

ANGUS COUNCIL MEETING – 21 FEBRUARY 2019

**REVIEW OF ANGUS COUNCIL CHARGES FOR SUPPORT AND CARE SERVICES AND
RESIDENTIAL FEES 2019/20**

REPORT BY VICKY IRONS, CHIEF OFFICER, ANGUS IJB

ABSTRACT

This report sets out proposals to revise Support and Care and Residential fees for services provided by Angus Health and Social Care Partnership through Angus Council with effect from April 2019.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Angus Council:-

1. Approves the proposed changes in charges for Support and Care Services as set out at 4.1 and 4.2 with effect from April 2019;
2. Notes the continued adoption during 2019/20 of COSLA guidance regarding 'income disregards' for the purposes of assessing client contributions;
3. Note the 'further developments' under consideration which once further progressed may be brought forward for consideration in the future;
4. Approves the proposed residential charges for Angus Council owned Care Homes as set out at 4.6 with effect from April 2019.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/COUNCIL PLAN

- 2.1 The proposals in this report contribute as a whole to the achievement of the Council's corporate priorities and the specific targets and objectives within the Council Plan and Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. The proposals also contribute to the achievement of the national health and wellbeing outcomes by ensuring resources are used effectively and efficiently in the provision of health and social care services.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 While the responsibility for the operational delivery of Adult Services is devolved to Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (effective April 2016), the formal authority to charge for social work services remains with Angus Council. On that basis, Angus Council needs to formally approve planned amendments to charges as proposed by Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (Angus HSCP). Angus HSCP have considered charging arrangements for 2019/20 at the IJB meeting of December 2018 (see report 89/18) and their recommendations are set out in this paper. These recommendations are made in the context of the overall financial position of the Partnership. Previous recommendations were set out in papers 207/17, 263/17 and 53/18.

Report 57/19 for the Special Council meeting (para 7.4 refers) advises Council of a proposed common uplift to charges in line with RPI of 3.3% for 2019/20. For a range of reasons, referenced below, this has not been adopted for Support and Care and Residential Fees for 2019/20, however it will be taken into account in future years.

In February 2019, Angus HSCP is scheduled to agree a budget settlement with Angus Council to support the delivery of Adult Services. Due to the challenging circumstances facing both Angus

Council and Angus HSCP, the settlement requires the Partnership to develop a series of proposals regarding charging related issues that reflect the challenging circumstances.

The overall intention is to consider instances where charges can be amended to increase income to support the ongoing delivery of the current volume of social work adult services, taking into account increased demands and costs, without undue detriment to service users and without destabilising front line services and service uptake.

In terms of managing the implementation of all recommendations, an implementation plan will be managed by Angus HSCP in conjunction with relevant support services.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 CHARGES FOR ANGUS COUNCIL SUPPORT AND CARE SERVICES (ASSESSED)

Angus HSCP provides a range of non-residential services which are chargeable. These services are charged for in accordance with the contribution policies and charges are based on each individual's financial assessment. These charges were last revised in report 53/18. The uplifts for rates in 2018/19 was proposed in advance of knowing final pay costs for 2018/19. As these are now more clearly understood (i.e. a 3% increase), so the uplift for 2018/19 should now be retrospectively adjusted. This retrospective adjustment needs to take place at the same time as the uplift for 2019/20 is made.

So the combined effect of these adjustments is set out below:-

2018/19 – 1.00% (retrospective adjustment)
2019/20 – 3.00% (estimated adjustment)

On that basis it is proposed to increase the rates for relevant Support and Care services from April 2019 by 4.0% (being the cumulative impact of the 2018/19 retrospective adjustment and the 2019/20 estimated uplift).

Should the 2019/20 estimated uplift of 3% be an understatement, then this will be remedied in future years.

The effect on individual services is shown in Appendix 1. The net financial benefit is estimated at c£31k per annum and is constrained by current contributions policies. It is important to recognise the cumulative effect over a number of years of any failure to inflation link costs.

4.2 CHARGES FOR ANGUS COUNCIL SUPPORT AND CARE SERVICES (FLAT RATE)

In addition to the services described at 4.1, charged against an individual's financial assessment, a small number of services are charged at a flat rate (outwith the financial assessment). These fees include Community Meals, Community Alarm and Telecare charges.

For 2019/20, it is now proposed to adjust these flat rate fees as follows:-

Service	2018/19 Charge (£)	Proposed 2019/20 Charge (£)	%age Increase
Community Alarm	£4.75/week	£4.90/week	3.1% ¹
Community / Day care Meal (Lunchtime)	£3.45/day	£3.55/day	2.9%
Community Meal (Evening)	£2.90/day	£2.90/day	0% ²
Telecare	£1.00/week	£1.00/week	0% ³

1. Note no increase in 2018/19.
2. No uplift applied to broaden differential between Lunchtime and Evening meals.
3. Charge only introduced from October 2018.

The above recommendations take into account the current financial support of the Community Meals service, rates of inflation associated with service delivery (including annual increase of staff pay rates and consumer price indices) and guidance regarding chargeable costs. It has been assessed that the additional income that will be derived from the above increases is c£32k per annum. These changes in charges will help offset the increased costs associated with service delivery.

4.3 INCREASES IN THE TAPER APPLIED TO EXCESS INCOME

In 2018/19 the taper that applies to excess income was adjusted from 70% to 75%. It is not proposed to revise this for 2019/20.

4.4 INCOME DISREGARDS

On an annual basis, COSLA make recommendations regarding income disregard levels. Previously Angus Council has implemented these recommendations for under 60s and over 60s. It is recommended that Angus Council continues to adopt the income disregards guidance as set out by COSLA for 2018/19.

There will be no financial benefit from these changes.

4.5 FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Angus Council report 53/18 set out proposals to further consider charging proposals. An update on those proposals and other options being considered is set out below:-

4.5.1 Compulsory Treatment Orders

It was previously noted that charges for those subject to Compulsory Treatment Orders (CTOs) were being reviewed. After consideration of this issue locally and feedback from a variety of sources, this option is no longer being pursued.

4.5.2 Adaptation Services

Angus HSCP remains interested in developing proposals to introduce a charging framework for adaptations. The intention was to develop this proposal with the current adaptations and support provider (Angus Care & Repair). However as the contract for provision Care and Repair Services is now subject to a tendering exercise, the option to introduce charges for these services has been deferred. However the option to charge for services is being considered in the tendering process.

4.5.3 Community Equipment

Angus HSCP remains interested in developing discussions around creating a charging framework for Community Equipment to help offset the increased costs of service provision generally. The current position is that Angus HSCP continues to explore this in conjunction with Dundee HSCP with whom we share a Community Equipment service.

4.5.4 Charging For Respite Services

Currently Respite in a Care Home (planned or unplanned) is charged for based on a person's financial assessment. The national "Charging for Residential Care Guide" (CRAG) allows for temporary stays up to 8 weeks to be charged for at a reasonable rate. To ensure equity where people are choosing alternative options for respite under Self Directed Support, Angus HSCP are reviewing charges associated with planned respite care. While final views have not yet been formed about future charges to charging arrangements, this remains under local consideration.

4.6 RESIDENTIAL FEES

On an annual basis, rates need to be agreed for the weekly cost of in house residential services. Section 22 of the National Assistance Regulations requires local authorities to set the standard rate for local authority homes at an amount equivalent to the full cost to the authority of providing the accommodation. For 2019/20, rates from 2018/19 will be increased by 4% (based on the same methodology as set out in section 4.1). It has been assessed that the additional income that will be derived from the above increases is c£175k per annum. These changes in charges will help offset the increased costs associated with service delivery. Service workings indicate that these charges are consistent with the regulations noted above, but this will be reviewed in more detail in 2019/20.

Category	Homes	2018/19 Rates per Week	2019/20 Rates per Week
Residential Care (e.g. Older People,	Kinloch, Beech Hill, Seaton Grove, The	£596	£620

Learning Disability)	Gables		
Residential care (High Dependency Units)	Kinloch, Beech Hill, Seaton Grove	£1018	£1059

The Council will be aware of interim solutions for the provision of respite care for Adults with Learning Disabilities in Angus (Policy and Resources Committee paper 386/17 “Provision of Interim Respite Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities”). While this service provision does not fit into the above categories for residential care, 2019/20 charges will be derived using the recognised ‘Charging for Residential Care’ guidance and in a manner consistent with the above charges and uplifted by the same inflationary factor.

4.7 FREE PERSONAL CARE

From April 2019 the Scottish Government is introducing changes regarding Free Personal Care for under 65s. This will have a major impact on charging in 2019/20. The Scottish Government has confirmed that the change will be supported by offsetting funding and the financial impact within the HSCP is therefore intended to be, and assumed to be, neutral. Due to this neutral effect, and as final clarifications are awaited, so all figures quoted in this paper are quoted prior to the effect of the introduction of Free Personal care for Under 65s.

4.8 CHARGES AND CONTRIBUTION POLICY

As noted in report 53/18, Angus IJB operates a contributions policies for Support and Care at Home Services. These policies have developed over a number of years and work is ongoing to consolidate the current policies and guidance. This will be presented to a future Committee.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The relevant financial impact of the changes are described in the sections above. As noted at 3.1, assumptions regarding income are reflected in the overall proposed budget settlement between Angus Council and Angus HSCP. The overall assumption, reflected in Angus IJB’s financial plans, is that from 2019/20 additional charges of £238k should be allowed for.

On an annual basis Angus HSCP generates c£10m of income. This reflects charges for both Support and Care and Residential Services. Income streams are routinely monitored through corporate support arrangements. In any given year there can be an element of bad debt. Unpaid invoices are continually reviewed and recovery is in line with Council procedures. Write offs are only considered after all means of recovery have been explored.

6. RISKS

6.1 There are risks that the increase or introduction of charges could have a detrimental effect on service uptake. This type of risk is already managed within operational services and the impact of any change would be closely monitored.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are equality implications arising from this report and an Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached at Appendix 2.

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February 2019

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Revisions to Charges for Support and Care Services

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

APPENDIX 1 – REVISIONS TO CHARGES FOR SUPPORT AND CARE SERVICES

Supplier Name	Type of Support	Per (Describe)	2018/19	2019/20
Angus Council	Housing Support	Hour	£23.77	£24.72
Angus Council	Mainstream Daycare	Per session (5 hours)	£56.15	£58.40
Angus Council	Resource Centre (Learning Disabilities)	Hour (Group Support)	£5.24	£5.44
Angus Council	Resource Centre (Learning Disabilities)	Hour (Close support)	£10.48	£10.88
Angus Council	Resource Centre (Learning Disabilities)	Hour (Individual Support)	£31.43	£32.68
Angus Council	Resource Centre (Learning Disabilities)	Hour (2:1 Support)	£62.87	£65.40
Angus Council	College Support (Learning Disabilities)	Hour (Group Support)	£5.00	£5.20
Angus Council	College Support (Learning Disabilities)	Hour (Close support)	£10.01	£10.40
Angus Council	College Support (Learning Disabilities)	Hour (Individual Support)	£30.03	£31.20
Angus Council	Attendance at Glenloch Centre Forfar	Per session (2 hours + travel)	£20.95	£21.80

Based on uplift of 4%

Effective date - April 2019

Any instances of Personal Care would be charged at Housing Support

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BACKGROUND

<p>Date of Assessment: 21/11/2018</p>	<p>Report Number: xx/19</p>
<p>Title of document being assessed:</p>	<p>REVIEW OF SUPPORT AND CARE AND RESIDENTIAL FEES 2019/20</p>
<p>1. This is a new policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed. (If Yes please check box) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>This is a new budget saving proposal (If Yes please check box) <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>This is an existing policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed? (If Yes please check box) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>This is an existing budget saving proposal being reviewed (If Yes please check box) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>2. Please give details of the Lead Officer and the group responsible for considering the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)</p>	<p>George Bowie, Head of Community Health and Care Services / Angus HSCP Charging Group</p>
<p>3. Please give a brief description of the policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed, including its aims and objectives, actions and processes.</p>	
<p>This report sets out proposals to revise Support and Care and Residential fees for services provided by Angus Council with effect from 1st April 2019.</p>	
<p>4. What are the intended outcomes of this policy, procedure, strategy or practice and who are the intended beneficiaries?</p>	
<p>The intended outcome of the changes to Support and Care and Residential fees is to ensure that resources available to the Partnership are allocated fairly and consistent with assessment and financial assessment processes. Recovering resources from people who use services in line with Social Work Scotland Act 1968 ensures that the overall budget available to the partnership progresses delegated functions</p>	
<p>5. Has any local consultation, improvement or research with protected characteristic communities informed the policy, procedure, strategy or practice being EQIA assessed here? No</p>	
<p>If Yes, please give details.</p>	

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EQIA) - RELEVANCE SCREENING

1. Has the proposal already been assessed via an EQIA process for its impact on ALL of the protected characteristics of: age; disability; gender; gender re-assignment; pregnancy/maternity; marriage and civil partnership; race; religion and belief; and sexual orientation?

No

Please answer the 1a and 1b no questions below.

1 a. Does the proposal have a potential to impact in ANY way on the public and/or service users holding any of the protected characteristics of age; disability; gender; gender re-assignment; pregnancy/maternity; marriage and civil partnership; race; religion and belief; and sexual orientation? This applies to service users of not only NHS Tayside and Angus Council, but also the 3rd sector.

Yes - Proceed to the Full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA).

No - please state why not (specify which evidence was considered and what it says)?

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1 b. Does the proposal have a potential to impact in ANY way on employees holding any of the protected characteristics of age; disability; gender; gender re-assignment; pregnancy/maternity; marriage and civil partnership; race; religion and belief; and sexual orientation? This applies to employees of not only NHS Tayside and Angus Council, but also the 3rd sector.

Yes - Proceed to the Full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA).

No - please state why not (specify which evidence was considered and what it says)?

FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EQIA)

Step 1.

Is there any reason to believe the proposal could affect people differently due to their protected characteristic? Using evidence (e.g. statistics, literature, consultation results, etc.), justify whether yes or no. If yes, specify whether impact is likely to be positive or negative and what actions will be taken to mitigate against the undesired impact of a negative discrimination. When considering impact, please consider impact on: health related behaviour; social environment; physical environment; and access to & quality of services of NHS Tayside, Angus Council or 3rd sector social justice.

Reference is made to the AHSCP equalities evidence base

1a. Impact on the public and/or service users holding the Protected Characteristics:

	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	Intended mitigating actions against the b) Negative Discrimination
AGE		√	Review of Resource allocation system (RAS) and calculated budgets through SDS project. Developing the fair cost of care model through Help to Live at Home. In April 2019 all adults as well as older people will be supported by the Scottish Government's policy in relation to free personal care
GENDER			
DISABILITY		√	
ETHNICITY/ RACE			
SEXUAL ORIENTATION			
RELIGION/ BELIEF			
GENDER REASSIGNMENT			
PREGNANCY/ MATERNITY			
OTHER: CARERS OF OLDER AND/OR DISABLED PEOPLE		√	

(Although carers are not considered as a PC in itself, they are protected by the Equality Act 2010 from "discrimination by association" with the PCs of age and disability)

1b. Impact on employees holding the Protected Characteristics: N/A

	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	Intended mitigating actions against the b) Negative Discrimination
AGE			
GENDER			
DISABILITY			
ETHNICITY/ RACE			
SEXUAL ORIENTATION			
RELIGION/ BELIEF			

GENDER REASSIGNMENT			
MARRIAGE/CIVIL PARTNERSHIP			
PREGNANCY/MATERNITY			
OTHER: CARERS OF OLDER AND/OR DISABLED PEOPLE			

(Although carers are not considered as a PC in itself, they are protected by the Equality Act 2010 from “discrimination by association” with the PCs of age and disability)

1c. Does the proposal promote good relations between any of the Protected Characteristics?

YES

NO

NOT SURE

Specify further (e.g. between which of the PCs, and in what way, or why not or not sure)

No effect

1d. What steps will you take to collect the Equality Monitoring information needed to monitor impact of this proposal on PCs, and when will you do this?

The uptake of services and supports by age and for those with disability is routinely collected

Step 2

Where will the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) be published?

With the report to which it refers in Angus Council committee papers and with IJB reports on the internet

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of service or Partnership:	Angus Health and Social Care Partnership
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Type of Document	
Human Resource Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Strategy/Service	<input type="checkbox"/>

Change Papers/Local Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guidelines and Protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>

Manager Responsible	Author Responsible
Name: George Bowie	Name: Vivienne Davidson
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Date of Next Policy Review: Not known
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For additional information and advice please contact:
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