national parameters around charges with little scope for local discretion.

2.0 Review of Local Charging Policies and Practices – 2016/17

- 2.1 There is a maximum weekly charge of £60 for all those services that fall within the scope of the Social services & Well-being Act and for which a Local Authority makes a charge;
- Prohibiting Local Authorities from charging for transport to day services. This puts those service users on a par with older people and people with disabilities who receive free travel under the Welsh Assembly Government concessionary fares policy;
 - Requiring Authorities to introduce a process for reviewing charging decisions so as to put in place a consistent way for these to be reviewed should a service user request a review.

- 2.2 The Local Authority now needs to review charging policies and practices for 2016/17 to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Social Services & Well-being Act and associated Regulations and Statutory Guidance – with effect from Wednesday 6 April 2016.
- 2.3 The Authority has historically confirmed minimum residual income levels year on year in respect of both persons of pensionable age and individuals below pension age which has ensured a protected 45% buffer over and above the income support or pension credit levels. Indeed, this has been the case since April, 2007.

2.4 Home Care Services

2.4.1 The Social Services & Well-being Act necessitates 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 06 April, 2016. Below are the residual income levels to be applied during 2016/17:-

- **Persons of Pension Age: £225.62**
- **Persons below Pension Age: £152.76**

2.4.2 AVAILABLE OPTION

The only scope within the constraints of the Social Services & Well-being Act would be to consider the propriety of applying an uplift to service users with the financial means to contribute. The table below summarises the effect of applying this principle:-

HOME CARE 2015/16 PROPOSED CHARGES

CATEGORY	2015/16 CHARGE	2016/17 CHARGE (PROPOSED)	% Increase
1. On means tested benefits – NOT receiving Higher Attendance Allowance (£82.30)	NO CHARGE	NO CHARGE	N/A
2. On means tested benefits – IN RECEIPT OF Higher Attendance Allowance (£82.30)	£14.26/week	£15.00/week*	+5%
3. Not in receipt of means tested benefits and subject to the residual income level	£60.00/week	£60.00/week (Welsh Government has increased the maximum weekly charge to £60 from April 2015)	1. National weekly charge capped by Welsh Government. 2. Subject to means test.

2.4.3 The charge noted in the above table under item 2 have been historically set by the council as a blanket charge for all individuals in receipt of Higher Attendance Allowance. The department requests permission to set this charge at the level noted above whilst requesting permission to review this position in-year. Other councils vary this charge according to an individual's ability to pay which is permissible within guidance. There is a need to do this in order to mitigate the impact of changes in charges resulting from the implementation of the Social Services & Wellbeing Act Wales.

2.5 Meals in Day Services

2.5.1 This charge applies to meals and refreshments supplied at all Day Service locations.

2.5.2 The following principles are proposed:-

- Apply a 5% increase in respect of the provision of all meals/refreshments.

The following table summarises the proposed charges.

PROVISION OF MEALS: 2016/17 PROPOSED CHARGES

	2015/16 Charges	2016/17 (Proposed Charges)
Meals in Day Services for adults (excluding people with Learning Disabilities)	£5.25	£5.50
Mid-day snack in day services for people with Learning Disabilities	£2.15	£2.25
Other Refreshments (tea / coffee/ cake) in day services	£1.20	£1.25

2.6 Telecare Charges

2.6.1 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.

2.6.2 The aim is to develop a charging structure that balances the identified benefits of people being able to remain independent at home, the demand for the service and the levels of subsidy that the Council is able to provide. Charging and policy interfaces with regulations associated with the Social Care Charges (Wales) Measure requirements, Supporting People Programme Charging Policy requirements, CHC grant funding, historical Community Alarm/Telecare charging and Telecare grant arrangements and the practicalities of assessment and collection all need to be considered.

2.6.3 This is an area of development within preventative services for older people and forms part of the Local Authority's Commissioning Strategy. It is proposed that the charges levied in respect of 2015/16 are increased by 5%.

TELECARE: 2015/16 PROPOSED CHARGES

Equipment	2015/16 Charges) £	(Proposed 2016/17 Charges) £
Ynys Môn Service Users pre 2007	£1.98	£2.08
Basic Telecare (Tier 1) packages	£3.31	£3.48
Environmental Telecare (Tier 2) packages	£6.61	£6.94
Personal Care Telecare (Tier 3) packages	£6.61	£6.94
Installation Charge	One off charge of £38.59 for installation of equipment	One off charge of £40.52 for installation of equipment
Elements included in the above charges		
Annual Monitoring Charge	£1.20	£1.26
Annual Maintenance Charge	£0.66	£0.69

2.6.4 There are complex charging arrangements in the area of Telecare. A review of these charges is on-going with a view to potential further changes in 2016/17 to simplify the arrangements. The executive are asked to agree in principle that a review of telecare charges can occur in 2016/17 with a view to implementation following appropriate consultation. In the meantime it is recommended that the charges noted above will apply.

2.7 Direct Payments

2.7.1 Direct Payments enable individuals to purchase the assistance on 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

2.7.2 The Direct Payment level of £10.50/hour was set in 2010. It is proposed that this level is maintained in respect of 2016/17. A basic assessment of performance in-year indicates that this remains appropriate.

2.8 Modernisation of Blue Badge Scheme in Wales

2.8.1 It is recommended that a charge of £10 / badge levied in respect of organisational and replacement badges (lost / stolen) effective as of 1 April, 2012, be levied in respect of 2016/17.

2.9 Purchasing Day Care Services in Independent Residential Care Homes

2.9.1 The charge for purchasing day services was £28.92 in 2015/16. We propose to increase the fee by 5% to £30.37 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 in order to meet the individual needs of the service user and their choice of provider.

3. Domiciliary Care Fees

3.1 At present adult social care commissions domiciliary care from the independent sectors at a unit cost of £14.50 for every hour or every hour part thereof an hour. No increase was given to this fee in 2015/16 with fees remaining static for the first time in a number of years.

3.2 There is a need to acknowledge pressures within the sector in 2016/17 consistent with those within residential care. The majority of these relate to employment costs.

3.3 Consideration of a fee increase of approximately 7% would be required to meet this. This would require the fee to be increased to £15.50.

3.4 Based upon this an additional cost of £187,249 would be required to meet this fee increase

4.0 Recommendations

The Executive Committee is requested to approve the:-

- R1 Home care charges outlined in paragraph 2.4.2 of this report.
- R2 Agree to a Revision of Home care charges in year as noted in item 2.4.3 subject to appropriate consultation
- R3 Charges for meals in day services outlined in paragraph 2.5.2.
- R4 Charges for Telecare services as outlined in paragraph 2.6.3.

R5	Agree to a revision and simplification of Telecare Charges as noted under 2.6.4 subject to appropriate consultation.
R6	Freeze the rate for Direct Payments at £10.50/hour as outlined in paragraph 2.7.2 above.
R7	Maintain a charge of £10.00 for the administration in relation to blue Badge requests and replacements (see paragraph 2.8.1).
R8	Increase the fee for purchasing day care services in independent residential homes by 5% to £30.37 (see paragraph 2.9.1).
R9	Agree to an increase in fees paid for commissioned domiciliary care from £14.50 to £15.50 per hour or part thereof.

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?

Recommendations for meeting the additional costs of Domiciliary Care are included within Budget Proposals for 2016/17

DD – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	Standard yearly report. Supportive of Principles
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	Supportive
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	Timeline did not allow for comments within timescale

4	Human Resources (HR)	
5	Property	
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	
7	Scrutiny	
8	Local Members	
9	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	
6	Outcome Agreements	
7	Other	

F - Appendices:		