

# Wiltshire Council Update

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Adult Care Charging Policy Consultation</b>
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**Introduction**-The Adult Care Community Commissioning team are currently leading on a public consultation regarding proposed changes to the adult care charging policy (i.e. how much people contribute to the cost of the social care services that they receive).

Unlike health services which are free at the point of access, adult social care support is means-tested in line with national guidelines. The proposed changes have been made in response to the Care Act (2014), to align Wiltshire's approach with that of other local authorities and to ensure the Council can continue to deliver sustainable care and support services.

The proposed changes will only impact on customers who contribute towards care services in their own home and will not impact on those contributing towards care in a permanent residential care setting.

## ***The proposed Changes***

- To take into account 100% of disposable income<sup>1</sup>, the Council currently only takes into account 80% of disposable income.
- To take the full rate of attendance allowance into account when assessing how much people need to contribute. The Council currently only takes the lower rate into account even if the individual receives the higher amount.
- To update the list of allowable Disability Related Expenses (DRE). DRE items are things people have to spend money on as a result of a disability or illness and are disregarded when calculating how much people may have to contribute.

***The Consultation Process***-The consultation will run for three months and is scheduled to end on June the 6<sup>th</sup>. Customers who are likely to be affected by any

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<sup>1</sup> Disposable income is the amount of money and individual has available after Household expenses, general living allowance and any disability related expenditures have been accounted for.

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changes were contacted via letter to set out the proposals and encourage them to get involved. In addition to these individual letters a series of public meetings have been facilitated by Healthwatch Wiltshire.

***How people can get involved-*** The consultation survey can be found on the Councils website

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/articles/httpwwwwiltshiregovuknewsarticlescare-services-policies-consultation>

People can contact the Council or Healthwatch Wiltshire to request paper copies of the survey, pose individual questions or organise one to one meetings.

For more information please contact Olly Spence [olly.spence@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:olly.spence@wiltshire.gov.uk)