



Meeting of East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Integration Joint Board
Held on	25 September 2019
Agenda Item	10
Title	Charging for Services
<p>Summary</p> <p>To provide members of the Integration Joint Board with the proposed charges within the HSCP for the financial year 2020/21, as set out in the attached draft Cabinet paper which is seeking agreement of the proposed increase to existing charges.</p> <p>The HSCP Charging Policy for Non Residential Care is also enclosed for note. The authority to agree the policy was remitted by the Council's Cabinet to the Chief Officer / Chief Financial Officer.</p>	
Presented by	Lesley Bairden, Head of Finance and Resources (Chief Financial Officer)
<p>Action Required</p> <p>The Integration Joint Board is asked to agree the proposed charges for 2020/21 and remit the attached paper to East Renfrewshire Council's Cabinet on 28 November 2019.</p>	
<p>Implications checklist – check box if applicable and include detail in report</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Legal <input type="checkbox"/> Equalities <input type="checkbox"/> Efficient Government <input type="checkbox"/> Staffing <input type="checkbox"/> Property/Capital <input type="checkbox"/> IT </p>	

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET28 November 2019Report by Chief Officer – Health and Social Care PartnershipHEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP - CHARGING FOR SERVICES**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To update Cabinet on the proposed charges within the HSCP for financial year 2020/21.

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Cabinet is asked to:
- (a) Note this update on charging within the HSCP; and
 - (b) Agree the proposed increase to existing charges

BACKGROUND

3. This report is produced annually and identifies the proposed charging increases for 2020/21. The legislation supporting the integration of health and social care determines that the authority and approval for setting charges for social care remains with the council, this function was not delegated to the Integration Joint Board.

4. The Integration Joint Board received this charging report at its meeting on 25 September and agreed to remit the 2020/21 charging increases to Cabinet for approval.

REPORT

5. The stand rate of inflation at 2.6% is the basis of increase to the existing charges within the HSCP. As with prior years this has been rounded up or down to the nearest £0.05. The proposed treatment of each existing charge is set out below:

Service	2019/20 Charge	Proposed Change	2020/21 Proposed Charge
	£		£
Community Alarms (per week)	2.50	Increase by £0.10 (4.0%)	2.60
Meals 2 courses	4.50	Increase by £0.10 (2.2%)	4.60
Meals 3 courses	4.70	Increase by £0.10 (2.1%)	4.80
Room Hire (per day)	6.40	Increase by £0.20 (3.1%)	6.60
Day care Charges to Other Local Authorities (per day)	113.00	Increase by £2.90 (2.6%)	115.90
Blue Badges (per application)	20.00	No change proposed	20.00
Bonnyton Residential Care (per week)	718.00	Increase by £18.70 (2.6%)	736.70
Inclusive Support Holiday Programme (per day)	35.00	Increase by £0.90 (2.6%)	35.90

6. The proposed contribution level for Individual Budgets will be 5% of the chargeable element of the budget. Where an individual budget is on place the contribution will

supersede any charge for individual aspects of a care package.

7. The HSCP has a non-residential care charging policy in place to support the charges above.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

8. All financial issues are included in the report above. The proposed charges, as set out in the table above, will generate £26,000 income. The contribution from implementation of Individual Budgets is in the early stages of implementation and will continue to be assessed.

CONSULTATION

9. A full consultation and equalities impact assessment were undertaken prior to implementation of the Individual Budget proposals.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

10. The setting of fees and charges remains a responsibility of East Renfrewshire Council under the legislation.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

11. A full equalities impact assessment was undertaken as part of the development of the Individual budget implementation.

12. There are no implications in relation to staffing, property, legal, sustainability or IT implications

CONCLUSIONS

13. The proposed increases to existing charges are in line with inflation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. The Cabinet is asked to:

- (a) Note this update on charging within the HSCP;
- (b) Agree the proposed increase to existing charges;

REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT

Lesley Bairden, Head of Finance and Resources (Chief Financial Officer)

Lesley.Bairden@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

0141 451 0746

Chief Officer, IJB: Julie Murray

BACKGROUND PAPERS

IJB 26.06.2019 - Individual Budget Update

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=24642&p=0>

IJB 27.06.2018 - Individual Budgets Self Directed Support Update

<http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=22619&p=0>

CABINET 30.11.2017 - HSCP Charging for Services

<http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=21429&p=0>

DRAFT subject to IJB approval

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East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership

Non Residential Care Charging Policy 2019/20

Author:	Lesley Bairden, Head of Finance & Resources (Chief Financial Officer)			
Creation Date:	September 2019			
Review Dates:	Date of last review:	N/A	Date of next review:	March 2020

Introduction

1. This Charging Policy explains how East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) considers and calculates the contribution to cost that people who use services will be expected to pay towards the services they receive from the HSCP.
2. Charges apply whether the service is provided directly from the HSCP, or by an external provider commissioned to provide services on the HSCP's behalf or where a person receives an individual budget (direct payment) and arranges their own support.
3. There are some services for which charges do not apply:
 - a) Criminal Justice social work services
 - b) Children in need, including; children subject to statutory and voluntary supervision arrangements, or are involved with social work under section 12 or section 22
 - c) People with mental health problems who are subject to community care or supervision and / or criminal court orders
4. There are some services which are provided free of charge:
 - Care at Home on discharge from hospital for a period of reablement
 - Free Personal Care and Free Nursing Care
 - Carers; some services to support unpaid carers will not be chargeable
5. The charges are set in line with statutory requirements and National Guidance, are remitted by the Integration Joint Board of the HSCP to East Renfrewshire Council to be approved by elected members and reviewed on an annual basis through the budget setting process.
6. The policy to support annual charges will be reviewed annually referencing the relevant legislation and guidance, including but not limited to the COSLA National Strategy and Guidance on charging for non-residential care. The key points from this guidance can be summarised:
 - a) The threshold for single people and couples be based on Income Support Personal Allowance, the Pension Credit – Standard Minimum Guarantee and a buffer of 25% of the thresholds to be up-rated on an annual basis, using the figures announced in November each year. Charging policies that reduce users' net income below these basic levels are not acceptable and undermine social inclusion policies.
 - b) The level of charge, which the service user will pay, will be determined by individual Local Authorities. Any charges should not exceed the cost of providing the service.
 - c) Local Authorities should consider adopting a common approach to the treatment of income used to establish the threshold figure. This would take account of net

earnings, all social security benefits with the exception of the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance.

- d) Local Authorities should ensure equality in charging irrespective of their financial circumstances, and widening client access to income maximisation.
 - e) Local Authorities should exercise discretion to disregard some forms of income
 - f) Where the service user has dependent children, recognition should be afforded to the costs associated with raising and maintaining children. To this end, all benefits paid for, or on behalf of a dependent child, will be disregarded.
 - g) Local Authorities should adopt capital rules similar to those applied in respect of Income Support, but without an upper level beyond which people would be refused service. This guidance does not prevent local authorities from using a higher capital threshold should they wish.
 - h) Where a service user has difficulty in meeting the approved cost of the service, due to their financial circumstances, it is recommended that councils use their powers to abate or waive charges. Local authorities should provide adequate information in their policies on waiving and abating charges.
 - i) It is recommended that all Local Authorities be pro-active in promoting benefit take up for service users. Where possible, local authorities should ensure that there are dedicated staff to promote and assist with Income Maximisation processes for service users.
 - j) All councils should provide clear and concise public information to service users on what elements of the service are free, what can be charged and what the level of charge will be.
7. Charges are linked to an individual's ability to pay. How we determine this is through a Financial Assessment with supporting detail in Appendix 1 to this policy.
8. Where a financial
9. The Chief Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the HSCP have the delegated authority to waive a charge in exceptional circumstances.
10. When a person is in receipt of an individual budget a contribution towards the cost of care is an element of the budget calculator. This contribution will supersede any charge for individual service elements. The Chief Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the HSCP have the delegate authority to set this contribution level of between 5% to 10% of the chargeable elements of the individual budget, to be deducted at source.
11. Where a financial assessment is undertaken as part of an Individual Budget only the individual's income will be assessed, this is because the wider support is taken account of within the budget calculator.
12. Where there is a Technology Enabled Care element to a care package that is reliant on community alarm technology the charge normally levied for a community alarm will not apply.

Financial Assessment – An Assessment of Ability to Pay

1. The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) provides annual advice on the level of weekly income below which a person cannot be asked to pay charges. These are known as Minimum Income Thresholds and are updated each financial year in line with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) benefit up-rates.
2. If the assessable weekly income is less than the income threshold figure, there will be no charge for services other than any flat rate charges e.g. payment for trips and outings not part of a care plan.
3. If the assessable weekly income is more than the income threshold figure, the charge or contribution will apply.
4. Financial Assessments will be carried out by the HSCP's Finance Support Officer and / or the Council's Money Advice and Rights Team (MART). We will meet with service users and gather appropriate financial information to enable the charge to be determined.
5. Where individuals do not wish to claim benefits to which they are entitled they will be financially assessed as if they were in receipt of these benefits.
6. Where a financial assessment is declined the full charge or contribution for the service will be applied.
7. We will not ask you to pay more than you can reasonably afford. When we ask you about your income to see how much you can pay, this is known as a Financial Assessment.

Each year we will set a weekly income amount for single people and couples depending on their age as follows:

Single person under pension age	£135
Single person over pension age	£210
Couple under pension age	£205
Couple over pension age	£320

If your income is below this weekly amount, we will not charge you for services. This does not apply to any flat rate charged services described below.

- You will be asked to give information on your income every year.
- We look at your total weekly income from all sources including you capital and savings. (A set amount is ignored from your capital and savings).
- We disregard set amounts depending on your age as shown above.

Income Disregarded in the Financial Assessment

8. The following income sources are disregarded:

- Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Attendance Allowance
- War Widows Pension and War Disability Pension
- Kinship Care/Residence payments
- Industrial Injuries Benefit
- Payments made from a Gallantry award
- Any pension paid from the Austrian or German Government as compensation
- Income derived from benefits paid for or on behalf of children

We also disregard:

Any backdated benefits you receive as a result of a benefit check (for 52 week)
Any other charges applied by the Council (does not include the leisure trust)

Treatment of Capital:

- Capital such as savings, bonds, stocks and shares, ISAs etc. will be taken into account in determining charges for the service.
- Capital and/ or savings up to a set disregard threshold will be disregarded (this amount is reviewed annually) as will be any property owned and lived in by the service user.
- For service users with capital in excess of the disregard threshold, a tariff income is applied. For people over pension age, this is currently £1 for each band of £500 over the disregard threshold and for people under pension age, the tariff is £1.00 for each band of £250 over the disregard threshold. These amounts are added to assessed income.

Non-Disclosure or Incorrect Information Provided in Respect of Financial Assessment

If an individual does not wish to divulge financial information for the financial assessment, the HSCP will apply the full charge or contribution for the service.

If incorrect financial information has been provided the HSCP will seek to recover any amount due or will reimburse any amount overpaid. A new financial assessment will be undertaken and the correct charge applied.

The HSCP will have the right to pursue charges not paid through East Renfrewshire Council's corporate debt recovery process.

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