

ANGUS COUNCIL

SPECIAL ANGUS COUNCIL MEETING – 12 FEBRUARY 2015

REVIEW OF NON-RESIDENTIAL FEES AND CHARGES

REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - PEOPLE

ABSTRACT

This Report sets out proposals to amend non-residential charging rates for financial year 2015-16.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:-

- i) approves an increase in the charge for dispersed community alarm from £4.00 to £4.50 per week;
- ii) approves an increase in the charge for community meals from £2.70 to £2.80 per week;
- ii) approves an inflationary increase in non-residential charges including housing support as set out in Appendix 1;
- iii) agrees no increase in the rate for Direct Payments as set out in Appendix 2; and
- iii) notes that a further report will be submitted with the proposed residential and nursing home rates once the national contract has been agreed.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Committee Report 04/14 approved the changes to the non-residential charging policy to better reflect the principles of Self Directed Support (SDS). It approved the implementation of the new contributions policy on a phased basis, involving running two charging systems for a period of time, no more than 1 year. Unfortunately it has not been possible to provide an SDS assessment for existing service users within the year. It is likely that these assessments will now be completed by March 2016. As people's assessed needs are reviewed or their circumstances change they will be directed towards the four SDS options. At this time they will also move from the charging policy to the new contributions policy. All new referrals to social work services will be assessed under the four SDS options and therefore the new contributions policy will apply.
- 2.2 Under the current policy, the People Directorate reviews the fees and charges for specific services in line with statutory requirements, guidance and Angus Council policy and revises the rates, as appropriate.
- 2.3 In previous years this report has also identified the fees and charges for residential and nursing care. At present negotiations are on-going with COSLA and the care providers to agree the national contract rates. Once these are completed a further report will be brought to the Social Work and Health Committee to seek approval for any amendments.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 Non Residential Charges

- 3.1.1 It is proposed that flat rate services i.e. meals service and community alarm are increased as follows; meals £2.70 to £2.80 per week and £4.00 to £4.50 per week respectively, and that non-residential charges for assessed services are increased by approximately 1%. This figure

is based on the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) benefit increases (Pension Credit Guarantee and Income Support) from 6 April 2015. Income disregards for service users have been increased where necessary to ensure that they do not fall below the COSLA best practice recommendations.

3.1.2 The proposed new charges and thresholds are set out at Appendices 1 and 2.

3.1.3 The estimated additional income from the proposed increase in non-residential charges is £107,000 in total.

3.2 Contributions Policy

All new service users from 1 April 2014, along with those service users who have been reviewed under SDS, make a contribution to their package of care based on their ability to pay. Under the contributions policy supported people are financially assessed to determine any contribution they may be able to make towards the cost of their individual package of support and care, excluding free personal care for those aged 65 or over. The income and capital disregards are the same as those contained within the old charging policy.

3.3 Direct Payments

People who are in receipt of a direct payment under the current scheme will, along with everyone else, be reviewed over the course of the coming year and moved over to SDS. This will necessitate running two schemes until people move over. It is proposed that the maximum rates payable will remain unchanged.

4. RISKS

The major risks associated with this report relate to the continued implementation of SDS. The changes being implemented are significant and wide ranging and experience has shown that providing an SDS assessment to existing service users will take longer than was first thought. It is likely that we will not have completed these assessments until March 2016.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Based on the proposed increase in charges and the uplift in DWP benefits it is estimated that additional income of £107,000 will be generated.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising from in this report.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken.

8. ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN AND SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement.

8 We have improved the health and wellbeing of our people and inequalities are reduced.

9 Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services

9. CONCLUSION

With the exception of community alarm and meal, all residential and non-residential charges are based on an individual's assessed ability to pay. The percentage increase in DWP benefits (Pension Credit Guarantee and Income Support) will result in an increase in service users' available income.

It is recommended that the amount paid in respect of Direct Payments to social work service users to enable them to purchase their own service provision will not be increased in 2015/16

As current national negotiations are still on-going, residential and nursing home charges will be included in a subsequent report.

REPORT AUTHOR: George Bowie, Head of Adult Services
EMAIL DETAILS: PEOPLE@angus.gov.uk

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Committee Report 04/14 Self Directed Support – Implementation And Policy Update

Author Reference GM/GB

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Non Residential Charges for 2015-16

Appendix 2 – Direct Payments

APPENDIX 1
Non-residential charges for 2015-16 (from 13 April 2015)
Non Residential Services

Figures are rounded to nearest £0.10

| | Maximum Contribution 2014-15 Per hour | Proposed Maximum Contribution 2015-16 Per hour |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Domestic Assistance | £11.40 | £11.50 |
| Housing Support | £19.00 | £19.20 |
| Personal Care Under 65 | £24.30 | £24.50 |

Sheltered Housing

| Service | Maximum Contribution 2014-15 Per Week | Proposed Maximum Contribution 2015-16 Per Week |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Warden Angus Housing Association | £20.60 | £20.80 |
| Warden Clyde Court, Arbroath | £14.10 | £14.20 |
| Warden Kirkriggs Court, Forfar | £11.30 | £11.40 |
| Warden Methodist, Arbroath | £17.70 | £17.90 |
| Warden Servite House, Monifieth | £10.90 | £11.00 |
| Warden Sidlaw Garden, Birkhill | £10.90 | £11.00 |
| Warden Standard Close, Montrose | £13.60 | £13.70 |
| Warden Tullis House, Monifieth | £39.50 | £39.90 |
| Warden Angus Council | £31.80 | £32.10 |

Flat Rate Services

| Service | Maximum Contribution 2014-15 | Proposed Maximum Contribution 2015-16 |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Community Alarm (Per Week Per Household) | £4.00 | £4.50 |
| Community Meal (Per Meal) | £2.70 | £2.80 |

Non-residential income disregards (weekly)

| Category | Disregard 2014-15 | Proposed Disregard 2015-16 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Single person aged 18-60 | £121.45 | £123.00 |
| Single person aged 60 or over | £172.83 | £177.00 |
| Couple both aged 18-60 | £185.35 | £188.00 |
| Couple one aged 60 or over | £263.87 | £269.00 |

The above disregards have been calculated using a formula provided by COSLA for past up-ratings.

Non-residential tariff income arrangements 2015-16

It is proposed that the rules relating to tariff income remain the same as 2014-15, i.e. that the first £10,000 of capital/ savings be disregarded and thereafter a tariff income of £1.00 a week for every

£500 or part of £500 will be assumed. For those aged 60 and over this is in line with the COSLA guidance and more generous for those aged under 60.

Note

COSLA is currently looking at the possibility of Scottish local authorities harmonising non-residential charging policies. If Angus agreed to this it could mean that we would review our tariff income and capital arrangements to come into line with any national policy.

| Service | Maximum Unit Cost 2014-15 | Proposed Maximum Unit Cost 2015-16 |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Social Care Officer | £14.34 an hour | £14.34 an hour |
| Home Support Worker | £9.53 an hour | £9.53 an hour |
| Day Care for People with Physical Disabilities | £41.62 a session | £41.62 a session |
| Day Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities | £28.75 a session | £28.75 a session |
| Day Care for Older People | £30.20 a session | £30.20 a session |

Notes

1 - All costs include elements for training, annual leave and sickness absence cover, national insurance and superannuation liabilities, consumables and payroll processing costs.

2 - Day care for older people and people with learning disabilities include an element for transport costs. Transport costs for people with physical disabilities will be subject to individual negotiations.

3 - A session for day care for people with physical disabilities is a half day; for older people and people with learning disabilities a session is a full day.