

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Finance and Resources
<b>DATE</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> August 2024
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Contributing to Your Care and Support – Adult Social Care (Non-Residential) Charging Policy
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	ACHSCP/24/220
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Fiona Mitchellhill
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Claire Wilson
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Tracey McMillan
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	2.1.5

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Committee a revised Charging Policy for adult non-residential social care services for its approval.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approve the Contributing to Your Care and Support – Adult Social Care (Non-Residential) Charging Policy and agree that this should be implemented as of 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The current Contributing to Your Care and Support Charging Policy was approved by the City Growth and Resources Committee in 2019. The impact of the Covid pandemic and the introduction of the new Social Work information management system (D365) requires this policy to be updated.
- 3.2 The Charging Policy provides a fair and transparent framework for the application of charges that an individual may be subject to depending on the social care services that they use, their personal circumstances, their income and any assets that they might have. The proposed local Policy is underpinned by national strategy and guidance produced by COSLA which is refreshed on an annual basis.
- 3.3 The Charging Policy revision will ensure that current and future system improvements and working practices are aligned with published policy .
- 3.4 Significant changes in the revised Policy include:

- Removal of references to Individual Budgets as our information systems are not yet configured to implement these;
  - Greater clarification of chargeable services;
  - Updating of exemption categories;
  - Strengthening of financial assessment review and appeal processes;
  - Greater clarification of Income Disregards, Disability-related Expenditure and Tariff Income elements; and
  - Streamlining the contribution calculation process.
- 3.5 Approval of this revised Charging Policy will provide a continuation of a fair and transparent charging framework for our social work and finance colleagues to implement consistently.
- 3.6 During the policy revision there has been significant engagement with social work and finance colleagues to highlight the need to treat all individuals fairly and to raise awareness of the importance of benefit maximisation as well as how to signpost and support appropriately. Internal Audit has also been consulted on the proposed policy in the context of addressing recommendations flowing from a recent Internal Audit report relating to financial assessments.
- 3.7 This revised policy applies to adult non-residential social care services only. It will impact on certain young people as and when they transition to adult social work services. Effective planning and preparation will ensure that these individuals and their families have a positive transition experience and that all known and potential impacts have been highlighted and explained to them. A multi-service working group to help improve the transition experience continues to meet regularly.
- 3.8 Given the significance of this revised policy to those people who use or access adult social care services a wide range of engagement has taken place with key agencies such as Advocacy Service Aberdeen, Quarriers – who are commissioned by Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) to support unpaid carers - and the Council's Financial Inclusion Team to prepare them to support anyone who has queries or concerns about the impact of this revised policy.
- 3.9 A number of engagement sessions have been undertaken with sheltered housing tenants, Granite City Consortium service users and the wider public. Staff engagement has also been facilitated through briefings, presentations at the weekly social work forum and attending individual staff meetings.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The consistent implementation of this revised Charging Policy should ensure that all eligible adults who use a chargeable non-residential social care service are asked to make a financial contribution (flat rate or assessed amount) towards the cost of providing that service.

## 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 section 87 provides the statutory authorisation for social care charges to be put in place.

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## 7. RISK

7.1 The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H)  *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
<b>Compliance</b>	i) Risk that this revised policy is not fully implemented.	i) Engagement with staff to raise awareness of new revised policy with improved processes.	L	Yes
<b>Operational</b>	As above	As above	L	Yes
<b>Financial</b>	i) Risk to individuals of the affordability of care. ii) Risk to social work income generation.	i) Local policy developed in line with national Guidance. ii) Financial Assessment has significant mitigations in place.	L	Yes

## 8. OUTCOMES

8.1 The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan.

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not Required.
Other	N/A

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 COSLA National Strategy and Guidance; [Charges Applying to Social Care Support for People at Home 2024/25](#)

## 11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Contributing to Your Care and Support – Adult (Non-Residential) Social Care Charging Policy (2024).

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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