

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 293

Service: Adult Care Strategy and Commissioning

- ***Further Enquiries to:*** Olly Spence - Community Commissioner
- ***Date Prepared:*** 28 April 2016
- ***Direct Line:*** 07825 734154

Re: Proposals to revise the council's adult care charging policy for care at home

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 funded by the council that they receive).

The proposal to proceed with this consultation including an outline of the proposed changes was approved by the council's cabinet in January and the consultation started on 8 March, it is scheduled to finish on 6 June.

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 where 100% of disposable income is already taken into account when calculating contributions.

The proposed changes

- To take into account 100% of disposable income¹ - 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.

¹ Disposable income is the amount of money an individual has available after household expenses, general living allowance and any disability related expenditures have been accounted for.

- 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 6 June. People who are likely to be affected by any 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 council's website:

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

People can also contact the council or Healthwatch Wiltshire (01225 434218) 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