

April 2016

**Explanation notes**

**Consultation on proposals to change the charging policy for Adult Social Care services**

Under the county council’s current charging policy, many people living at home receive their support free of charge. However, some people have to pay towards services such as home care and day care and most people have to pay towards respite care. The demand for services is increasing as more people need support to live at home.

The money the council receives from charging is an important contribution to the cost of providing care services. We are thinking about making changes to the current charging policy to increase the income from charging to help maintain services. The changes are described below.

**What are the changes?**

There are four changes that we are consulting on:

**1) Charging an administration fee to people who can afford to pay the full cost of their care and support**

If a person has more than £24,500 in savings, they are required to pay the full cost of their care and support services.

***What are we proposing?***

The council is proposing to charge an administration fee to any person who asks the council to arrange care on their behalf. The council is proposing to charge an initial set-up fee of £295 and thereafter a weekly fee of £5 for each week that the council arranges support.

***Who will be affected?***

Any person who has more than £24,500 in savings and is required to pay the full cost of their care and support. This will apply to new people who are able to arrange their own care or can be supported to do so.

**2) Percentage of available income taken in charges**

Most people receiving non-residential care and support services such as home care, day care or a direct payment will have a financial assessment to see if they need to make a contribution. This assessment takes into account income, allowances, housing costs and disability related expenditure when working out the amount of income left over for charging. Council’s can take 100% of left over income into account for charging. At present Surrey takes 90% into account when calculating how much a person can contribute towards the support they receive at home.

### *What are we proposing?*

The council is proposing to increase the amount of available income taken into account from 90% to 100%.

***Who will be affected?***

Any person who is currently assessed to contribute towards their care and support costs will have an increase in their contribution from 2 October 2016.

**Example:**

John is currently receiving three homecare visits per day to help him remain independent at home. John has had a financial assessment and after allowing for all of his expenses, John has been assessed as having £16 per week left over.

Under the current policy, we would ask John to pay 90% of his available income towards his care and support. John is therefore charged £14.40 per week for his care.

If the proposed changes are agreed John would be charged £16.00 for his care and support, an increase of £1.60 each week.

# 3) The council will include the full rate of higher rate Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, or the enhanced rate of Personal Independence Payments when calculating income

Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payments (PIP) are disability benefits for people who need help with personal care and support. Under the current charging policy, the council disregards £27.20 per week, equivalent to the ‘night-time’ support element of both higher rate Attendance Allowance and the higher rate Disability Living Allowance care component when calculating available income for care and support at home. This disregard has also been applied to the ‘enhanced’ rate of PIP daily living component.

### *What are we proposing?*

 It is proposed that the council takes the full rate of these benefits into account when calculating income. (The mobility component of Disability Living Allowance and PIP will continue to be fully disregarded).

***Who will be affected?***

People who currently pay a charge and receive higher rate of Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance, or the enhanced rate of Personal Independence Payments will be required to pay more. Some people in receipt of the higher rate of Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance, or the enhanced rate of Personal Independence Payments who currently receive services free of charge may also be affected by the changes. Any person affected by this change, will be offered a full financial assessment to ensure their disability costs have been identified.

 **4) The council will no longer disregard £20 per week when charging for respite care**

When working out a person’s contribution towards respite care, the council disregards £20 per week in addition to a personal allowance and certain household costs. This disregard has been in place for many years.

### *What are we proposing?*

The council is proposing to end this disregard from 2 October 2016.

***Who will be affected?***

Most people who pay a contribution towards their respite care will be affected and will be asked to pay up to £20 per week more.

# How to make your views known

If you would like to respond to this consultation, we must receive your response by **Thursday 16th June 2016.** You can respond by either:

* freepost: return the questionnaire in the envelope provided
* e-mail: fabadmin@surreycc.gov.uk
* Online:
https://www.surreysays.co.uk/

If you would like this information in large print, Braille, on tape or in another language, or would like to speak to someone about the questionnaire, please contact us on:

* Telephone: 0300 200 1005
* Minicom: 0208 541 9698
* SMS: 07527 182861

For further information on our current charging policy and how we charge for community care services, please visit our website [www.surreycc.gov.uk/adultsocialcare](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/adultsocialcare)

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