



POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

17 FEBRUARY 2016

COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES – FEES AND CHARGES 2016/17

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 Monday 4 April 2016.

COMPETENCE

- 1.1 There are no legal or other constraints to the recommendations being implemented. The financial aspects of the Report are contained within the body of the Report. A future report will be presented to detail the implications to the proposed charging structure based on full implementation of Self-Directed Support personal budgets and the associated service unit costs.

SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Report sets out the framework of charges for 2016/17 for community care services, in the context of COSLA guidance on charging for social work services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that:

- (a) the charge per hour for a Care at Home service (Home Care) for 2016/17 be retained at £16.00;
- (b) the Care at Home service (Home Care) thresholds be increased for a single person and for a couple in accordance with the Guidance to be issued by COSLA for non-residential care charges;
- (c) the standard weekly charge for care homes for the elderly in 2016/17 be retained at £969 for single rooms and £872 for shared accommodation;
- (d) the standard weekly charge for Ardseileach Care Home for 2016/17 be retained at £1,390;
- (e) the 2016/17 fee for residential assessment and respite care (currently £123 per week) be increased by the percentage increase in pension credit;
- (f) the fee per bed for the Area Care Units be retained at £680 per week;
- (g) the agreed rate for the independent care homes for 16/17 are
Bethesda Nursing Home £707
Blàr Buidhe Nursing Home. Currently subject to National Care Home contract (NCHC) increase being negotiated nationally.
Doigheag Respite Care Home £816
Leverburgh Care Home. Currently subject to National Care Home Contract (NCHC) increase being negotiated nationally.
- (h) the meal provision charges for Day Care and other community based service users for 2016/17 be retained at £0.60 for tea/coffee and £2.60 per meal for lunch or a cooked meal;
- (i) the room hire and other facilities related charges be increased by 2%;
- (j) the charge for each single journey be retained at £0.50 for transport provided for an individual service user; and
- (k) the hourly rate for direct payments be set at £13.42 for one-to-one personal care, £9.88 for the training/specialist rate, £7.53 for the standard rate and between £22.59 and £59.28 for the half-day to full-day rate for Day Care for adults with learning disabilities depending on assessment.

BACKGROUND

- 4.1 All personal care delivered to people aged 65 and over is delivered free of charge. In addition, all home care provided to people in this age group is free of charge for up to 42 days following discharge from hospital in respect of any assessed needs, in addition to the package in place before admission, or new care package for a client not in receipt of home care prior to admission. 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. With these exceptions all users of Community Care services are assessed for their ability to contribute to the cost of those services. 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 The Comhairle continues to follow COSLA Guidance on charges, so that income equivalent to basic welfare benefits is disregarded. 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.

PROPOSED CHARGES 2016/17

Care at Home (Home Care)

- 5.1 The current maximum charge for this service is £16.00 per hour up to a maximum of 10 hours per week. It is proposed to maintain this charge per hour of home care delivered for 2016/17.

Transport

- 5.2 It is proposed to maintain the flat rate charge of £0.50 per journey for transport services in 2016/17.

Comhairle Care Homes and Area Care Units

- 5.3 It is proposed to retain the maximum charge for Comhairle Care Homes at £969 per week for a single room and £872 for shared accommodation. Service users, who are aged 65 and over, and assessed as liable to fund their own care, qualify for Free Personal Care Allowance subject to assessment - this is currently set at £171 per week for residential care and £249 for nursing care for the year 2015/16. This will be updated for 2016/17 when the figure becomes available.
- 5.4 The current charge for residential assessment and respite is £123 and it is proposed to increase this figure for 2016/17 by the inflationary increase to pension credit.
- 5.5 The lower and upper Capital limits in residential care charging are currently £16,250 and £26,250. From April 2016 these limits will increase in terms of the Guidance provided by the Scottish Government for 2016/17 when published.
- 5.6 The Personal Expenses Allowance (PEA) is currently £25.05 per week and this will increase as per the figure set by the UK Government; this is the weekly amount that care home service users must be allowed to retain.

Charges - Independent Care Home Providers

- 5.7 The contracts for the three Independent Care Homes end on 31 March 2018. The agreed rates for 2016/17 are:

Blàr Buidhe	£626.61 + NCHC inflation
Leverburgh	£600 + NCHC inflation
Bethesda	£707
Doigheag Respite Facility-	£816

Charge for Meals Provided (Day Care and Care Homes)

5.8

Meals	Current Rate £	Proposed Rate £
Am/pm Tea/Coffee	0.60	0.60
Cooked Meal/Lunch	2.60	2.60
Total Daily Charge	3.80	3.80

5.9 It is proposed to increase the fees and charges for all Community Care premises for room hire and other facilities by 2%.

Direct Payments

5.10 The Comhairle offers several Direct Payment options for assessed needs that fall within the Eligibility Criteria for Community Care services. It is proposed to increase the hourly rates by 1% payroll inflation for the financial year 2016/17.

Direct Payments	Current Rate £	Proposed Rate £
One-to-One	13.05	13.42
Standard	7.46	7.53
Training/Specialist	9.78	9.88
Day Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities (Half day)	22.39 – 29.33	22.59 – 29.64
Day Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities (Full day)	44.78 – 58.66	45.18 – 59.28

Impact of Changes

- 5.11 The Comhairle charging policy, which is based on an assessment of the service user's income and essential costs and which follows COSLA guidance, combined with the effect of the Free Personal and Nursing Care policy, ensures that everyone who is assessed as requiring a care service does so either free of charge or at a cost which is within their ability to pay and does not cause them hardship.
- 5.12 A public information leaflet will be issued detailing Non-Residential and Residential service charges for 2016/17, so that service users are fully informed of all the charges that apply to the Comhairle's Community Care Services.
- 5.13 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.