

Classification: Open	Decision Type: Non-Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 11 March 2026
Subject:	Annual Review of Adult Social Care Fees and Charges for the Financial Year 2026/27	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform	

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 2026/27 ASC fees and charges across the HAC directorate to take effect in April 2026

Recommendation(s)

3. It is recommended that the proposed Adult Social Care Fees & Charges for 2026/27 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 2026/27 Adult Social Care fees are in line with the 2026/27 Adult Social Care Provider Fee Uplifts or in line with the November 2025 Autumn Statement which announced that Department of Works and Pensions benefits will increase by 3.8% and the Universal Credit amount will rise by 6.2%

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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.

2026/27 Fee Proposal

7. The 2026/27 proposed increases to Adult Care Service discretionary fees and charges are detailed in Appendix A.
8. To ensure that the 2026/27 ASC fees and charges are aligned with the 2026/27 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 2026/27 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 when the new care at home contract goes live following a procurement exercise.
12. The 2026/27 fees and charges proposal also recommends that the charges listed in Table 1 below are increased by 3.8% which is in line with the November 2025 Autumn Statement confirming that Department of Works and Pensions benefits will increase by 3.8%, with the exception of Universal Credit, which will increase by 6.2%.

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

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
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

13. 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.
14. 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

15. The Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) prescribed by Government will also increase for 2026/27. 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:

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 2026/27 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. A full EIA has been completed which has identified no adverse impacts based on current available information, as verified by the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Manager. The EIA is provided as an appendix to this report.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

18. 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 2025 Autumn Statement which announced that DWP benefits will increase by 3.8%.

Legal Implications:

19. 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 2026/27 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:

20. 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.

21. 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
 - Ambitious growth to the 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
22. 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	2025/26 Rate	2026/27 % Uplift	2026/27 Rate	Notes		
Domiciliary Care			Provider is KPI Contractually Compliant	Hourly	£ 27.69	3.05%	£ 28.53	1	
			Provider is not KPI Contractually Compliant	Hourly	£ 23.45	3.60%	£ 24.30	1	
Care Homes	Residential	65+ care home places without nursing	Provider is signed up to paying the RLW	Weekly	£ 725.21	5.34%	£ 763.95	2	
			Provider is not signed up to paying the RLW	Weekly	£ 707.12	4.84%	£ 741.33	2	
		65+ care home places without nursing - Dementia	Provider is signed up to paying the RLW	Weekly	£ 760.83	5.37%	£ 801.66	2	
			Provider is not signed up to paying the RLW	Weekly	£ 741.75	4.86%	£ 777.81	2	
	Adults Residential Care MH/LD/PD	Provider is signed up to paying the RLW	Weekly	£ 725.21	5.34%	£ 763.95	2		
		Provider is not signed up to paying the RLW	Weekly	£ 707.12	4.84%	£ 741.33	2		
	Nursing	65+ care home places with nursing	Provider is signed up to paying the RLW	Weekly	£ 806.81	5.36%	£ 850.09	2	
			Provider is not signed up to paying the RLW	Weekly	£ 787.73	4.86%	£ 826.04	2	
		65+ care home places with nursing - Dementia	Provider is signed up to paying the RLW	Weekly	£ 869.55	5.46%	£ 917.00	2	
			Provider is not signed up to paying the RLW	Weekly	£ 850.33	4.95%	£ 892.45	2	
Supported Living and Community Outreach			Waking Hours	Hourly	£ 22.54	5.11%	£ 23.69	2	
				Provider is signed up to paying the RLW	Hourly	£ 22.14	3.52%	£ 22.92	2
				Provider is not signed up to paying the RLW	Hourly	£ 14.13	6.26%	£ 15.01	2
Sleep In			Provider is signed up to paying the RLW	Hourly	£ 13.75	3.79%	£ 14.27	2	
Provider is not signed up to paying the RLW			Hourly	£ 14.97	6.29%	£ 15.81	2		
Direct Payments			Hourly	£ 14.97	6.29%	£ 15.81	2		
Shared Lives			Current respite carers (Cost Per Night)	Nightly	£ 64.63	4.84%	£ 67.73	2	
			Respite -Band 1 new carers (Cost Per Night)	Nightly	£ 53.83	4.84%	£ 56.41	2	
			Respite -Band 2 new carers (Cost Per Night)	Nightly	£ 74.45	4.84%	£ 78.03	2	
			Respite -Band 3 new carers (Cost Per Night)	Nightly	£ 91.64	4.84%	£ 96.03	2	
			Current long term carers	Weekly	£ 452.40	4.84%	£ 474.13	2	
			Long Term (Band 1 new customers - Cost Per Week)	Weekly	£ 400.66	4.84%	£ 419.91	2	
			Long Term (Band 2 new customers- Cost Per Week)	Weekly	£ 458.18	4.84%	£ 480.18	2	
			Long Term (Band 3 new customers- Cost Per Week)	Weekly	£ 515.45	4.84%	£ 540.20	2	
			Day Support - Band 1** Fee = 2 hour session	Fixed	£ 24.73	4.84%	£ 25.92	2	
			Maximum Weekly Charge for Homecare	Weekly	£ 514.33	3.80%	£ 533.87	3	
Transport to Day Centre (per journey)			Single	£ 3.26	3.80%	£ 3.38	3		
			Return	£ 6.02	3.80%	£ 6.25	3		
Carelink/Telecare			Level 1 - Unit without Sim Card	Weekly	£ 5.27	3.80%	£ 5.47	3	
			Level 1 - Unit with Sim Card	Weekly	£ 6.19	3.80%	£ 6.43	3	
			Level 2 - Unit without Sim Card	Weekly	£ 7.59	3.80%	£ 7.88	3	
			Level 2 - Unit with Sim Card	Weekly	£ 8.50	3.80%	£ 8.82	3	
			Installation Fee	One-Off	£ 25.43	3.80%	£ 26.40	3	
Day Centre Attendance			Daily	£ 49.18	3.80%	£ 51.05	3		
Appointeeships			Community based	Weekly	£ 13.80	3.80%	£ 14.32	3	
			Residential based	Weekly	£ 7.28	3.80%	£ 7.56	3	
Deferred Payments			Set-up fee	One-Off	£ 737.33	3.80%	£ 765.35	3	
			Annual fee	Annual	£ 188.17	3.80%	£ 195.32	3	
			Termination fee	One-Off	£ 94.09	3.80%	£ 97.67	3	
Notes									
1	Whilst the Council pays Domiciliary Care providers at two different rates the Care Act Statutory Guidance states that Domiciliary 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 Domiciliary Care.								
2	To ensure that the 2026/27 ASC fees and charges are aligned with the 2026/27 fees paid to commissioned providers it is proposed that these service setting fees charges are uplifted by the same percentage rates (apart from Domiciliary Care) employed to uplift the 2026/27 fees paid to commissioned providers.								
3	In the Autumn Statement, the chancellor confirmed that benefits will increase by 3.8%, which is in-line with September's Consumer Prices Index (CPI) measure of inflation. Although, the State pension increased by 4.8% and Universal Credit by 6.2%.								