

Review of contributions to the cost of non-residential Adult Social Care.....

Consultation (closing date Sunday 26 November 2017)

Background

- The City of Wolverhampton Council currently operates a Banded Contributions scheme for non-residential Adult Social Care. This has been reviewed annually with a number of public consultations having been held where there have been substantial changes proposed.
- The Council have taken the decision as part of this year's review to consult on a proposal to introduce a new non-residential contributions policy. The Cabinet Report gives full details on these proposals: <http://bit.ly/2wnjVi6>
- There have been changes in the rules for charging for Adult Social Care which came about when the Care Act 2014 was implemented and in following years. A banded contributions scheme is no longer considered to be fully compliant with Care Act requirements of individual financial assessments based on the full assessment of each individual's income and capital.

The Proposal

- It is not proposed to change the capital limit above which an individual is expected to pay the full cost of their care and support. This is the minimum amount set by Government, currently £23,250.
- For individuals with less than the capital limit, it is proposed to introduce a policy where service user's contributions to non-residential adult social care and support would be determined based on a calculation of income received above the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) amount set by Government (see page 4) less any disregarded income (such as the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP)) and additional amounts for housing costs.
- It is also proposed to disregard a standard amount of 20% of service user's disability benefits (see page 3) for disability-related expenditure (DRE) with an option of actual DRE being considered upon request.
- This is considered to be a fairer way of calculating contributions as it means that those who can afford to contribute towards their care and support do so within their means and those with more income would be required to contribute more towards their care and support. Other local authorities operate similar schemes.

What will change?

The current assessment process:

Are you receiving a means tested benefit?  Do you get a disability benefit?



Band	Assessment	Contribution
A	Means-tested benefit* but no disability benefit**	No contribution
B/C	Means-tested benefit with a disability benefit	£8.08
D/E	Means-tested benefit with a disability benefit and an extra allowance because of a severe disability	£65.61
F	No means-tested benefit and no disability benefit	£55.40
G/H	No means-tested benefit and getting a disability benefit	£75.84
Supported Living*** Lower Rate	Getting a lower rate disability benefit	£77.03
Supported Living*** Higher Rate	Getting a Higher rate disability benefit	£90.63

* The means-tested benefits are Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit) but not Pension Credit (Savings Credit), Income Support, Income-related Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) (but not Contributory ESA), Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (but not contribution-based JSA) and/or Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction

** A Disability Benefit is Attendance Allowance or an equivalent rate of the Disability Living Allowance care component or Personal Independence Payment daily living component





*** Including Very Sheltered Housing

The proposed new scheme:


- The proposals are to introduce a scheme which ensures that a person contributes towards their care and support according to an individual financial assessment of their income and capital. **Some case examples are given at page 5.**
- For individuals with less than the capital limit (currently £23,250), the financial assessment will determine the amount of income above the levels set by Government (see page 4). This amount is considered to be "disposable income" and in most cases a person will have "disposable income" because of the disability benefits they receive which would be expected to be used to pay for their care and support.
- For those individuals with capital of £23,250 or more who want the Council to arrange care and support to meet their eligible needs on their behalf, it is proposed to introduce a yearly charge of £75 after the current initial charge of £150 in the first year.

- Under the current contributions policy, carers are not required to contribute to the cost of support with their caring role. Whilst this exemption will remain for carers with less than the capital limit (currently £23,250), it is proposed that carers with £23,250 or more would pay the full cost of their support.
- **Contributions under the proposed scheme would be calculated as follows:**

Total weekly income (not including any disregarded income)

-  **Minus protected income set by the Minimum Income Guarantee**
-  **Minus housing costs**
-  **Minus 20% of any disability benefit received**
-  **Contribution to care and support**

- An **enhanced financial assessment** would be able to be undertaken where a person has evidence of significant expenses because of their disability which cannot be met by the 20% disregard of disability benefit. This would involve looking at each item of expenditure and enabling protection of sufficient income to allow for this where this is reasonable.

**If you would like to have your say on the proposals,
You can complete the  [comments form \[77kb\]](#) by Sunday 26 November 2017 or if you prefer, attend one of the public meetings listed below to hear about the proposed changes and make your views known:**

Tuesday 10th October	10.00 am - 12.00 noon	Ashmore Park Hub Griffiths Drive Ashmore Park
Friday 13th October	10.00 am – 12.00 noon	Bilston Town Hall Church Street Bilston
Thursday 19th October	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Action 4 Independence Albert Road Wolverhampton
Wednesday 25th October	5.30 pm – 7.30pm	Bob Jones Community Centre Bromley Street Blakenhall

Protected Income (Minimum Income Guarantee set by Government)

Single Person State Pension Age	Weekly Amount
Basic Rate	£189.00
with a carer's premium	£232.25
Single Person aged 18 to 24	Weekly Amount
Basic Rate	£72.40
with a disability premium or Disability Living Allowance care component (low or middle rate) or Personal Independence Payment daily living component (standard rate)	£112.75
with Disability Living Allowance care component (higher rate) or Personal Independence Payment daily living component (enhanced rate)	£132.45
with a carer's premium	£115.65
with a disability premium or Disability Living Allowance care component (low or middle rate) or Personal Independence Payment daily living component (standard rate) and a carer's premium	£156.00
with Disability Living Allowance care component (higher rate) or Personal Independence Payment daily living component (enhanced rate) and a carer's premium	£175.70
Single Person aged 25 up to State Pension Age	Weekly Amount
Basic Rate	£91.40
with a disability premium or Disability Living Allowance care component (low or middle rate) or Personal Independence Payment daily living component (standard rate)	£131.75
with an enhanced disability premium or Disability Living Allowance care component (higher rate) or Personal Independence Payment daily living component (enhanced rate)	£151.45
with a carer's premium	£134.65
with a disability premium or Disability Living Allowance care component (low or middle rate) or Personal Independence Payment daily living component (standard rate) and a carer's premium	£175.00
with an enhanced disability premium or Disability Living Allowance care component (higher rate) or Personal Independence Payment daily living component (enhanced rate) and a carer's premium	£194.70

Note: There are also Minimum Income Guarantee set amounts for couples

Case examples of how the proposed policy would work:

Olive (Aged 59):

Olive suffered a stroke which has left her with difficulty mobilising and short-term memory problems. She is a home owner living with her adult son in the community. Olive receives 5 hours of personal care during the day each week at £14.12 per hour and she has Telecare at £9.00 per week – **a total cost of £79.60 per week for her care and support package.**

Olive has **savings of £15,000** and an **income of £276.65 per week** (£109.65 Contributory Employment and Support Allowance plus £83.90 Occupational pension plus £83.10 enhanced rate Personal Independence Payment for daily living). She receives a Council Tax Reduction but is required to pay £17.02 per week towards her Council Tax which will be allowed for in the financial assessment

Olive would be **expected to contribute £67.11 per week (£1.50 more than her current contribution)** towards the cost of her care, leaving £209.54 per week for her to live on.

Note: As Olive has £750 savings above the lower threshold, a further £3.00 per week is added to her income in the financial assessment. If Olive had £23,250 or more in savings/capital then she would be expected to pay the full £79.60 per week cost of her care. Although Olive owns her own home the value of his property is not taken into account when assessing her savings/capital because this is where she is living.

Kishan (Aged 25):

Kishan has a learning disability. When his mother passed away he moved to live in a Wolverhampton homes flat in the community. He receives 7 hours of personal care per week at £14.12 per hour and 3 hours of outreach support at £13.00 per hour by way of an Individual Service Fund. **His total care and support package costs £123.00 per week.**

Kishan has an **income of £263.60 per week** (£180.50 Employment & Support Allowance including the work-related activity component, an enhanced disability premium and an amount for severe disability as he lives on his own, plus £83.10, enhanced rate Personal Independence Payment for daily living although only £55.65 would be taken into account as he does not receive any night-time support). He also receives Housing Benefit and a Council Tax Reduction but he has to pay £4.67 per week towards his Council Tax which will be allowed for in the financial assessment.

Kishan would be **expected to contribute £68.90 per week (£3.29 more than his current contribution)** to his care and support, leaving £167.25 per week for him to live on.

Albert (Aged 71):

Albert suffers with dementia and is physically frail. He lives in on his own in a privately rented house in the community. Albert receives 10.5 hours of personal care during the day each week at £14.12 per hour and he has Telecare at £9.00 per week – **a total cost of £157.26 per week for his care and support package.**

Albert has **savings of £10,000** and an **income of £304.90 per week** (£221.80 State Retirement Pension/Pension Credit including an amount for severe disability as he lives on his own, plus £83.10 higher rate Attendance Allowance). He also receives Housing Benefit and a Council Tax Reduction.

Albert would be **expected to contribute £71.83 per week (£6.22 more than his current contribution)** towards his care, leaving £233.07 per week for him to live on.

Note: Albert's savings are disregarded as they are below the £14,250 lower threshold.

If you wish to contact us regarding this consultation, please email City of Wolverhampton Council Community Financial Support on:

SS.DomCare@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Or send your comments to:

Financial Assessments, Adult Social Care, Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RT.

Or, if you would like help to make your comments please contact Customer Services on: 01902 551155