

Classification: Open	Decision Type: Non-Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 13 March 2024
Subject:	Annual Review of Adult Social Care Fees and Charges for the Financial Year 2024/25	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	

Summary

1. The Health and Adult Care (HAC) Directorate raises several Adult Social Care (ASC) fees and charges.
2. This report details the proposed 2024/25 ASC fees and charges across the HAC directorate to take effect in April 2024

Recommendation(s)

3. It is recommended that the proposed Adult Social Care Fees & Charges for 2024/25 detailed in Appendix A of this report are approved.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

4. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, there is a requirement to review fees and charges on an annual basis.

Alternative options considered and rejected

5. No alternatives were considered. The uplift to 2024/25 Adult Social Care fees is in line with the 2024/25 Adult Social Care Provider Fee Uplifts or in line with the November 2023 Autumn Statement which announced that benefits will increase by 6.7%.

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Background

6. The Health and Adult Care Directorate raises several Adult Social Care fees and charges and in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, there is a requirement to review fees and charges on an annual basis.

2024/25 Fee Proposal

7. The 2024/25 proposed increases to Adult Care Service discretionary fees and charges are detailed in Appendix A.

8. To ensure that the 2024/25 ASC fees and charges are aligned with the 2024/25 fees paid to commissioned providers it is proposed that the service setting fees (excluding Domiciliary Care) are uplifted by the same percentage rates employed to uplift the 2024/25 fees paid to commissioned providers.
9. Domiciliary care providers are paid at two different rates:
 - A standard rate for those providers being paid on actual contact time or not under the framework care at home contract.
 - An enhanced rate for those providers paid on actual contact time who also meet the following key performance indicators¹.
10. Whilst the Council has chosen to increase fees paid to Domiciliary Care providers which recognise Real Living Wage and minute billing commitments from Providers the Council cannot uplift Domiciliary care fees paid by residents at a similar rate.
11. Care Act Statutory Guidance states that Domiciliary care charges are made at one rate irrespective of how or by whom the care is delivered therefore only one rate can be charged for Domiciliary Care. The intention is to align Domiciliary fees with the enhanced rate paid to Providers, but this can only be achieved through a phased approach over several years.
12. The 2024/25 fees and charges proposal also recommends that the charges listed in Table 1 below are increased by 6.7% which is in line with the November 2023 Autumn Statement which announced that benefits will increase by 6.7%.
13. This year Carelink will be introducing 2 levels of charge to reflect add on devices that are available. Additional fees will also be charged to cover the SIM card costs for new digital units and an installation fee for all new customers of £25 will be introduced. The new charges are highlighted in appendix A.

Table 1

Charge Description	Description
Weekly Charge for Homecare	The maximum charge a person who receives care and support at home will be charged per week
Transport to Day Centres	The standard rate of charge for a single or return trip to a day centre.
Carelink/Telecare	Weekly charge for the provision of the 24/7 Carelink Assistive Technology Service.

¹ Zero overlaps (i.e. Carer must log in/log out for each visit)
 Less than 5% manual overrides on Electronic Call Monitoring System (ECMS)
 Contractually compliant ECMS

Charge Description	Description
Home Support Service	Weekly charge for the Support at Home Service in the wider community.
Day Centre Attendance	Daily charge for attending a day centre
Appointeeship – Community based	Weekly charge for a Money Management Service of Appointeeship for those living at home.
Appointeeship – Residential based	Weekly charge for a Money Management Service of Appointeeship for those living in a Care Home.
Deferred Payments – Set-up fee	Fee for setting up the Legal Agreements and process for the Deferred Payments Scheme where people entering a Care Home require access to council funding until their property is sold.
Deferred Payments - Annual fee	An annual fee for those on the Deferred Payment Scheme receiving Council funding until their property is sold.
Deferred Payments – Termination fee	A final fee to close accounts and legal agreements for those on the Deferred Payment Scheme who have repaid the Council the funding provided whilst their property was being sold.

Financial Assessments

14. Any changes to an individual's financial circumstances will be considered as part of the normal review process, and a new financial assessment carried out where appropriate to ensure the charges levied remain fair and affordable in line with the Council's Client Charging policy.
15. Whilst the rates set out in Appendix A will be used to calculate the cost of care, a separate financial assessment is carried out for each service user and the service user will only contribute the value deemed affordable to them in that assessment. As the Minimum Income Guarantee financial assessment allowances prescribed by Government will also increase for 2024/25, most service users' charges will see a minimal increase following a financial reassessment for 2024/25, and therefore any increased income from service user contributions would be negligible.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

16. Enterprise – For those service users whose financial assessment result in a partial or full contribution the annual review of Adult Social Care fees and charges for the Financial Year 2024/25 ensures that the council can partially/fully offset the cost of delivering care and therefore reducing the cost to the Council.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

17. The full EIA (Equality Impact Analysis) document is available upon request. The EIA for the charging and financial assessment policy considers a positive impact as allowances & disregards are available if required and applied equally and fairly to all people using care and support services.
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Environmental Impact and Considerations:

18. An environmental impact assessment has not been undertaken as there are no implications or carbon impact of this decision.
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Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
The fees and charges set lower than the cost of that the Council pays for services that are 'chargeable,' resulting in a cost pressure to the council.	-Fees are aligned to Commissioned Care Provider Fee Uplifts. -Non-Commissioned Care provider charges uplifted in line with the November 2023 Autumn Statement which announced that benefits will increase by 6.7%.

Legal Implications:

The power of a Local Authority to make a charge for meeting needs is contained within the Care Act 2014, this act provides a single legal framework for charging for care and support under sections 14 and 17. Charges may only cover the cost that the local authority incurs in meeting the needs to which the charge applies. the Council has a duty to market shape, so it has duty to facilitate the whole market in its areas for care and support related services and ensure a diverse range of high quality services to the population. The Council must understand supply and demand in terms of care and support related care and market shape accordingly. Failure to increase fees in line with 2024/25 Adult Social Care Provider Fee Uplifts is potentially a failure of the Council to comply with the Statutory Guidance. The charging of service users is appropriate and in line with statute.

Financial Implications:

The 2024/25 budget assumes an uplift to fees and charges.

Background papers:

None.

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
HAC	Health and Adult Care Directorate
ASC	Adult Social Care

Appendix A

Service Setting/Charge Description		Unit	2023/24 Rate	2023/24 Uplift	2024/25 Rate	Notes
Domicillary Care		Hourly	£ 20.49	8.2%	£ 22.17	1
Residential	65+ care home places without nursing	Real Living Wage	£ 632.70	7.5%	£ 680.02	2
		Standard Rate	£ 616.96	7.5%	£ 663.11	3
	65+ care home places without nursing - Dementia	Real Living Wage	£ 662.85	7.5%	£ 712.73	2
		Standard Rate	£ 646.22	7.5%	£ 694.85	3
	Adults Residential Care MH/LD/PD	Real Living Wage	£ 632.70	7.5%	£ 680.02	2
		Standard Rate	£ 616.96	7.5%	£ 663.11	3
Nursing	65+ care home places with nursing	Real Living Wage	£ 703.00	7.5%	£ 755.86	2
		Standard Rate	£ 686.36	7.5%	£ 737.97	3
	65+ care home places with nursing - Dementia	Real Living Wage	£ 754.61	7.7%	£ 812.65	2
		Standard Rate	£ 737.98	7.7%	£ 794.74	3
Supported Living	Waking Hours	Real Living Wage	£ 19.88	7.3%	£ 21.34	2
		Standard Rate	£ 19.56	7.2%	£ 20.97	3
	Sleep Ins	Real Living Wage	£ 11.96	9.7%	£ 13.12	2
		Standard Rate	£ 11.66	9.6%	£ 12.77	3
Direct Payments		Hourly	£ 12.78	9.3%	£ 13.97	
Maximum Weekly Charge for Homecare		Weekly	£ 473.98	6.7%	£ 505.74	4
Transport to Day Centres		Single Journey	£ 3.01	6.7%	£ 3.21	4
		Return Journey	£ 5.55	6.7%	£ 5.92	4
Carelink/Telecare	Level 1 - Unit without Sim Card	Weekly	£ 4.86	6.7%	£ 5.18	4
	Level 1 - Unit with Sim Card	Weekly			£ 6.09	
	Level 2- Unit without Sim Card	Weekly			£ 7.46	
	Level 2 - Unit with Sim Card	Weekly			£ 8.36	
	Installation Fee	One Off			£ 25.00	
Home Support Service		Weekly	£ 22.43	6.7%	£ 23.93	4
Day Centre Attendance		Daily	£ 45.32	6.7%	£ 48.35	4
Appointeeship – Community based		Weekly	£ 12.72	6.7%	£ 13.57	4
Appointeeship – Residential based		Weekly	£ 6.71	6.7%	£ 7.15	4
Deferred Payments – set-up fee		One Off	£ 289.01	6.7%	£ 308.38	4
Deferred Payments - annual fee		Annual	£ 173.41	6.7%	£ 185.03	4
Deferred Payments – Termination fee		One Off	£ 86.70	6.7%	£ 92.51	4

Notes:	
1	Care Act Statutory Guidance states that Care at Home charges are made at a standard rate irrespective of how or by whom the care is delivered therefore only one rate can be charged for Domicillary Care
2	The Real Living Wage rate is paid to those Residential and Nursing Home providers who have committed to paying their staff the RLW
3	The Standard Rate is the rate paid to those providers who have not committed to paying their staff the RLW
4	In the Autumn Statement, the chancellor confirmed that benefits will increase by 6.7% which is in line with September's Consumer Prices Index (CPI) measure of inflation.