



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE COMMITTEE: 6 FEBRUARY 2014
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 13 FEBRUARY 2014

COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES – FEES AND CHARGES 2014/15

Report by Director of Social and Community Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT To seek approval from Members for revised charges for Comhairle Community Care Services, effective from Monday 7 April 2014.

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.

SUMMARY

2.1 The Report sets out the framework of charges for 2014/15 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 2014/15 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 2014/15 be retained at £969 for single rooms and £872 for shared accommodation;
- (d) the standard weekly charge for Ardseileach Care Home for 2014/15 be retained at £1,390;
- (e) the 2014/15 fee for residential assessment and respite care (currently £119 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 fee per bed for Bethesda Nursing Home for 2014/15 be retained at £687 per week as per local agreement;
- (h) the fee per bed for Leverburgh Care Home for 2014/15 be £580 per week, as per local agreement;
- (i) the fee per bed for Blar Buidhe Care Home for 2014/15 be set at the National Care Home Contract rate (currently £580.11) plus 5% per week, as per local agreement;

- (j) **the meal provision charges for Day Care and other community based service users for 2014/15 be retained at £0.60 for tea/coffee and £2.60 per meal for lunch or a cooked meal;**
- (k) **the room hire and other facilities related charges be increased by 2%;**
- (l) **the charge for each single journey be retained at £0.50 for transport provided for an individual service user;**
- (m) **the hourly rate for direct payments be set at £12.94 for one-to-one personal care, £9.68 for the training/specialist rate, £7.39 for the standard rate and between £22.17 and £58.08 for the half day to full day rate for day care for adults with learning disabilities depending on assessment.**

Contact Officer: Iain Macaulay Tel No: 01851 822781 x 211330

Background Papers: None

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 4 weeks 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 2014/15

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 2014/15. There is no additional charge where two carers are required or for matters such as exceptional travel etcetera.

Transport

- 5.2 It is proposed to maintain the flat rate charge of £0.50 per journey for transport services in 2014/15.

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 £166 per week for the year 2013/14. This will be updated for 2014/15 when the figure becomes available.

- 5.4 The Comhairle Care Homes weekly cost is detailed below. The weekly charge is being maintained at 2013/14 levels, setting aside additional costs in the area care units and Ardseileach.

| Care Home | Weekly Unit Cost | Bed Complement |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Dun Berisay | £697 | 33 |
| Dun Eisdean | £715 | 38 |
| Harris House | £1,212 | 16 |
| Trianaid | £1,237 | 12 |
| Taigh A'Chridhe Uile Naomh | £1,144 | 18 |
| St Brendan's | £991 | 10 |
| Ardseileach Residential | £1,390 | 11 |
| Area Care Units | £680 | 10 |

- 5.5 Estimating income in respect of Elderly Care Homes is extremely difficult since it is based on each individual's ability to pay, which can vary greatly year to year and from one individual to another.
- 5.6 The current charge for residential assessment and respite is £119 and it is proposed to increase this figure for 2014/15 by the inflationary increase to pension credit.
- 5.7 The lower and upper Capital limits in residential care charging are currently £15,500 and £25,250. From April 2014 these limits will increase in terms of the Guidance provided by the Scottish Government for 2014/15 when published.
- 5.8 The Personal Expenses Allowance (PEA) is currently £23.90 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

- 5.9 The proposed weekly maximum charge for the three independent Care Home providers are as undernoted as per local agreement.

| Care Home | Proposed Charge |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Bethesda Nursing Home | £687 per week |
| Leverburgh Care Home | £580 per week |
| Blar Buidhe Care Home | £NCHC+5% per week |

Charge for Meals Provided (Day Care and Care Homes)

- 5.10

| 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 |

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

Direct Payments

- 5.12 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 2014/15.

| Direct Payments | Current Rate £ | Proposed Rate £ |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| One-to-One | 12.80 | 12.94 |
| Standard | 7.32 | 7.39 |
| Training/Specialist | 9.58 | 9.68 |
| Day Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities (Half day) | 21.96 – 28.75 | 22.17 – 29.04 |
| Day Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities (Full day) | 43.92 – 57.50 | 44.34 – 58.08 |

Impact of Changes

- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 A public information leaflet will be issued detailing Non-Residential and Residential service charges for 2014/15, so that service users are fully informed of all the charges that apply to the Comhairle's Community Care Services.
- 5.15 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 Advisors.