

By: Oliver Mills, Managing Director KASS

To: Kevin Lynes, Adult Social Services

Subject: **PROPOSED REVISION OF RATES PAYABLE AND CHARGES
LEVIED FOR ADULT SERVICES IN 2008-09**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To seek Member approval to the revision in the rates payable and charges levied, for the services listed below, in 2008-09.

FOR DECISION

Introduction

1. (1) This report is produced annually and seeks approval to the Directorate's proposed rates payable and charges levied for the forthcoming financial year.

(2) All proposed rates and charges levied for 2008-09 are listed in one of the attached appendices.

- Appendix 1 lists the proposed rates for Adults' Services
- Appendix 2 lists the proposed rents for gypsy sites
- Appendix 3 lists the proposed charges general to the Directorate.

(3) The report distinguishes between those rates and charges over which members can exercise their discretion, and those which are laid by Parliament.

(4) The effective date, unless otherwise stated, for all proposed changes will be 7 April 2008, in line with the benefits uplift date announced in the Department for Work and Pensions News Release issued December 2007.

Charges and Rates Payable for Adult Services

2. (1) All rates and charges proposed for 2008-09 in respect of the Adult Services are shown at Appendix 1. For ease of Members' reference, the basis of their proposed increase is shown throughout Section 2.

Client Contributions for Residential Care

(2) Clients placed in residential care by the County Council are required to contribute to the cost of their care as laid down by the National Assistance Act 1948, as amended by the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990. The amount of contribution is based upon an assessment of their income and capital.

(3) The provision for residential care for adults falls into two categories:

- The County Council's own provision
- Placements effected through the independent sector, purchased by the County Council.

(4) For those clients with the ability to meet the full cost of a placement in the County Council's own provision the maximum contribution is proposed to increase as follows:

- Elderly People – the rate to increase by 3.9% in line with the pensions uplift set by the Department for Works and Pensions.
- People with Learning difficulties – the rate to increase by 3% in line with the benefits uplift set by the Department of Works and Pensions

The revised rates are shown in Appendix 1.

(5) There is no maximum contribution for placements in independent sector homes. The increase in contribution for individuals will be determined by price increases agreed with the sector.

(6) For those clients that do not have the ability to meet the full cost of their placement, they will be re-assessed using CRAG rules and their contribution towards residential care will rise in accordance with either their pension or benefits.

Personal Expenses Allowance

(7) This is part of the pension identified as being for a client's personal use and is set by the Department for Work and Pensions as detailed in its News Release issued December 2007.

Non Residential Adult Services

(8) Under domiciliary charging rules, people who have savings or investments of more than £22,250 will pay the full cost of their care.

(9) People who have savings under £22,250 will be assessed to see if they are able to make a contribution to the cost of their support. The contribution is based on their weekly income, including pensions and benefits.

Supporting People

(10) Supporting People Services clients fall into one of two categories, either:

- Giving people a free service if they are exempt from the charge.
- Charging people the full cost as long as this does not leave them with less than a minimum Protected Income Level figure. If they are charged, this charge is deducted from what they pay for domiciliary care.

Blue Badges

- (11) With effect from the 1 April 1998 this charge was introduced to cover the administration of the application. This charge is not within our discretion to alter, therefore it remains at the current level.

Meals Charges/Other Snacks – Local Authority Day Centres

- (12) There are 2 meals charges i) Meals ii) Meals + Other Snacks. The proposal is to increase the charges to £3.20 and £4.20 respectively. See Appendix 1.

Group Home Rents

(13) Group home rents are analysed to show a separate rent and living expenses charge. The proposal suggested is to increase the rent element by 3% with the revised rate contained within Appendix 1.

(14) The living expenses charge is as per quoted in Department for Work and Pensions News Release dated December 2007.

Voluntary Drivers/Escorts Mileage Rates

(15) The current rate is in line with the Inland Revenue rate of 40p per mile and therefore remains at the same level for 2008-09.

Other Local Authority charges for Adult Services

(16) This charge is applied when charging for Social Work Support, reviews and assessments. The proposed increase to the charge is 2.5%.

Charges and Rates Payable for Adult Services – Conclusion

- (17) Members are invited to:
- APPROVE the revised rates and the basis on which they are charged for: Client Contributions for residential care; Meals Charges, Group Home rents (rent expenses) and Other Local Authority Charges.
 - NOTE the charging policy for Non Residential Adult Services.
 - NOTE that the Voluntary Drivers mileage rate remains at the same level as the 2007-08 rate.
 - NOTE the revisions made to personal allowances; group home rents (living expenses), Blue Badges which this Authority has no discretion to alter.

Gypsy Site Rents

3. (1) There are no plans to increase or decrease the rents currently being charged.
- (2) Appendix 2 lists the current rates for ease of members' reference.

Charges and Rates Payable for Gypsy Site Rents – Conclusion

- (3) Members are invited to:
 - NOTE that the Gypsy Site rents will remain at the same level as the 2007-08 rates.

General Charges and Rates Payable

Consultancy

4. (1) Corporate Finance have provided revised charges to be levied for: i) Middle Management ii) Senior Management iii) Director. Appendix 3 gives the details.

Publications

- (2) The proposal is to leave the charge for key publications at the same level as 2007-08. The charge is shown in Appendix 3.

General Charges and Rates Payable – Conclusion

- (3) Members are invited to:
 - NOTE the revised rates for Consultancy and key publications.

Recommendations

5. (1) The Cabinet Member is invited to **APPROVE/NOTE** the contents of paragraphs 2(17), 3(3) and 4(3).

Michelle Goldsmith
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