

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**ADULT SERVICES  
CABINET MEMBER**

**ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT ON  
FEES AND CHARGES 2010/11**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 This report seeks to undertake the annual review of fees and charges, which form an integral part of the Adult Social Services revenue budget for 2010/2011 financial year.
- 1.2 Where charges to service users are raised, they are in line with inflation of costs and still represent excellent value for money.
- 1.3 The key issues of this report are as follows:
  - The annual review of charges for services as required by financial regulations and the council's Corporate Charging Policy.
  - The annual review of the level of fees to be paid for community care services provided by the independent sector.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Each year at this time it is necessary to review Adult Social Services' fees and charges in line with assumptions made in the 2010/11 budget estimate and government legislation concerning allowable charges and changes to personal allowances.
- 2.2 The move towards personalisation means that the charges for community services proposed in this report will be applied to people receiving services in the traditional way. Service users receiving an individual budget will be charged in accordance with the recommendations presented in the Charging System report if approved by cabinet member.

**3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 When the council provides services to persons whose funding is the responsibility of another body (local authority or Primary Care Trust)

the full cost of providing the service is recharged. These costs are updated annually.

- 3.2 The council is able to financially assess its service users and require them to make a contribution towards the cost of the provisions it makes for them. The annual welfare benefits uprating means service users have more income against which charges can be made and the charges are revised accordingly.

Service users who may be required to make a contribution towards their service costs include: -

- Those placed in Care Homes for older people and younger adults
- Those in receipt of non-residential services.
- Those adults who are given a direct payment in lieu of the provision of services.

- 3.3 In working out means related charges for disabled people in receipt of non residential services, the council is required to disregard at least 25% of their income in line with national Fairer Charging guidance. Since 2004 the council has disregarded 50% of income. In 2010/11 it is proposed to reduce the level of income disregard to 40% which is still over and above the minimum requirement.

- 3.4 For people living in premises designated under part 111 of the National Assistance Act 1948, a maximum charge is calculated annually. Assessments for charges to service users are calculated according to their individual financial circumstances and by deducting a Personal Expenses Allowance prescribed annually by the Secretary of State. At present this allowance is £21.90 per week. The Secretary of State proposes an increase to £22.30 from 12th April 2010 to reflect the rise in average earnings over the last twelve months.

- 3.5 North Lincolnshire Council works in partnership with the independent sector in negotiating fee levels for residential services.

- 3.6 The review of fees and charges to service users is outlined in Appendix A., and to other organisations in Appendix B.

#### **4. RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

##### **4.1 Financial**

The increased charges proposed in the report are necessary to meet the income expectations built into the 2010/11 budget.

The council offers advice and help to service users who are subject to charging so that they can ensure they receive their full entitlement to welfare benefits.

In exceptional circumstances, if a service user would be placed in financial jeopardy due to charges for adult social services, the council would consider their position under its severe hardship policy.

#### 4.2 Staffing

There are no staffing implications.

#### 4.3 Statutory

The council sets charges: -

For care home residents according to the Governments' Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide (CRAG)

For those in the community in accordance with its own Charging policy which complies with Fairer Charging Guidance (2001) and the Fairer Contributions Guidance (2009).

#### 4.4 Environmental and Other

There are no environmental or other implications.

### 5. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Independent residential care providers have been engaged in discussions on fees, resulting in agreement that any increases will be put onto the Quality Scheme to improve the quality of services.

### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 To approve the fees and charges as proposed in the report and agree these are implemented from the dates indicated.

SERVICE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report**

Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide  
North Lincolnshire Council Corporate Charging Framework.  
Fairer Charging Guidance (2001)  
Fairer Contributions Guidance (2009).

## **APPENDIX A**

### **FEES AND CHARGES TO SERVICE USERS**

#### **1. SHORT STAY CARE HOME RESIDENTS (How much Service Users will pay)**

- 1.1 The Government's Charging for Residential Accommodation Guidance allows councils to levy a standard charge for short stays in care homes for periods of less than 8 weeks. The council has adopted this approach for several years. The unassessed charge is based upon typical benefit levels.
- 1.2 The upper capital limit for charging purposes will be increased from £23,000 to £23,250 in line with government guidance
- 1.3 The charges will be increased from 12 April 2010 to coincide with the increase in benefit rates. The effect of the increase is shown below.

	<u>Current Charge</u>	<u>Proposed Charge</u>
Capital over £23,250	Full cost of care	Full cost of care
Capital below £23,000	£116.00	<b>£118.32</b>

#### **2. DOMICILIARY CARE (How much Service Users will pay)**

- 2.1 In accordance with the fairer charging policy, clients will continue to be assessed individually with regard to their ability to pay for services. However it is proposed to set the level of disability income disregarded as part of the assessment at 40%.
- 2.2 In previous years the domiciliary care charge has been increased from 1 July. This was to ease the workload peak associated with reassessing all care home and home support charges. For 2010/11 it is proposed to implement the increases from 1 May 2010 (the benefit rise is 12 April, so May is the first month the full increase can be applied and part month increases would be administratively complex and potentially confusing for service users).
- 2.3 In 2009-10 an hourly home care rate of £12.54 was used as the baseline to calculate the cost of services for each client. For 2010/11 it is proposed that there is no increase in the hourly home care rate in line with the proposed rate paid to Home Care providers.

- 2.4 To allow for initial fluctuations in new care packages, new service users in 2009-10 were charged a flat fee rate of £32.60 per week (unless they were exempt from charging) for up to the first eight weeks of a home care package. It is proposed that this charge is increased to £33.25 in line with the increase in benefits.

**3. MEALS IN THE HOME, LUNCHEON CLUBS AND DAY CENTRES (How much Service Users will pay)**

- 3.1 The current charge for the provision of a midday meal is £3.30. It is proposed that this is increased In line with budgeted inflation. This gives a new charge of £3.40 for the Financial Year 2010/11.

The charge for meals is standard across all day services, client groups and meals in the home.

- 3.2 The current charge for the Sandwich delivery service is £1.50. It is proposed that this is increased In line with budgeted inflation. This gives a new charge of £1.55 for the Financial Year 2010/11.

- 3.3 It is recommended that the proposed increase be adopted from the 12 April 2010.

**4. EUROPEAN BLUE BADGE SCHEME – (Income from clients)**

- 4.1 The Blue Badge Scheme of parking concessions is designed to help people with severe mobility problems to park close to shops, public buildings and other places they wish to visit. Local authorities have the discretion to charge up to a nationally set maximum fee of £2.00 to issue a badge, which is valid for three years.

It is recommended that this charge be retained for 2010-11.

**5. SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION**

- 5.1 Service users in supported accommodation are assessed according to their means under the Fairer Charging Policy.

## **6. DIRECT PAYMENTS (PAYMENTS TO SERVICE USERS)**

- 6.2 The current Hourly rate for Direct Payments is £8.82; it is proposed that this be increased to £9.00 in alignment with the council's budgeted inflation levels.
- 6.3 It is recommended that the proposed increase be adopted from the 12 April 2010 (in line with benefits increases).

## **7. SERVICES PROVIDED BY FRESH START (INCOME FROM CLIENTS)**

- 7.1 The current charge for the Toenail Cutting Service is £6.00. It is proposed to increase this fee to £6.50.
- 7.2 The current charge for the Bathing Service is £6.00. It is proposed to increase this fee to £7.00.
- 7.3 The current charge made to the service user for Transport is £3. It is proposed to increase this charge to £4.00.
- 7.4 It is recommended that the proposed increases be adopted from the 12 April 2010.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **FEES AND CHARGES FOR OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

#### **1. PERMANENT RESIDENTS**

- 1.1 The charge to other authorities and residents who are assessed as paying a full fee should be increased to take account of rises in cost of provision. The proposed fees are set out below.

<u>Establishment</u>	<u>Existing Per week</u>	<u>Proposed Per week 2% Infl. Inc</u>
	£	£
Homes for Older People ( <i>Lilacs &amp; De Lacy</i> )	474.57	484.06
Homes for People with a Learning Disability ( <i>Scotter House</i> )	748.63	763.60
Intensive Support	1615.07	1647.37
Homes for people with Learning Disability & ISU	1181.31	1204.94

- 1.2 It is recommended that the revised charges be applied to other authorities with effect from week commencing 5 April 2010 and to service users from week commencing 12 April 2010.

#### **2. DAY CARE CHARGES (Charges to Other Organisations)**

- 2.1 Charges made to other local authorities have been in place since 1996 and reflect the usage made by other authorities of the Council's day care facilities. It is proposed that these charges should be increased in line with the authority's charging policy and the true cost of providing the service.

2.2 The proposed rates for 2010/11 are set out below.

Establishment	<u>Phased Rate</u>	
	Current phased rate Per day 2009/10 £	Proposed phased rate per day 2010/11 £
Resource Centres for Older People	33.95	36.54
Resource Centres for people with a Learning Disability	58.77	58.77

- 2.3 Individualised packages will be costed on a case-by-case basis.
- 2.4 It is recommended that the proposed charges be adopted from 5 April 2010.

### **3. TRANSPORT (Charges to Other Organisations)**

- 3.1 Transport to Resource Centres.

Charges made to other local authorities have been in place since 1996 and reflect the usage made by other authorities of the Council's transport facilities. An increase from £11.10 to £11.32 per return journey per client is proposed from 5 April 2010. This takes into account the Council's budgeted inflation levels.

### **4. HOMECARE FEES (Payments to Home Care Providers)**

- 4.1 In 2009/10 an hourly rate of £12.54 was implemented. It is proposed that there is no increase to this rate for 2010/11.

### **5. RESIDENTIAL & DAY CARE FEES (Payments to Care Home Providers)**

- 5.1 Payments to care home providers.

- 5.1.1 Specialist placements will be negotiated on an individual placement basis.
- 5.1.2 The council is obliged to match the local going rate for placements out of the North Lincolnshire area.

5.1.3 Within North Lincolnshire there will be no change to care home basic fees, but in accordance with the quality strategy, the increase will be applied to the Quality Payment Scheme.

The proposed increases can be seen in the table at 5.3 below.

5.2 There is no proposed increase in relation to fees paid to providers for Day Services.

5.3

Category	Current Fee April 2009	Proposed Fee April 2010
	£	£
Basic Fee	<b>333.50</b>	<b>333.50</b>
EMI rate	<b>383.50</b>	<b>383.50</b>
Revised Quality Payment Scheme (Weekly Payment per point from October '08)	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.58</b>
Day Service Standard	<b>23.54</b>	<b>23.54</b>
Day Service Enhanced	<b>31.39</b>	<b>31.39</b>