

Classification: Open	Decision Type: Non-Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 12 February 2025
Subject:	Annual Review of Adult Social Care Fees and Charges for the Financial Year 2025/26	
Report of	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health, and Wellbeing	

Summary

1. The Health and Adult Care Directorate (HAC) raises a number of Adult Social Care (ASC) fees and charges.
2. This report details the proposed 2025/26 ASC fees and charges across the HAC directorate to take effect in April 2025

Recommendation(s)

3. It is recommended that the proposed Adult Social Care Fees & Charges for 2025/26 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 2025/26 Adult Social Care fees are in line with the 2025/26 Adult Social Care Provider Fee Uplifts or in line with the November 2024 Autumn Statement which announced that Department of Works and Pensions benefits will increase by 1.7%.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Paul Oakley
Position: Finance Business Partner
Department: Corporate Core - Finance
E-mail: p.oakley@bury.gov.uk

Background

6. The Health and Adult Care Directorate raises a number of 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.

2025/26 Fee Proposal

7. The 2025/26 proposed increases to Adult Care Service discretionary fees and charges are detailed in Appendix A.
8. To ensure that the 2025/26 ASC fees and charges are aligned with the 2025/26 fees paid to commissioned providers it is proposed that the service setting fees are

uplifted by the same percentage rates (apart from Domiciliary Care) employed to uplift the 2025/26 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 2025/26 fees and charges proposal also recommends that the charges listed in Table 1 below (apart from the administrative charge for setting up deferred payment agreements) are increased by 1.7% which is in line with the November 2024 Autumn Statement confirming that Department of Works and Pensions benefits will increase by 1.7%.
13. Bury's one off Set up fee for setting up Deferred payments is significantly lower than other Local Authorities across the North west. Consequently, it is proposed that Bury aligns its 2025/26 deferred payment set up fee with the Set Up fee that Rochdale charges its residents. This could potentially generate an additional c.£5k for the Council.

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.
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.

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
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 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.

Impact on Client Contributions

16. The Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) prescribed by Government will also increase for 2025/26. The MIG ensures service users have enough financial resource to cover day to day living expenses, therefore, any increase in charges levied to service users as a result of the fee increases set out in this report would be negligible due to the ‘offsetting impact’ that the Government’s increase to the MIG will have.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

17. 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 2025/26 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:

18. A full EIA has been completed which has identified no adverse impacts based on current available information. At the time of submitting this report, the 2025/26 Social Care Charges for Local Authorities has not yet been published on GOV.UK. This publication could change some impacts therefore the EIA will be reviewed at this point.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

19. An environmental impact assessment has not been undertaken as there are no implications or carbon impact of this decision

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
The fees and charges set lower than the cost 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 2024 Autumn Statement which announced that DWP benefits will increase by 1.7%.

Legal Implications:

20. The power of a Local Authority to make a charge for meeting eligible needs is contained within the Care Act 2014 (section 14(1)(a)), which provides a single legal framework for charging for care and support to meet needs under sections 18 to 20, Care Act 2014. Charges may only cover the cost that the local authority incurs in meeting the needs to which the charge applies (section 14(4) CA 2014). 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:

21. It is Important to recognise that Bury is one of the highest performing Metropolitan Boroughs in England with regards to collecting income from client contributions as a proportion of revised gross expenditure on Adult Social Care.
22. To maintain the high levels of client income collection the ASC Finance Support service provide several service offers to maximise/increase income:
- Welfare benefits claim support service
 - Debt prevention service
 - Enhanced direct payment auditing support
 - An 8 week check after the financial assessment for all new care service recipients to ensure welfare benefits are in place and client contribution invoices are being paid.
 - A named Financial Assessment officer to be allocated to transitions cases.
 - Reintroduction of home visits or office contact
 - Rebuild the current Deputy and Appointeeship service
 - Introduction of a Commissioning function within the team to formalize the quality assurance and management of contracts for managed accounts companies and pre-payment card companies

23. As part of the monthly budget monitoring cycle Finance will also track the client contributions received into the Community Care budget ensuring that client income aligns to income budget expectations. Any financial risks/pressures identified will be highlighted to the Director of Adult Social Services as part of the monthly budget monitoring cycle whereby an action plan will be deployed to mitigate any financial risks/ pressures.

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	2024/25 Rate	2025/26 % Uplift	2025/26 Rate	Notes
Domicillary Care			Hourly	£ 22.17	5.8%	£ 23.45	1
Residential	65+ care home places without nursing	Real Living Wage	Weekly	£ 680.02	6.6%	£ 725.21	2
		Standard Rate	Weekly	£ 663.11	6.6%	£ 707.12	2
	65+ care home places without nursing - Dementia	Real Living Wage	Weekly	£ 712.73	6.7%	£ 760.83	2
		Standard Rate	Weekly	£ 694.85	6.7%	£ 741.75	2
	Adults Residential Care MH/LD/PD	Real Living Wage	Weekly	£ 680.02	6.7%	£ 725.58	2
		Standard Rate	Weekly	£ 663.11	6.7%	£ 707.51	2
Nursing	65+ care home places with nursing	Real Living Wage	Weekly	£ 755.86	6.7%	£ 806.81	2
		Standard Rate	Weekly	£ 737.97	6.7%	£ 787.73	2
	65+ care home places with nursing - Dementia	Real Living Wage	Weekly	£ 812.65	7.0%	£ 869.55	2
		Standard Rate	Weekly	£ 794.74	7.0%	£ 850.33	2
Supported Living	Waking Hours	Real Living Wage	Hourly	£ 21.34	5.6%	£ 22.54	2
		Standard Rate	Hourly	£ 20.97	5.6%	£ 22.14	2
	Sleep Ins	Real Living Wage	Hourly	£ 13.12	7.7%	£ 14.13	2
		Standard Rate	Hourly	£ 12.77	7.7%	£ 13.75	2
Direct Payments			Hourly	£13.97	7.1%	£14.97	2
Maximum Weekly Charge for Homecare			Weekly	£505.74	1.7%	£514.33	3
Transport to Day Centres			Single Journey	£3.21	1.7%	£3.26	3
			Return Journey	£5.92	1.7%	£6.02	3
Carelink/Telecare	Level 1 - Unit without Sim Card		Weekly	£5.18	1.7%	£5.27	3
	Level 1 - Unit with Sim Card		Weekly	£6.09	1.7%	£6.19	3
	Level 2- Unit without Sim Card		Weekly	£7.46	1.7%	£7.59	3
	Level 2 - Unit with Sim Card		Weekly	£8.36	1.7%	£8.50	3
	Installation Fee		One Off	£25.00	1.7%	£25.43	3
Day Centre Attendance			Daily	£48.35	1.7%	£49.18	3
Appointeeship – Community based			Weekly	£13.57	1.7%	£13.80	3
Appointeeship – Residential based			Weekly	£7.15	1.7%	£7.28	3
Deferred Payments – set-up fee			One Off	£308.38	139.1%	£737.33	4
Deferred Payments - annual fee			Annual	£185.03	1.7%	£188.17	3
Deferred Payments – Termination fee			One Off	£92.51	1.7%	£94.09	3
Notes:							
1	Whilst the Council pays Domicillary Care providers at two different rates the Care Act Statutory Guidance states that Domicillary Care 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	To ensure that the 2025/26 ASC fees and charges are aligned with the 2025/26 fees paid to commissioned providers it is proposed that these service setting fees.charges are uplifted by the same percentage rates (apart from Domicillary Care) employed to uplift the 2025/26 fees paid to commissioned providers.						
3	In the Autumn Statement, the chancellor confirmed that benefits will increase by 1.7% which is in line with September's Consumer Prices Index (CPI) measure of inflation.						
4	Bury's one off Set up fee for setting up Deferred payments is significantly lower than other Local Authorities across the North west. Consequently, it is proposed that Bury aligns its 2025/26 deferred payment set up fee with the Set Up fee that Rochdale charges its residents.						