



## **COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES - FEES AND CHARGES 2019-20**

Report by Chief Officer, Health and Social Care

**PURPOSE OF REPORT** To seek approval from Members for revised charges for Comhairle community care services, effective from 1 April 2019.

### **COMPETENCE**

- 1.1 There are no legal or other constraints to the recommendations being implemented. A 3% increase in line with anticipated pay inflation has been applied to a number of charges to address the budget deficit. Charging linked to external factors such as Department of Work and Pensions and rates set nationally are subject to confirmation of these levels of inflation or limits.

### **SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Report sets out the framework of charges for 2019/20 for community care services, in the context of COSLA guidance on charging for social work services. Personal care delivered to people regardless of age will be delivered free of charge from 1 April 2019. People who receive services as a consequence of an Order under the Mental Health Care and Treatment Act, and other compulsory measures, are similarly exempt from charges. Charges for food provided in day centres and by care homes to day care users and those in supported accommodation are payable by all recipients.
- 2.2 People assessed as requiring a service can choose to have their ability to pay assessed, and the total of all charges will thereafter be restricted to the assessed threshold. They also have the option to pay the full charge without assessment.
- 2.3 The Comhairle continues to follow COSLA Guidance on charges. The charges set out in this Report are the maximum charge for each service, and do not translate into the amount that all individuals will pay towards their care. Notwithstanding that income received forms part of the IJB budget, it is a legal requirement that these fees be set by the Comhairle. In accordance with its practice in previous years, the IJB has considered and recommended approval of the fees and charges at the February 2019 meeting of the Board ahead of consideration by Comhairle.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle approve the undernoted fees and charges**
- (a) **the standard weekly charge for Comhairle care homes for the elderly in 2019/20 be increased from £1,028 to £1,366 per room;**
  - (b) **the standard weekly charge for Ardseileach Care Home for 2019/20 be increased from £1,473 to £1,782 per room;**
  - (c) **the 2019/20 fee for residential assessment and respite care (currently £132.60 per week) be increased by the percentage increase in pension credit;**
  - (d) **the maximum care fee per bed for the Care Units (where residents receive all services offered) be increased by 3% to £633 per week; the charge for rent and service charges (currently £106.67 per week) be increased by the inflationary rent increase applied by HHP for 2019/20;**

**(e) the agreed rates for the independent care homes for 2019/20 are as follows:**

**Blàr Buidhe £755 + NCHC inflation**  
**Leverburgh £680.12 + NCHC inflation**  
**Bethesda £755 + NCHC inflation**

**(f) the meal provision charges for Day Care and other community based service users for 2019/20 be £0.65 for tea/coffee and £2.90 per meal for lunch or a cooked meal;**

**(g) the room hire and other facilities related charges be increased by 3%;**

**(h) the charge for each single journey be increased to £0.50 for transport provided for an individual service user pending further consideration of transport policy;**

**(i) the hourly rate for direct payments be set at £14.85 for one-to-one personal care, £10.59 for the training/specialist rate, £8.08 for the standard rate and between £24.20 and £63.53 for the half-day to full-day rate for Day Care for adults with learning disabilities depending on assessment.**

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Background Papers: None

## PROPOSED CHARGES 2019/20

- 4.1 It is proposed to maintain the flat rate charge historically set at £0.50 per journey for transport services, pending further consideration of eligibility and charging for transport assistance.

### Comhairle Care Homes and Area Care Units

- 4.2 The current maximum charge for Comhairle Care Homes is £1,028 per week for a single room. It is proposed to increase this charge to £1,366 to reflect the associated budgeted expenditure in line with the proposed staffing. Similarly it is proposed that the standard weekly charge for Ardseileach Care Home for 2019/20 be increased from £1,473 to £1,782 to reflect budgetary provision. Service users assessed as liable to fund their own care qualify for Free Personal Care Allowance - this is currently set at £174 per week for residential care and £253 for nursing care for the year 2018/19. This will be updated for 2019/20 when the figures are available.
- 4.3 The current charge for residential assessment and respite is £132.60 and it is proposed to increase this figure for 2019/20 by the inflationary increase to pension credit.
- 4.4 The lower and upper Capital limits in residential care charging are currently £17,000 and £27,250. From April 2019 these limits will increase in terms of the Guidance provided by the Scottish Government.
- 4.5 The Personal Expenses Allowance (PEA) is currently £27 per week and this will increase as per the figure set by the Scottish Government; this is the weekly amount that care home service users must be allowed to retain.
- 4.6 Noting that the Care Units are subject to a concurrent report, it is proposed to sustain the previous approach to charging for this service. It is recommended that the maximum care fee per bed for the Care Units (where residents receive all services offered) be increased by 3% to £633 per week and the charge for rent and service charges (currently £106.67 per week) be increased by the inflationary rent increase applied by HHP for 2019/20.

### Charges - Independent Care Home Providers

- 4.7 The locally agreed rates for 2019/20 are as follows:

Blàr Buidhe	£755 +NCHC inflation
Leverburgh	£680.12 +NCHC inflation
Bethesda	£755 +NCHC inflation

### Charge for Meals Provided (Day Care and Care Homes)

Meals	Current Rate £	Proposed Rate £
Am/pm Tea/Coffee	0.65	0.65
Cooked Meal/Lunch	2.80	2.90
Total Daily Charge	4.10	4.20

- 4.8 It is proposed to increase the fees and charges for all Community Care premises for room hire and other facilities by 3%.

### Direct Payments

- 4.9 The Comhairle offers several Direct Payment options for assessed needs that fall within the Eligibility Criteria for Community Care services.

Direct Payments	Current Rate £	Proposed Rate £
One-to-One	14.35	14.85
Standard	7.84	8.08
Training/Specialist	10.28	10.59
Day Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities (Half day)	23.50 – 30.84	24.20 – 31.77
Day Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities (Full day)	47.01 – 61.68	48.42 – 63.53

### Impact of Changes

- 4.10 A public information leaflet will be issued detailing all service charges for 2019/20, so that service users are fully informed of all the charges that apply to the Comhairle's Community Care Services.
- 4.11 Officers within the Department will continue to ensure that all service users are encouraged to maximise their benefits entitlements through collaborative working with the Western Isles Citizens Advice Service and the Comhairle/Macmillan Benefit Advisers.
- 4.12 The financial impact of the proposed charges have all been accounted for in the draft IJB budget.