

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Review of Angus Council Charges for Support and Care Services and Residential Fees

Proposals to changes in charging for adult social work services largely linked to inflation.

Screening Process

Does the proposed saving involve or have consequences for the people the council serves or employs? **Yes**

If yes, proceed to step 1 of the Full Equality Impact Assessment below.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FULL ASSESSMENT

Step 1

What data/research is available to assess the likely impact of the proposed saving?

The number of people affected by the change in charging is known. We have benchmarked proposals against charging in other local authority areas of Scotland. The proposed general percentage uplift for 2020/21 is in line with Angus Council's recommended standard uplift.

A 3% increase is to be applied to Community Meals (Lunchtime) and Community Alarm. Charges for these services are applied to all people who use these services. 3471 people use community alarm. Users of community alarm tend to be over the age of 75 years. People who use community alarm represent 29% of the over 75 population in Angus. 469 people use community meals. Service users are predominantly over 65. They represents around 4% of the population aged over 75.

On an annual basis, rates need to be agreed for the weekly cost of in house residential services. This year (2020/21) it is proposed to uplift the charges for mainstream provision and high dependency in older peoples' care homes, and in the Gables, by 3% to reflect inflation and increased delivery costs. 80 beds are affected by the uplifted charge. It is important to note that services users only pay this cost, or a contribution to this cost, if they have had a financial assessment that indicates that they can afford to make a contribution. Those most affected will be people who are self-funding (i.e. those people not supported with costs because they can afford to pay or who have declined a financial assessment.) The mixture of self-funders and supported funders varies at any given time in any of our care homes, according to the relative prosperity of residents and the amount of movement (for example, with respite care). At the time of writing (w/b 10-2-20) 18 residents of 80 are self-funding. (On average, this would be between 20-25%.)

Fairer Scotland duties:

1) Does this report have an impact for Angus citizens under Fairer Scotland? Y/N **Yes**

2) If Yes, what are these implications and how will they be addressed?

The increased charges could adversely affect poorer socio-economic groups but for the mitigating factors outlined below.

The increase in the residential care fee is mitigated by the assessment of the service user's ability to pay and the maximum contribution threshold.

The increased charge for fixed rate services is largely an inflation and cost linked increase and we believe is consistent with inflation increases to service user income under benefits uplift. In addition, exceptions can be made in cases of extreme financial hardship.

Step 2

Is there any reason to believe the proposal could affect people differently due to their protected characteristic i.e. age; disability; gender; gender re-assignment; pregnancy/maternity; marriage and civil partnership; race; religion and belief; and sexual orientation? **Yes**

Age - social care services are more likely to be used by older people

Disability - social care services are used by some people with disability

Charges for social care provision are reviewed annually. Proposals by Angus Council are in line with national guidance.

Step 3

Is there evidence to suggest that any part of the proposed saving could unlawfully discriminate against people? **No**

Step 4

Can the proposed saving be seen to favour one section of the community or deny opportunities to another? **No**

Step 5

Does the proposed saving advance equality? **No**

Or restrict equality? **No**

Step 6

Based on the work you have done, please state the level of impact for any of the equality groups of the proposed saving in terms of high, medium, low, unknown.

Low impact.

Step 7

If during **Steps 2 - 5** there has been an adverse impact identified, consider if any adverse impact can be justified.

Impact is in line with legislation and national guidance on charging for social care services. The change affects a small proportion of the population. People who use community meals services do not otherwise buy groceries for those meals. Increases in charges for community alarm and community meals are in line with other inflationary adjustments.

Fees for care homes are subject to a financial assessment where national rules apply. The great majority of residents in local authority care homes are not self-funders so the majority of the cost is met by the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership.

Impact Assessment Carried Out By: Vivienne Davidson, Principal Officer

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