

Appendix 2

Review of Charging for Adult Social Care

Saving Proposal 2015/16 £50K

Adult Social Care reviewed charges for Non Residential services in 2010 and 2013.

Thurrock Council has a duty to provide services to those people deemed eligible under the **Care Act 2014**. The Council has the discretion to charge for those services. If the Council decides to exercise that discretion and impose or increase a charge then those charges must be reasonable and fair. Changes to the Council's **Non-Residential Adult Social Care Charging Policy** must be subject to full consultation and take into account the Council's duty under the **Equality Act 2010**.

Thurrock Council's **Non-Residential Adult Social Care Charging Policy** must accord with the guidance of the Secretary of State, **Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and Other Non-Residential Social Services**; this is Guidance for Councils with Social Services responsibilities, the Guidance was updated on the 26th June 2014 to reflect the **Care Act**.

The areas that the consultation will focus on will be increasing or introducing a charge for the following options:

Services	Thurrock Charges	Proposal
Carers Centre Cromwell Road	No Charge	<p>To charge for this service on a sessional basis currently delivering one session a day and this could be increased to two sessions a day.</p> <p>The proposal will need to consider if we charge a flat rate or look to a charge which would be subject to financial assessment.</p> <p>Considering other local authorities charges range for £8 an hour, £29.99 a session (half day) to £40 a session</p>
Day Services Older People	£9.70 per day	To consult on increasing to an hourly charge or daily charge, comparative

		data from other Local Authorities show charges that range from £8 an hour, £29.99 a session (half day) to £40 a session
Sitting Services	No Charge	To consult on charging an hourly rate or a flat rate per session (Half a day) This could range from £8 an hour to £40 a session.
Assistive technology and pendant alarms	<p>The current charges are based on the type of tenancy and level of need.</p> <p>There is no charge for Council tenants, for those in private accommodation meeting wellbeing criteria the charge is 93p a week and private accommodation where there is no wellbeing need the charge is £4.13 per week.</p> <p>This is the monitoring charge as the council cannot charge for equipment up to the value of £1000</p>	To consult on increasing the weekly cost.
Residential Respite Adults	£20 per night	To consult on increasing this charge to cover the cost of the service this charge would be subject to financial assessment.
Blue Badges	£10 a badge covering a 3 year period	This is currently the legal maximum charge
Extra Care Housing Charge Elisabeth Gardens	Currently people who own their property at Elisabeth gardens do not pay the additional charge for on-site support however they are able to benefit from and access this support	Explore the options available to gain a contribution to the care and support charge at Elisabeth gardens.

Legal Position

Fees and charges are described in three ways, Statutory, Regulatory and Discretionary.

Statutory charges are set in Statute and cannot be altered by law as the charge has been determined by Central Government and all Local Authorities will be applying the same charge or the same formula for calculating the charge under a financial assessment.

Regulatory Charges relate to services where if the Council provides the service it is obliged to set a fee which the Council can determine itself in accordance with a regulatory framework. Charges have to be reasonable and fairly applied.

Discretionary charges relate to services the Council can provide if they choose to do so. This is a local policy decision. The Local Government Act 2003 gives the Council the power to charge for discretionary services, with some limited exceptions.

Decisions on setting charges are subject to the Council's decision making structure and most charging decisions are the responsibility of the Cabinet.

Risks

- People may refuse to have services; this will mean that Adult Social Care will face challenges in delivering preventative services
- As a result of not accessing lower level preventative services people may reach crisis point sooner and require higher levels of service which will cost more and put a greater strain on the budget.

The consultation process will identify the risks associated with increased charges highlighting the consequences and mitigation.

Consultation

The proposal is to undertake a full public consultation to support the required saving. Adult social care wants to fully involve people who access services those who might access them in the future and representative organisations for service users in Thurrock. This will be a consultation that will recommend options regarding increasing charges for a range of services. The consultation will highlight and explain the impact of increasing charges for services on those people who access the services.

As part of this process Thurrock Coalition have agreed to produce a detailed Equality Impact Assessment of the proposals made which will highlight the implications, risks and impact of the subsequent decisions that Health and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet will be required to make.