

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	2079
Author:	Linda Sellars
Department:	Children and Families
Contact:	Linda Sellars (Job Title: Adult Social Care Specialist, Email: linda.sellars@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158764150)
Subject:	Consultation on a review of fees and charging for Adult Social Care
Total Value:	Nil (Type: Nil)
Decision Being Taken:	Permission to consult with citizens on a review of fees and charging for Adult Social Care as set out in this report.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

On the 24th February the Executive Board agreed, as part of the medium term financial plan, the proposal to review fees and charging for Adult Social Care.

Nottingham City Council is committed to maintaining quality services for elderly, disabled and vulnerable people. However the numbers of people requiring these services will continue to rise over the coming years and within the climate of the current budget reductions, Nottingham City needs to consider how to sustain these services.

Adult social care charges are means-tested and citizens who receive these services are asked to contribute towards the cost if they're assessed as being able to do so. This means-testing is carried out to comply with the Government's financial assessment guidance which seeks to ensure no-one is asked to contribute more than they can afford and that citizens are accessing other benefits that might be available to them.

The proposal to be consulted on consists of:

- Ø The existing fairer charging policy to be introduced for those citizens receiving Care, Support and Enablement services.**
- Ø The charging for Traditional Day Care to increase from £5 to £12 per day.**
- Ø The charging for Traditional Transport to Day Centres to increase from £5 to £8 per return journey.**

Those citizens using traditional day care and transport services will continue not to be charged the full cost of these services. Currently over 5000 citizens receive social care services. Approximately 1230 citizens pay for all or part of their social care services.

This proposal would affect 395 citizens who currently use a combination of day care, transport and/or Care Support and Enablement. If the proposal is agreed 200 citizens would see an increase of below £15 a week, 110 citizens would see an increase between £15.01-£40.00 week, 67 citizens would see an increase of above £40.01-£80.00 and 18 citizens would see an increase of above £80.00.

Of the 147 citizens who currently only receive a service from the existing Care, Support and Enablement framework it is estimated, if the proposal goes ahead, 100 citizens will be required to pay a contribution. This average contribution would be approximately £20 a week.

Other Options Considered: The law requires public consultation prior to any change. Whilst there is no set time period for undertaking any consultation, it is suggested that one month is a reasonable time period for undertaking consultation.
An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed and will be up dated during the consultation period.

Option 1

Nottingham City to write to all citizens receiving the Care, Support and Enablement, Day Care, and Transport and ask them to complete a survey to express their views. These letters will contain a survey which can be completed either electronically or in paper format. A stamped address envelope will be included. A helpline will operate daily Monday to Friday for citizens to contact if they have any queries or concerns or require support to complete this. The format of the letter will use " plain English" with the option of citizens contacting the helpline to request information in either different languages or formats.

The survey will be available on the Nottingham City Council website so wider views can be sought. Favoured.

Option 2

Nottingham City to write to all citizens who currently receive social care support (over 5000). Whilst this approach would ensure all citizens are consulted concerning the proposed changes it is likely to raise anxiety unnecessarily , as the majority of citizens are not affected by this proposal. Not Favoured.

Background Papers: none

Published Works: none

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Consultations: Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: Not Applicable

Equality: Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA Fees and Charging 2014 vfinal ashx.doc

Decision Type: Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: No
The call-in procedure does not apply to the proposed decision because the delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or Vice-Chair) in his/her absence has been consulted and agreed both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all circumstances and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency.

Person Consulted: Councillor Parbutt
Consultation Date: 16/07/2015
This DDM requests permission to consult with citizens about the proposed increase in fees and charges for Adult Social Care. If the five day call in period was not exempted citizens who could be affected by this proposal would not have received their letter communicating this to them and they would not have immediate access to the helpline.

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice: There are no direct legal implications at this stage arising from the proposals to consult as outlined in the report. Indeed, as identified in the report, consultation should be undertaken where such changes are proposed. The Care Act 2014 gives Council's a discretionary power to charge adult users of the services identified in the report. Advice provided by Sarah Molyneux (Legal Services Manager) on 05/06/2015.

Finance Advice: There are no direct financial implications stemming from a decision to consult as costs will be met from current budget provisions. There will be an impact if a decision is taken to implement the charges proposed within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan however this will be subject to further approval.

It is estimated that the increased income generated from the current proposals will be approximately £0.419 million based on current levels of social care support. It should be emphasised that full financial assessments will continue to be carried out such that individuals pay only what they can afford.

Advice provided by Darren Revill (Finance Analyst) on 27/03/2015.

Equality and Diversity Advice: Where adverse impacts are identified, whether emotional (isolation) or financial (though the Fairer Charging Policy ostensibly ensures that people only pay for what they can afford) it remains the case that impacts on vulnerable citizens are effectively mitigated. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 21/07/2015.

Signatures
Alex Norris (PH for Adults, Health and Community Sector)
SIGNED and Dated: 21/07/2015
Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)
SIGNED and Dated: 20/07/2015