

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive
Date:	23 January 2024
Subject:	Community based Non-residential Social Care Services – 2024/2025 Fees & Charges
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Alun Roberts
Head of Service / Director:	Arwel Wyn Owen
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Local Members:	All Members

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

Recommendation

To apply the maximum threshold for home care services endorsed by Welsh Government and to increase other service charges as outlined in the summary below. The recommendations are summarised at the end of this section (R1 – R9).

1. Background

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,

The report sets out community based non-residential social care fees and charges for 2024/25 in accordance with the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.

2. Home Care Services:

Home Care Charges 2024/25

We are awaiting confirmation from Welsh Government of the maximum charge as per legislation. We will charge up to the maximum amount permitted by Welsh Government.

3. Telecare Charges

Telecare services support independence within the home and provide 24-hour support and response 7 days a week, with remote monitoring via the telephone. Additional sensors can be installed which help identify any known risks e.g. falls, heat, water etc.

The following factors must be considered 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 and modernisation by utilising technological aids.

We are progressing with the transition from Analogue to Digital systems, and it is expected that all service users will have transferred over to the Digital platform by 1st April 2025. In light of the change, it is proposed we confirm one fee rate for Telecare service at the digital rate, and not to have differential rates for analogue and digital from April 2024. The differential in Tier 1 and Tier 2 packages in 2024/25 will be retained. Individuals who have already transitioned will experience a 5% increase in fees, however, those on analogue will see a higher increase from April 2024 to reflect the hardware costs.

Table A - Telecare 2024/25 Proposed Charges

Tier 1 Digital Equipment, service and maintenance (unit, pendant and smoke alarm)	Everyone will be paying £75.14 per quarter. (£5.78 a week)
Tier 2 Digital Equipment, service, monitoring and Maintenance (equipment other than unit, pendant and smoke alarm)	Everyone will be paying £149.63 per quarter. (£11.51 a week)

Table B – Telecare Annual Charges for 2024/25

	2023/24	2024/2025 Proposed Charges
Service and Maintenance	£133.18	£140.00
Services Only	£86.08	£90.00
One Off Installation	£53.25	£56.00

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 £14.50 per hour was established for 2023/24. In light of the increase in the Real Living Wage, we propose to increase this to £15.95 per hour for 2024/25.

Micro Carers

Due to long standing recruitment challenges within domiciliary services, the Department is advocating a new rate to try and encourage the recruitment of micro carers. The provision would emulate schemes operational in other local authorities. To qualify for consideration, applicants would need to meet standards established by the local authority and comply with CIW registration requirements. Under existing legislation, micro carers can provide care for a maximum of 3 individuals and would operate on a self-employed basis. In recognition of the additional requirements aligned, the rate advocated is slightly above the Direct Payment but below the unit cost charged by independent providers who operate on Anglesey This is intended to try and attract new provision within the sector and increase options within the community. We are proposing an hourly rate of £17.00 per hour for Micro Carers.

Modernisation of Blue Badge Scheme in Wales

It is recommended that a charge of £10 / badge is levied in respect of organisational and replacement badges (lost / stolen) for 2024/25.

Purchasing Day Care Services in Independent Residential Care Homes

The charge for purchasing day services was £41.55 per day in 2023/24. We propose to increase the fee for 2024/25 to £44.33 per day. 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.

Domiciliary Care Fees

At present, Adult Social Care commission domiciliary care from the independent sectors following a tender exercise in 2023. The contract stipulates that we must allow for statutory increases in legislation, this equates to an increase of £1.72 per hour as a result of the increase in the Real Living Wage in 2024/25.

Meals in Day Services

For 2024/25, we recommend a 5% increase on the fees (rounded up to the nearest £0.05).

Table C – Meals in Day Services Charges for 2024/25

	2023/24	2024/25 Proposed Charges
Meals in Day Services for adults (excluding people with learning disabilities)	£7.25	£7.65
Mid-day snack in Day Services for people with learning disabilities	£3.05	£3.25
Other refreshments (tea / coffee/ cake) in Day Services	£1.70	£1.80

Recommendations

The Executive Committee is requested to approve the following:-

R1 To apply the maximum threshold for home care services endorsed by Welsh Government.

R2 Charges for Telecare services, as outlined in Table A.

Tier 1 - everyone will be paying **£75.14** per quarter.

Tier 2 - everyone will be paying **£149.63** per quarter.

R3 Charges for Telecare Annual Charges, as outlined in Table B.

Services and Maintenance **£140.00**

Services Only **£90.00**

One off Installation **£56.00**

R4 Rate for Direct Payments at **£15.95 per hour**.

R5 Implement a charge of **£17.00 per hour** for Micro Carers.

R6 Maintain a charge of **£10.00** for the administration in relation to blue Badge requests and replacements as outlined.

R7 Increase the fee for purchasing day care services in independent residential homes by 6.7% to **£44.33 per day**.

R8 Increase Domiciliary Care fees by **£1.72 per hour** to comply with new legislation.

R9 Charges for Meals in Day Services fees, as outlined in Table C.

Meals in Day Services for adults (excluding people with learning disabilities) - **£7.65**

Mid-day snack in Day Services for people with learning disabilities - **£3.25**

Other refreshments (tea / coffee/ cake) in Day Services - **£1.80**

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	We have consulted with other Local Authorities in the region as part of our fees setting process.
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.	DWP benefits are set to rise by 6.7% in April 2024, whilst the basic and new state pensions are set to rise by 8.5% from April 2024. The increases proposed are below the inflationary uplifts provided by DWP for state benefits. It is currently unknown whether Welsh Government will increase the charging cap on Domiciliary Care fees, therefore, we are unable to assess the full impact on any rise, however, this charge is means tested.
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 6.7% inflationary uplift for state benefits, including Universal Credit, and 8.5% for state Pension. However, the statutory movement from Analogue to Digital platforms for Telecare services equates to a 34.4% 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 / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (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	Not applicable
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		