

Illustrative Impact Report on the Recommended Changes to the Service User Charging Policy

Following the discussion at the Leadership Team (26 July 2016), work was undertaken to prepare examples of the impact of the proposed changes on various individuals who receive non-residential care packages at the moment.

For the purposes of preparing this illustration, data for a specific week from our management systems was used as a basis. It was found that 1,494 service users were in receipt of non-residential care packages on that particular week and that 654 of those users would be affected by the changes we are recommending to the Charging Policy. Nevertheless, no person who receives a non-residential service will pay more than the maximum weekly fee of £60 set by Welsh Government.

The main changes proposed to the Charging Policy will affect the following elements:

1. **Attendance Allowance/Care Element of the Disability Living Allowance**
2. **Savings Pension Credit**
3. **Minimum Income**
4. **Flat Rate Charges**

1. Some of the benefits that service users receive are completely or partially disregarded in their financial assessment for charging a fee for non-residential services at present. In respect of the **Attendance Allowance/Care Element of the Disability Living Allowance** - in the current policy, the difference between the middle and higher scale (£27.20) is disregarded in the financial assessments. We recommend that it is not disregarded as part of the new plan as the main purpose of this benefit is for it to be used to purchase care.

Mrs F is a pensioner and receives a domiciliary care package:

Current Assessment		New assessment following the adoption of the recommendations	
Mrs F's weekly income	£299.75	Mrs F's weekly income	£299.55
Total income being considered in the financial assessment (£27.20 being disregarded)	£272.55	Total income being considered in the financial assessment (£27.20 not being disregarded)	£299.55
Mrs F's total weekly payment towards her care package	£46.93	Mrs F's total weekly payment towards her care package	£60.00

A difference of £13.07 in her weekly contribution towards her care package.

Ms B is of working age and receives a domiciliary care package.

Current Assessment		New assessment following the adoption of the recommendations	
Ms B's weekly income	£269.20	Ms B's weekly income	£269.20
Total income being considered in the financial assessment (£27.20 being disregarded)	£242.00	Total income being considered in the financial assessment (£27.20 not being disregarded)	£269.20
Ms B's total weekly payment towards her care package	£16.38	Ms B's total weekly payment towards her care package -	£43.58

A difference of £27.20 in her weekly contribution.

2. The Savings Pension Credit element is completely disregarded in non-residential assessments at the moment. We are recommending rationalising the current procedure for the non-residential element with residential care assessments and to disregard £5.75 only for individuals and £8.60 per couple.

Mrs O is a pensioner and receives a domiciliary care package.

Current Assessment		New assessment following the adoption of the recommendations	
Mrs O's weekly income	£285.62	Mrs O's weekly income	£285.62
Total income being considered in the financial assessment (£13.07 Savings Pension Credit being disregarded)	£272.55	Total Income being considered in the financial assessment (only £5.75 being disregarded)	£279.87
Mrs O's total weekly payment towards her care package	£46.93	Mrs O's total weekly payment towards her care package	£54.25

A difference of £7.32 in her weekly contribution towards her care package.

See below an example of how a Service User can be affected by not disregarding the difference between the middle and higher scale of the Attendance Allowance/Care Element of the Disability Living Allowance as well as not disregarding the Savings Pension Credit.

Mrs D is a pensioner and receives a domiciliary care package.

Current Assessment		New assessment following the adoption of the recommendations	
Mrs D's weekly income	£312.69	Mrs D's weekly income	£312.69
Total Income being considered in the financial assessment (£27.20 Attendance Allowance and £13.07 Savings Pension Credit being disregarded)	£272.42	Total Income being considered in the financial assessment (Not to disregard the £27.20 and to disregard £5.75 of the Pension Credit only)	£306.94
Mrs D's total weekly payment towards her care package	£46.80	Mrs D's total weekly payment towards her care package	£60.00

A difference of £13.20 in her weekly contribution towards her care package.

3. Welsh Government guidelines make it mandatory for the Council to disregard a specific amount of the service user's income before a fee can be charged for the service. The formula for calculating the '**Minimum Income Amount**' is set by Welsh Government and it is based on the service user's entitlement to Income Support. The Council's current Policy allows service users under pensionable age to benefit from a higher Minimum Income Amount that has been set for pensionable age service users. The proposed changes recommend ending this procedure and calculating the Minimum Income Amount for service users under pensionable age in accordance with the requirements determined by Welsh Government, namely being based on their actual entitlement to Income Support. This will mean that service users are allowed to keep less of their income before we ask them to pay for their care.

Mr N is of working age and receives a domiciliary care package.

Current Assessment		New assessment following the adoption of the recommendations	
Mr N's weekly income	£269.20	Mr N's weekly income	£269.20
Total income being considered in the financial assessment (£27.20 being disregarded)	£242.00	Total income being considered in the financial assessment (£27.20 being disregarded)	£242.00
Mr N's total weekly payment towards his care package - with an existing Minimum Income Amount of £225.62.	£16.38	Mr N's total weekly payment towards his care package - with a new Minimum Income Amount of £181.32	£60.00

A difference of £43.62 in his weekly contribution towards his care package.
See below an example of how a Service User can be affected with a reduction in the Minimum Income Amount and not disregarding the care element of the Disability Living Allowance:

Miss P is of working age and receives a domiciliary care package.

Current Assessment		New assessment following the adoption of the recommendations	
Miss P's weekly income	£194.35	Miss P's weekly income	£194.35
Total income being considered in the financial assessment (£27.20 being disregarded)	£167.15	Total income being considered in the financial assessment (£27.20 not being disregarded)	£194.35
Miss P's total weekly payment towards her care package - with an existing Minimum Income Amount of £225.62.	£0.00	Miss P's total weekly payment towards her care package - with a new Minimum Income Amount of £181.32	£13.03

A difference of £13.03 in her total contribution towards her care package.

4. Flat Rate Charges - Flat-rate fees are allowed under the Act for low level and low cost care and support. It is also allowed as a way of charging a fee for preventative services and

support. In the current policy, category 1 and 2 service users are exempted from paying for Telecare services. In the proposed changes, we recommend rationalising the procedure and charging a weekly fee on each service user in receipt of the Telecare service. During the week analysed, it was found that 732 category 1 and 2 service users were exempt from paying for this service.

It should also be noted that the Department is reviewing the weekly fee for Telecare services at the moment. Based on the current information, it is likely that the fee will increase to between £3.80 and £4.00 per week from April 2017 onwards.