

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

3701

Author:

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Department:

Children and Adults

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Subject:

Adult Social Care - Fees and Charging

Total Value:

£247,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

Having regard to the outcome of consultation and paying due regard to the Council's statutory equality duty, to implement increases to fees and charges to remove the subsidy and move to full cost for the following Adult Social Care services:
Homecare/Care Support Enablement (CSE) (outreach)/Personal Assistance (PA) hours - Additional carers
Day Care between £30 - £150
Transport up to £20 per return journey

In February 2019 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. Currently over 5,000 citizens receive social care services. Approximately 1,230 citizens pay for all or part of their social care.

Permission was sought and agreed to consult with all citizens receiving Additional Carers, Transport, Day Care or a combination of both to ask them to complete a survey to express their views.

The proposal consulted on consisted of a move to full cost for the below services which currently remain subsidised

- Homecare/ CSE (outreach) /PA hours - Additional carers (This is when a citizen requires more than 1 carer to complete a task)

Day Care between £30 - £150

Transport up to £20 per return journey

The period of consultation was between 14 June to 24 July and responses to the survey have now been collated. 949 citizens/ family / carer's were consultation letters, 371 surveys were completed.

- 85% of respondents 'strongly agreed/ agreed' that the system Nottingham City Council operates should be fair to everyone. 5% of respondents 'strongly disagreed / disagreed
- 47% strongly agreed/ agreed that bringing in a system where everyone is asked to contribute towards the cost of their total care package (instead of different amounts for different things) is simpler and easier to understand. 35% disagreed/ strongly disagreed
- 31% agreed that the following is the right thing to do as the funding budget reduces, the council would like to ask citizens to increase their contribution to full cost if they are assessed as being able to do so. 52% disagreed/ strongly disagreed

Citizens were also asked

As a result of proposed changes you may be asked to contribute more to the cost of your care. If you would like to comment on this, please tell us here:-

All responses to the above have been considered as part of the consultation process.

These increases to charges will contribute to the sustainability of services for elderly, disabled and vulnerable people. This decision will affect 138 citizens who currently use additional carers, day care, transport or a combination of day care/ transport.

Other Options Considered:	Keeping the existing arrangements for charges was rejected as the keeping the existing arrangements for charges will not contribute to the sustainability of these services going forward.
Background Papers:	Summary of Consultation
Unpublished background papers:	Fairer Charging Summary report 26072019.pdf
Published Works:	Executive Board report and minutes - Medium Term Financial Plan - February 2019
Affected Wards:	Citywide
Colleague / Councillor Interests:	None
Consultations:	Date: 14/06/2019
	Other: Citizen consultation
	Detailed in reasons for the decision and the consultation summary
	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	No impact
Equality:	Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA Fees and Charging.docx
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	14/11/2019
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice:

Section 14 of the Care Act 2014 provides a discretionary power to charge adults for meeting assessed eligible needs for care and support.

The rate of charges is governed by the Care and Support (Charging and Assessment) Regulations 2014. The services described in this decision do not fall within the range of specified services under the Regulations, which must be provided free of charge.

The exercise of the discretion to vary charging policy carries duties of consultation and equality impact assessment, which are referred to in the decision.

Advice provided by Natalie Grant (Team Leader, Children & Adults Legal) on 18/10/2019.

Finance Advice:

Following approval at Executive Board in February 2019 to consult and subsequent approval in October 2019 to implement, this decision seeks final agreement to increase chargeable fees for the Adult Social Care services outlined in this decision. The decision to increase fees will support and enable service sustainability during the current challenging financial environment and associated funding reductions.

The income generated from the proposals will support the delivery of savings incorporated in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan from 2019/20 +. 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 Hayley Mason (Strategic Finance Business Partner) on 25/10/2019.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

It is important to note that the groups that this policy change will impact on are the most vulnerable in our community - disabled people and older people. It is estimated that the additional cost of living to a person who has a disability is £500 per month compared to someone who is not disabled. Whilst this policy change is focused on affordability and increasing charges only to those who supposedly can afford to pay more for their care, there needs to be support in place to enable individuals to challenge the decision if affordability is presumed but unfounded. It would be a good idea to offer Welfare Rights support to these individuals, particularly those who are at risk of seeing their care costs escalate significantly. Advice provided by Sally Edwards (Equality Diversity & Inclusion Lead) on 25/10/2019.

Signatures

Adele Williams (Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Local Transport)
SIGNED and Dated: 06/11/2019
Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People)
SIGNED and Dated: 29/10/2019