

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

19TH MARCH, 2018

Executive Board Member:	Portfolio:
Cllr. J. Tremlett	Social Care & Health

SOCIAL SERVICES CHARGES FOR 2018/19

Purpose:

The Department considers the level of charges for home care and other non-residential social services each year and the purpose of this report is to recommend the charges for 2018/2019.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

It is recommended that:-

- The proposed increases in social services charges for 2018/19 as set out on the attached table are approved.
- The capital thresholds applied to the Non Residential Social Services Financial Assessment will be those announced by the Welsh Government.
- The maximum weekly charge of £80 per week for Non Residential Social Services for Adults announced by Welsh Government be applied from 9th April 2018 and that the maximum charge continues to be in line with future announcements by Welsh Government as they occur.

Reasons:

- To increase charges for Non Residential Social Services to assist in meeting current levels of demand for services.

Directorate Communities Name of Head of Service: Jake Morgan Report Author: Lyn Walters	Designation Director of Community Services Senior Business Support Manager	Tel No. 01267 224698 01267 228768 E Mail Address: Jakemorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk dlwalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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Declaration of Personal Interest (if any):

None

Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any):

N/A

(If the answer is yes exact details are to be provided below:)

DECISION MADE:

Signed:

DATE: _____

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

The following section will be completed by the Democratic Services Officer in attendance at the meeting

	YES / NO
Recommendation of Officer adopted	
Recommendation of the Officer was adopted subject to the amendment(s) and reason(s) specified:	
Reason(s) why the Officer's recommendation was not adopted:	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISION MEETING FOR SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH

19TH MARCH 2018

SOCIAL SERVICES CHARGES FOR 2018/19

INTRODUCTION

The Department considers the level of charges for home care and other non-residential social services each year and the purpose of this report is to recommend the charges for 2018/2019.

1. PROPOSALS

The proposed charges for 2018/19 set out in the attached table Appendix 1 are:

Home Care and other non-residential social services: Authorities still have discretion to decide whether to charge for services, to decide how much to charge for services and which services should have a charge. There is still a maximum charge that any service user can pay and, for 2018/19, the maximum charge is £80 per week excluding any charges which substitute for ordinary daily living costs such as meals and laundry. The proposal is to continue to apply the new maximum charge as announced by Welsh Government.

The existing charges for 2017/18 and the proposed charges for 2018/19 can be seen in Appendix 1. The majority of charges will be increased in line with the Authority's budget expectations with the exception of the Telecare charge. The telecare charge will remain unchanged as the charge, as it is for any service, cannot be greater than it costs to deliver the service. The telecare service is currently going through significant change and once this is complete then the charge will be reviewed again for future years.

The capital thresholds applied in the Non Residential Social Services charging Financial Assessment will, as in previous years, be the figures published by the Welsh Government. For 2018/19 there is one capital threshold for non-residential care and it is £24,000.

Service users receiving non Residential Social Services will require a reassessment of their financial circumstances as a result of Department for Work and Pensions pension changes in April 2018. Under the Act service users still have to be notified of their charge or any changes to their charge before an invoice can be sent but the charge can and will apply from the date financial circumstances change and/or the first day of service. The outcome of the Financial Reassessment will therefore be applied from the 9th April 2018 being the date DWP pension changes apply from.

Respite Care: In the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 respite care is considered a short term service and, accordingly, service users accessing respite are entitled to a Financial Assessment (means test) under the Non Residential Charging rules. As a result, service users will not pay more than £80 per week for the service, many will pay a lot less, or have a free service. For 2018/19 it is proposed to charge the full cost of the placement with the Financial Assessment ensuring no one pays more than they can afford. The Financial Assessment will be in accordance with the Act, Regulations, Code of Practice and subject to a maximum charge of £80.00 per week.

Services considered as an ordinary daily living cost

The proposed changes to these charges can also be seen in Appendix 1. These charges will be flat rate charges and not subject to a Financial Assessment (means test) and therefore will be charged in addition to a means tested charge for the services above. The services which fall under this category are as follows:

- Hot meals at home (MOW) and in day facilities and frozen meals at home (MOW) - £4.70 per meal (increase of 40p) – this increase is in line with Council’s decision of the 23rd February 2016
- Laundry - £2.40 per load (increase of 5p)

Implementation

All of the charges included in this report will be implemented from the date shown alongside the charge in Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- The proposed increases in social services charges for 2018/19 as set out on the attached table are approved.
- The capital thresholds applied to the Non Residential Social Services Financial Assessment will be those announced by the Welsh Government.
- The maximum weekly charge of £80 per week for Non Residential Social Services for Adults announced by Welsh Government be applied from 9th April 2018 and that the maximum charge continues to be in line with future announcements by Welsh Government as they occur.

Detailed explanatory report
also attached:

YES – Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Lyn Walters Senior Business Support Manager

Policy and Crime & Disorder	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Organisational Development	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The proposed increases in charges seek to achieve a balance between promoting social inclusion, by protecting those users with the least means and sustaining income to the authority for investment in services by targeting charges on those who are deemed most able to meet them.

2. Legal

The proposed increases in charges comply with regulations and statutory guidance.

3. Finance

The proposed increases in charges for social services will meet budget expectations.

5. Risk Management Issues

The most significant risk in increasing social services charges is causing distress and/or annoyance to service users, which may lead some to contemplate terminating their services. The maximum charge is currently capped at £80 per week for 2018/19. The purpose of the maximum charge is still aimed at lessening the effect on service users and to give them some assurance as to the maximum they would be required to pay at any given time.

The risk of not increasing charges would be to reduce the authority's income from charges, therefore placing additional budgetary pressures on services that are already subject to serious pressures.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Lyn Walters Senior Business Support Manager

1. Scrutiny Committee

The charges included in Appendix 1 were considered by the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee as part of the Authority's budget setting process

2. Local Member(s)

N/A

3. Community / Town Council

N/A

4. Relevant Partners

N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE