

SPECIAL ANGUS COUNCIL

27 FEBRUARY 2020

REVIEW OF ANGUS COUNCIL CHARGES FOR SUPPORT AND CARE SERVICES AND RESIDENTIAL FEES 2020/21

REPORT BY GAIL SMITH, INTERIM 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 2020.

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 2020;
2. Notes the continued adoption during 2020/21 of COSLA guidance regarding 'income disregards' for the purposes of assessing client contributions;
3. Approves the proposed residential charges for Angus Council owned Care Homes as set out at 4.5 with effect from April 2020.

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 2020/21 and recommendations are set out in this paper. These recommendations are made in the context of the overall financial position of the Partnership and general charging requirements. Previous recommendations were set out in report 53/19.

In February 2020, 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 both the financial circumstances and general charging requirements. Angus Council have previously advised they wish to use a common inflation index for all charges. Angus HSCP did not follow this position in 2019/20 for a variety of documented reasons. However for 2020/21, Angus HSCP does generally intend to adopt this uplift unless set out otherwise in this report.

The overall intention is to set out amendments to charges to increase costs recovered through charging 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 support and care 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 53/19. The proposed general percentage uplift for 2020/21 is in line with Angus Council's recommended standard uplift.

2020/21 – 3.00%

This 3% uplift will also apply to charges made by Angus Council for day care services provided through the independent sector.

Should the proposed 2020/21 uplift of 3% prove to be an understatement relative to the increases in costs incurred, then this may be remedied in future year's uplifts.

Contributions for College Support required to be revised following the implementation of a partnership model with Dundee and Angus College for the Supported Education Programme. This was described and approved at the Integration Joint Board (Report 41/19) and at Policy and Resources Committee (Report 281/19). There will be no charge for the support to those attending this programme and personal budgets will not be generated for this aspect of an individual's outcomes. For those attending other forms of further education, the contribution policy and fair cost of care will apply.

From 2020/21, charges for Glenloch are adjusted to reflect that the service is closed for 4 weeks per annum and the annual cost now reflects a 48 week per year service.

Reflecting changes to planned service delivery, new charges for Supported Accommodation at Provost Johnston Road, Montrose and St. Drostan's, Brechin will be developed during 2020. In future years a similar charge would also apply to service provision at The Gables once the new building there is opened.

The effect on individual services is shown in Appendix 1. The net financial benefit is estimated at c£33k 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 2020/21, it is now proposed to adjust these flat rate fees, in line with services described above but with some exceptions, by 3.0% for 2020/21 as follows:-

Service	2019/20 Charge (£)	Proposed 2020/21 Charge (£)	%age Increase
Community Alarm	£4.90/week	£5.05/week	3%
Community / Day care Meal (Evening Meal)	£2.90/day	£2.90/day	0%
Community Meal (Lunchtime)	£3.55/day	£3.65/day	3%
Telecare	£1.00/week	£1.00/week	0% ¹

1. No uplift applied to retain standard charge at £1.
2. The above rates are rounded to nearest 5p.

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 is recommended to retain the Telecare charges at £1/week as this is still a relatively new charge and the evening meal charge is held at £2.90 to increase the differential with lunchtime meals.

It has been assessed that the additional cost recovery 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 2019/20 the taper that applies to excess income was 75%. It is not proposed to revise this for 2020/21.

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 2020/21.

4.5 RESIDENTIAL FEES

On an annual basis, rates need to be agreed for the weekly cost of in house residential services. For 2019/20 rates were set at £620/week for mainstream Older People's residential care at Kinloch, Beech Hill and Seaton Grove and £1059 per week for High Dependency Units. For 2020/21 it is proposed to increase the charging rate by 3% per annum for all residential rates in line with increases used elsewhere in Angus Council.

In the longer term it is envisaged that residential fees may more closely reflect the full cost of service provision and this proposal will be considered during 2020.

It is important to note that services users only make a contribution to these costs if they have had a financial assessment that indicates they can afford to contribute. These changes in charges will help offset the full costs associated with service delivery.

Category	Homes	2019/20 Rates per Week	2020/21 Rates per Week
Residential Care – Mainstream (e.g. Older People)	Kinloch, Beech Hill, Seaton Grove.	£620	£639
Residential Care (Learning Disability)	The Gables	£620	£639
Residential care (High Dependency Units)	Kinloch, Beech Hill, Seaton Grove	£1059	£1091

It has been assessed that the additional cost recovery that will be derived from the inflation component of the above increases in mainstream residential is c£179k per annum, assuming no reduction in services users who contribute to the cost of their care.

Step down/Intermediate Care provision will continue to be free to service users for up to 4 weeks as the service is commissioned in entirety.

All charges are consistent with the CRAG (Charging for Residential Accommodation Guidance) regulations laid out by COSLA and are compatible with our statutory duty to assess need and to promote the client's best interests.

4.6 CHARGING FOR RESPITE SERVICES

Report 53/19 noted that Angus HSCP was reviewing the charging for respite services. This review remains ongoing and should be clarified during 2020.

4.7 FREE PERSONAL CARE

From April 2019 the Scottish Government introduced changes regarding Free Personal Care for under 65s. This change was funded through discrete Scottish Government funding and the reduction in costs recovered (as care became “free”) was covered by additional Scottish Government funding. The Scottish Government also recognised there was a likelihood of increased long term growth in the uptake of personal care amongst the under 65s once it became free. While funding was made available for this impact, this long term growth may still put pressure on budgets in futures years.

4.8 CHARGES AND CONTRIBUTION POLICY

As noted in report 53/19, Angus IJB operates contributions policies for Support and Care Services. These policies have developed over a number of years and work is ongoing to consolidate the current policies and guidance with the intention of this being reported back to the Council.

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 charging 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 2020/21 additional charges income of £244k should be allowed for.

On an annual basis Angus HSCP generates c£10m of cost recovery charges. This reflects charges for both Support and Care and Residential Services. Charges are routinely monitored through corporate support arrangements. In any given year there can be an element of charges raised that are not recovered. Unpaid charges are continually reviewed and recovery is in line with Council procedures. Write offs are only considered after all means of recovery have been explored. There is currently an increased level of concern regarding charges not recovered within the HSCP. Work in underway to review processes and to determine any financial impact of this.

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.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Revisions to Charges for Support and Care Services

APPENDIX 1 – REVISIONS TO CHARGES FOR SUPPORT AND CARE SERVICES

APPENDIX 1 - SUPPORT AND CARE RATES

Supplier Name	Type of Support	Per (Describe)	2019-20	2020-21
Angus Council	Personal Care/Care and Support	Hour	£24.72	£25.47
Angus Council	Mainstream Daycare	Per session (5 hours)	£58.40	£60.15
Angus Council	Resource Centre (Learning Disabilities)	Hour (Group Support)	£5.44	£5.60
Angus Council	Resource Centre (Learning Disabilities)	Hour (Close support)	£10.88	£11.20
Angus Council	Resource Centre (Learning Disabilities)	Hour (Individual Support)	£32.68	£33.68
Angus Council	Resource Centre (Learning Disabilities)	Hour (2:1 Support)	£65.40	£67.36
Angus Council	Attendance at Glenloch Centre Forfar	Per session (2 hours community or Centre Based)	£21.80	£20.66
Angus Council	Attendance at Glenloch Centre Forfar	Per session (1 hour community)	£10.90	£10.33

Based on uplift of 3%

Effective date - April 2020

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Department: Angus Health and Social Care Partnership

What is the proposed budget saving?

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 No

If yes, proceed to Step 1 of the Full Equality Impact Assessment on page 2.

If No, please state why not.

If no, the budget saving is not relevant and no further action is required.

Impact Assessment Carried Out By: Vivienne Davidson

Date: 13/01/2020_____

Please forward to Doreen Phillips (PhillipsD@angus.gov.uk)

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? Please **place a cross** in each box that applies, and give details alongside.

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

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

Gender

Gender Re-assignment

Pregnancy/maternity

Marriage and civil Partnership

Race

Religion and belief

Sexual orientation

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?

Yes No

If Yes, please give details.

Step 4

Can the proposed saving be seen to favour one section of the community?

Yes No

or deny opportunities to another?

Yes No

If Yes, please give details.

Step 5

Does the proposed saving advance equality?

Yes No

Or restrict equality?

Yes No

If Yes, please give details.

Step 6

Based on the work you have done, rate the level of impact for any of the equality groups of the proposed saving.

High Medium Low Unknown

Step 7

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

Yes No

Please give details.

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:

Manager Responsible	Author Responsible
Name: George Bowie	Name: Vivienne Davidson
Designation: Head of Community Health and Care Services (South Angus)	Designation: Principal Officer
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Date: February 2020

Please forward to Doreen Phillips (PhillipsD@angus.gov.uk)