

REPORT TO: Cabinet

MEETING DATE: 13 March 2018

BY: Director of Health & Social Care Partnership

SUBJECT: Non-Residential Social Care Charging

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek agreement to the proposed introduction of new non-residential social care charges.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the proposed new social care charges as outlined in this paper relating to Resource and Day Centre attendance and use of transport.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Council agreed on the 13th February 2018 that the strategic budget for the adult social care part of the Health & Social Care Partnership budget should include additional income for 2018/19 of £358,000 to be realised from a combination of increases to existing charges and the introduction of new charges.
- 3.2 The Health and Social Care Partnership has a well-established charging group with multi-stakeholder membership. This group oversaw the updating of the social care charging policy in 2017/18 The group has met regularly in order to play a lead role in the development and assessment of proposals which would realise the income generation agreed by the Council.
- 3.3 A benchmarking exercise was undertaken using a variety of sources. All of these sources together confirm that with the introduction of new charges East Lothian Council will be in the middle or lower half of the range of Councils as a charging authority.
- 3.4 The new charges proposed are:

Service	Charge
Resource and Day Centre Session (3 hours)	£2 per session
Transport (to destinations other than day centres and resource centres)	£2 per journey
Bundles (resource / day centre sessions and transport combined)	
1 session with transport	£3
2 sessions with transport	£5

- 3.5 The £358,000 income figure in the budget would have required a 25% increase in existing charges. The aim of this policy is to spread the charges over a larger group of people by introducing new charges. At present older people pay a charge for day services to their local provider. This policy introduces the same position for younger adults.
- 3.6 Detailed financial modelling has been undertaken in order to realistically calculate the income which will result from the introduction of these charges. Crucially the financial modelling has also involved the undertaking of a detail analysis of clients using our services in order to understand the impact on different clients depending on their financial circumstances and the services that they currently use. This analysis has resulted in the bundling proposals above to limit the impact on clients who are using both of the newly chargeable services.
- 3.7 The anticipated income from the introduction of these new charges is £87,000. The balance of the £358,000 agreed by the Council will be delivered through a range of changes to existing charges. These will ensure the Council remains in the middle of the range of charging levels across Councils. The charging group will continue to meet to be part of the charging review process and will consider such issues as: policy wording, development of accessible versions, a formalised appeals process, a review of disregards, and an improved financial assessment form and annual financial assessment process.
- 3.8 In addition to the work through the multi-stakeholder charging group a consultation page was developed to follow on from the Council consultation exercise on the proposed Council budget. The consultation ran for one month and finished on the 20th February with 99 people having responded. A summary of the results is that 72% strongly agree (18%) or tend to agree (54%) that increasing charges / introducing charges is acceptable if it means services can continue to be delivered. 80% strongly

agree (22%) or tend to agree (58%) that charges for social care services in East Lothian should be in line with the Scottish average. 65% strongly agree (35%) or tend to agree (30%) that those who can afford to should pay a bit more for social care services they receive. 94% strongly agree (70%) or tend to agree (24%) that help should be available to make sure people paying for services receive the financial support they are entitled to.

- 3.9 As well as the multi-stakeholder group three public meetings were held at the three resource centres, to provide information about the budget and charging policy processes, to listen to concerns, suggestions and answer questions. Two meetings were held in the evening and one during the day. These were all well attended by carers, service users, and workers. There will be on-going review of the council's social care charging regime to ensure delivery of the three year budget targets for charging income. This will also include further impact assessment, further benchmarking, exploring further potential for new chargeable services and exploring new models of charging in other Councils.

4 POLICY IMPLICATION

- 4.1 These proposals are in line with current COSLA 2017/18 Guidance on charging for non-residential social care services and deliver the Council's decision on the budget on 13th February 2018.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been through the first stage Integrated Impact Assessment process and a further two impact assessments will be undertaken, the second focussing on what charges have been agreed and the third as part of a review in six month's time. The assessment identified no disproportionate impact on equality groups and was positive about the contribution to maintain services. The assessment did flag up the issue of disability related expenditure and highlighted the importance of benefits maximisation. In addition the "bundling" of charges set out in the paper addresses the issue of disproportionate impact on high users of services.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial - £87,000 towards the £358,000 target will be raised from the introduction of the two new charges. The balance will be raised from changes to existing charges.
- 6.2 Personnel - N/A
- 6.3 Other – It will be important that methods of collection are kept under review in order to realise the full income.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Integrated Impact Assessment One.

AUTHOR'S NAME	Bryan Davies
DESIGNATION	Group Service Manager – Planning & Performance
CONTACT INFO	Ext 7384
DATE	01/03/18