

Section A

1. Name of Activity (EQIA Title):

Self-Funding Arrangement Fee updated following consultation 25/04/24

2. Directorate

Adult Social Care and Health

3. Responsible Service/Division

Strategic Safeguarding , Practice, Policy and Quality Assurance (SSPPQA)

Accountability and Responsibility

4. Officer completing EQIA

Note: This should be the name of the officer who will be submitting the EQIA onto the App.

Louise White – Project Manager

5. Head of Service

Note: This should be the Head of Service who will be approving your submitted EQIA.

Sarah Denson-Assistant Director – Strategic Safeguarding, Policy, Practice & Quality Assurance

6. Director of Service

Note: This should be the name of your responsible director.

Richard Smith, Corporate Director, Adult Social Care

The type of Activity you are undertaking

7. What type of activity are you undertaking?

Service Change – *operational changes in the way we deliver the service to people.* Answer Yes/No

Yes/No

No

Service Redesign – *restructure, new operating model or changes to ways of working.* Answer Yes/No

Yes/No

No

Project/Programme – *includes limited delivery of change activity, including partnership projects, external funding projects and capital projects.* Answer Yes/No

Yes

Commissioning/Procurement – *means commissioning activity which requires commercial judgement.* Answer Yes/No

No

Strategy /Policy – *includes review, refresh or creating a new document.* Answer Yes/No

Yes

Other – Please add details of any other activity type here.

No

8. Aims and Objectives and Equality Recommendations – Note: You will be asked to give a brief description of the aims and objectives of your activity in this section of the App, along with the Equality recommendations. You may use this section to also add any context you feel may be required.

Kent County Council (KCC) provides adult social care services to approximately 16,394 residents aged over 18 years old. Approximately 15,806 of these people receive chargeable social care services, this includes providing services like residential care and support and care in a person's own home or in the community.

The Care Act 2014 introduced powers for Local Authorities to charge an "Arrangement Fee" for people who have over the capital threshold, currently £23,250, (and who therefore must pay the full

cost of their care) but who nevertheless request the Local Authority to make the arrangements for their care. The power only applies to non-residential care and support and only for certain categories of people who would pay the full cost of their care and support.

Arrangement fees charged by Local Authorities must cover only the costs that the Local Authorities actually incur in arranging care. Arrangement fees should take account of the cost of negotiating and/or managing the contract with a provider and cover any administration costs incurred. Local authorities must not charge people for a financial assessment, needs assessment or the preparation of a care and support plan.

The last review of the self-funding Arrangement Fee was carried out in 2017 where a decision was made to charge £104.00 annual fee, paid weekly. Since 2017 an uplift has been added each financial year, the current charge (23/24) is £127.59 paid weekly.

After reviewing the fee, it is proposed:

- To introduce a new Self-Funding Arrangement Set up Fee of £352.00 all new starters.
- to increase the weekly fee by 50p per week, and this will be for all existing and new self-funders.

This increase is before annual uplifts have been applied.

The fixed rate charge for arranging care, would be the same amount regardless of the size of the care and support package.

Proposed changes would only affect those receiving support from social care and living in their own home. It does not affect those living in residential care or nursing care.

It does not affect people we have assessed as not having to pay any contribution to their care.

Self-funders will be able to decide if they wish to pay the Arrangement Fee or to make other arrangements for their support that do not involve the Council, meaning that the fee would not be required. This could include arranging care directly with their care provider or asking a relative or friend to do this on their behalf.

The review of the Arrangement Fee is to ensure it reflects the current activity levels, time and staff grade involved in arranging care and support, and therefore ensuring the council is able to cover all the costs involved, thus contributing to the ability to protect front line services.

There is increasing demand for care and support services and financial pressures on the council to manage public funds. To make sure that services are available to those that need them, the council must make the very best use of the resources it holds and consider every option to bring in more income.

Whilst the priorities in Framing Kent's Future set out the ambition and priorities for KCC in the medium to long-term, inevitably in the short to medium-term there are some difficult policy and service decisions that may need to be taken to balance the Councils budget, which may impact on the people who use our services and organisations we work with. KCC's Budget Recovery Strategy, Securing Kent's Future, was agreed at a Cabinet meeting on 5 October 2023.

At the time of completing this EqIA the data reported 582 self-funders, although the number of Self Funders over the year has been at 600. The future potential self-funders for the year is around 400 based on previous years data. According to the Office for National Statistics the South East had the

highest proportion of self-funders in community care services (33.9%), which is statistically significantly higher than the North East, which had the lowest (12.6%).

Although there has been analysis for each protected group, many will have a number of protected characteristics and therefore need to be considered holistically.

In order to gain a better understanding of the impact the proposals may have on people, a public consultation was undertaken from 6 February to 7 April 2024. This was open to self-funders and members of the wider public, KCC staff, service providers and organisations known to KCC, representing disabled and older people's views were very much welcomed.

The EqlA has been updated to reflect the views of consultees and other stakeholders from the consultation. And includes comments from the consultation. The EqlA and will be submitted to the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee in May 2024 with a view to a decision being taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health in late May 2024.

Section B – Evidence

Note: For questions 9, 10 & 11 at least one of these must be a 'Yes'. You can continue working on the EQIA in the App, but you will not be able to submit it for approval without this information.

9. Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Answer: Yes/No

Yes

10. Is it possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way? Answer: Yes/No

Yes

11. Is there national evidence/data that you can use? Answer: Yes/No

Yes

12. Have you consulted with Stakeholders?

Answer: Yes/No

Stakeholders are those who have a stake or interest in your project which could be residents, service users, staff, members, statutory and other organisations, VCSE partners etc.

Yes

13. Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

Please give details in the box provided. This may be details of those you have already involved, consulted and engaged with or who you intend to do so with in the future. If the answer to question 12 is 'No', please explain why.

Formal meetings and updates at boards, committees and the working group were undertaken to ensure input by the appropriate professionals into the development of the proposals and the consultation planning. KCC members and Kent MPs were provided briefings. Briefings were given to care in the community providers to help them understand how they can support people to engage with the consultation.

Ahead of the launch of the consultation we met with KCC's People's Panel, whose members include people from the Older Peoples' Forums, Mental Health User Voice and the Kent Physical Disability Forum as well as Healthwatch Kent volunteers, to gather feedback on the proposal, discuss the options considered and review the consultation material.

The consultation was hosted on KCC's engagement website Let's talk Kent. To help make sure the consultation was accessible the following activities were undertaken:

- The webpage and all documents met digital accessibility requirements

- The consultation Document provided examples to help illustrate how the proposed change could impact people and included a glossary explaining unfamiliar terms.
- All consultation material included details of how people could contact KCC to ask a question, request hard copies or alternative format.
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- Providers and relevant KCC staff were briefed so that they could support people to participate in the consultation.
- A Word version of the questionnaire was provided on the consultation webpage for people who did not wish to complete the online version. Responses made by letter / email / telephone were also be accepted.
- Easy Read and Large print versions of the consultation material were available from the consultation webpage and on request.
- The webpage was translated into British Sign Language.
- The letters sent to people who received care contained a telephone number and email address to contact with any queries relating to the consultation.

Letters were sent to all potentially impacted people. Emails were sent to stakeholders including contacts from health organisations, care sector, voluntary sector and community organisations, registered users of KCC's engagement website Let's talk Kent who have requested to be kept informed of Adult Social Care activity, and Adult Social Care Your Voice network members. consultation promotional activities also included social media, newsletters, websites, posters displayed in libraries and gateways and a media release.

During the consultation there was regular review of the data to ensure all groups and communities were engaging. There were regular targeted communications sent to 565 contacts including organisations/charities covering Older People, Physical Disability, Carers and Learning Disability. To support people that may have found it difficult to engage with the Consultation, there was a request sent to organisations and charities to be invited to forums to discuss the Consultation and impact.

14. Has there been a previous equality analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years? Answer: Yes/No

Yes

15. Do you have evidence/data that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Answer: Yes/No

Yes

Section C – Impact

16. Who may be impacted by the activity? Select all that apply.

Service users/clients - *Answer: Yes/No*

Yes

Residents/Communities/Citizens - *Answer: Yes/No*

Yes

Staff/Volunteers - *Answer: Yes/No*

No

17. Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing? Answer: Yes/No

Yes

18. Please give details of Positive Impacts

Arrangement fees charged by Local Authorities must cover only the costs that the Local Authorities actually incur in arranging care. Arrangement fees should take account of the cost of negotiating and/or managing the contract with a provider and cover any administration costs incurred.

KCC anticipates that this proposal will contribute to our 'Securing Kent's Future' objective of protecting frontline services and continuing to provide the level of care and support needed by people in Kent who have a physical or mental impairment, disability or illness that meets the eligibility criteria.

19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age

a) Are there negative impacts for Age? Answer: Yes/No
(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).

Yes

b) Details of Negative Impacts for Age

The following shows the age range of self-funders as of 12/09/24

18 people aged 21 to 60
38 people aged 61 to 70
131 people aged 71 to 80
278 people aged 81 to 90
117 people aged 91 to 101+

The data shows that there is a larger proportion of older people who may be affected should these proposed changes be implemented following consultation.

Impact of the cost of living on residents

Households across the country have struggled to keep up with growing inflation due to unprecedented rises in everyday basics such as food and heating.

The highest proportion of self-funders paying the Arrangement Fee are older people. The Office for National Statistics reports that in early 2022 (6 January to 27 February 2022), a greater proportion of older adults reported their cost of living has increased compared with younger adults. Around 8 in 10 older adults reported that their cost of living had increased

78% of 45- to 54-year-olds
82% of 55- to 64-year-olds
81% of 65- to 74-year-olds
79% of adults 75 years and older

Some people may not want to pay the proposed Self-Funding Assessment Set up Fee and may choose to put their own arrangements in place. This may not be of the same quality of care organised by the council. Alternatively, those impacted may decide not to access the right levels of care and support or may decide to not access care and support at all. As a result, any Carer may be required to provide more unpaid care, thereby affecting their economic, social and emotional wellbeing. This might also result in an increased need for support from other KCC services.

The proposed changes could increase self-neglect and/or safeguarding as some people may choose to reduce or refuse care and support due to the increased cost. Some may decide to reduce or end their service resulting in their needs potentially not being met. There is limited evidence to suggest that this could happen, and this was not reflected through feedback during the consultation. There is also the potential impact on wellbeing as some people may choose to not access care and support due to the Arrangement Fee which could have an impact negatively on the persons mental health due to increased isolation, their ability to maintain personal relationships and participation in leisure activities, and contribution to society. As wellbeing is individualistic this would need to be determined for each person. Older people are especially vulnerable to loneliness and social isolation – and it can have a serious effect on health.

During the consultation the following points relating to age were shared:

“You cannot categorise people they are all different. We all come from different backgrounds and are a very diverse mix of people. Each individual should be considered on their own merits. I have recently turned 70, so I am concerned about these issues and how they will effect my future.”

“These changes are going to disproportionately impact on elderly and frail people at a time when they most need care and help. How then can you produce a fair and objective equality assessment impact. It is discriminatory against the elderly and as such undervalues their previous lives and contributions to society. This is a poor reflection both nationally and regionally. There has to be a better way to sort out shortfalls in resources than penalising older people.”

c) Mitigating Actions for Age

The Care Act 2014 sets out various key points at which the Local Authority has a duty. Self-funders have the same rights to access this support, alongside the general duties of the Act which are applicable to all adults who are ‘ordinarily resident’ within the Local Authority area and includes:

The Care Act requires the Local Authority to undertake an assessment any adult with an appearance of need for care and support, regardless of whether or not the Local Authority thinks the individual has eligible needs or of their financial situation. Therefore, self-funders can have an assessment underpinned with strengths-based and person-centred practice to understand care and support needs which will also consider their wellbeing and individual needs. And be supported to consider how their care and support needs will be met.

Access to information, advice and guidance:

The Care Act requires the Local Authority to ensure that there is accessible information and advice that meets the needs of its population. And to ensure self-funders are aware of the information and support that is available. There is information available for self-funders on the Kent Connect to Support website: <https://kent.connecttosupport.org/information-and-advice/money-and-legal/paying-for-care-and-support/self-funding/>

Community Involvement Officers will make links between communities and social care teams. Sharing with social care teams what networks and community support is available.

We will need to review the leaflets/information provided to people so that this information can be provided at point of assessment, so people are making informed decisions. To ensure information sets out the breakdown of the fee, so that we are open and transparent with people on how the fee is calculated.

Quality of Care and Support:

The Care Act places duties on the Local Authority to promote the efficient and effective operation of the market for adult care and support as whole. So, it meets the needs of all people in the area who need care and support, whether arranged or funded by the states, by the individuals themselves or in other ways.

On Kent Connect to Support there is a Directory of Service which is linked with Care Quality Commission (CQC) ratings which will help people explore the care services available and ensure they are of quality <https://kent.connecttosupport.org/s4s/CustomPage/Index/176?q=>

As part of market shaping, Kent has been working to develop Community Micro-enterprises which are small, local business, that offers a service to support (including self-funders):

- Older people
- People with a disability

- People that want to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

A Community Micro-enterprise gives people more choice about their care and support and they offer a wide variety of support to help meet a person's needs.

<https://www.communitycatalysts.co.uk/smallgoodstuff/directory/?region=kent>

Cost of living impact:

To explore the option where if people cannot pay the one-off fee upfront that they can have this added to the weekly costs and spread over the year if, and when, the situation arises.

We will endeavour to make sure that people are aware of independent support and advice that is available through organisations such as Citizens Advice.

The Department of Health and Social Care's guidance states that a person will have their benefits maximised at the same time as the means tested assessment is carried out. Having benefits maximised helps with persons overall wellbeing, can reduce stress and can help to reduce the risk of a deterioration in a person's wellbeing. It is KCC practice, at the same time as the means tested assessment, to help a person claim all their entitled benefits. The Financial Assessment Officer will ensure the person is advised of the benefits they may be entitled to and ensure they receive the correct advice and information on how to claim, which may include signposting to the relevant organisations.

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Age

Sarah Denson – Assistant Director SSPPQA

20. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability

a) Are there negative impacts for Disability? Answer: Yes/No

(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).

Yes

b) Details of Negative Impacts for Disability

Of the current self-funders there are 42 people with a physical disability, mental health, sensory or learning disability that could be negatively impacted. People who lack mental capacity and have no one appointed to act for them must not be charged an arrangement fee. And to note that mental health can include neurodivergence.

Some people may not want to pay the proposed Self-Funding Assessment Set up Fee and may choose to put their own arrangements in place. This may not be of the same quality of care organised by the council. Alternatively, those impacted may decide not to access the right levels of care and support or may decide to not access care and support at all. As a result, any Carer may be required to provide more unpaid care, thereby affecting their economic, social and emotional wellbeing. This might also result in an increased need for support from other KCC services.

The proposed changes could increase self-neglect and/or safeguarding as some people may choose to reduce or refuse care and support due to the increased cost. Some may decide to reduce or end their service resulting in their needs potentially not being met. There is limited evidence to suggest that this could happen, and this was not reflected through feedback during the consultation. There is also the potential impact on wellbeing as some people may choose to not access care and support due to the Arrangement Fee which could have an impact negatively on the persons mental health due to increased isolation, their ability to maintain personal relationships and participation in leisure activities, and contribution to society. As wellbeing is individualistic this would need to be determined for each person.

During the consultation the following point in relation to disability was shared:

“People (myself) included are paying top up on top of housing benefit of 400 a month so I don't have any money spare and cost of fuel is astronomic that were always in arrears. People are already struggling with life this is going to hit disabled people and their family's to struggle more.”

c) Mitigating Actions for Disability

The Care Act 2014 sets out various key points at which the Local Authority has a duty. Self-funders have the same rights to access this support, alongside the general duties of the Act which are applicable to all adults who are 'ordinarily resident' within the Local Authority area and includes:

The Care Act requires the Local Authority to undertake an assessment any adult with an appearance of need for care and support, regardless of whether or not the Local Authority thinks the individual has eligible needs or of their financial situation. Therefore, self-funders can have an assessment underpinned with strengths-based and person-centred practice to understand care and support needs which will also consider their wellbeing and individual needs. And be supported to consider how their care and support needs will be met.

Access to information, advice and guidance:

The Care Act requires the Local Authority to ensure that there is accessible information and advice that meets the needs of its population. And to ensure self-funders are aware of the information and support that is available. There is information available for self-funders on the Kent Connect to Support website: <https://kent.connecttosupport.org/information-and-advice/money-and-legal/paying-for-care-and-support/self-funding/>

Community Involvement Officers will make links between communities and social care teams. Sharing with social care teams what networks and community support is available.

We will need to review the leaflets/information provided to people so that this information can be provided at point of assessment, so people are making informed decisions. To ensure information sets out the breakdown of the fee, so that we are open and transparent with people on how the fee is calculated.

Quality of Care and Support:

The Care Act places duties on the Local Authority to promote the efficient and effective operation of the market for adult care and support as whole. So, it meets the needs of all people in the area who need care and support, whether arranged or funded by the states, by the individuals themselves or in other ways.

On Kent Connect to Support there is a Directory of Service which is linked with CQC ratings which will help people explore the care services available and ensure they are of quality

<https://kent.connecttosupport.org/s4s/CustomPage/Index/176?q=>

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- People with a disability
- People that want to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

A Community Micro-enterprise gives people more choice about their care and support and they offer a wide variety of support to help meet a person's needs.

<https://www.communitycatalysts.co.uk/smallgoodstuff/directory/?region=kent>

Cost of living impact:

To explore the option where if people cannot pay the one-off fee upfront that they can have this added to the weekly costs and spread over the year if and when the situation arises.

We will endeavour to make sure that people are aware of independent support and advice that is available through organisations such as Citizens Advice.

The Department of Health and Social Care's guidance states that a person will have their benefits maximised at the same time as the means tested assessment is carried out. Having benefits maximised helps with persons overall wellbeing, can reduce stress and can help to reduce the risk of a deterioration in a person's wellbeing. It is KCC practice, at the same time as the means tested assessment, to help a person claim all their entitled benefits. The Financial Assessment Officer will ensure the person is advised of the benefits they may be entitled to and ensure they receive the correct advice and information on how to claim, which may include signposting to the relevant organisations.

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Disability

Sarah Denson – Assistant Director SSPPQA

21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex**a) Are there negative impacts for Sex? Answer: Yes/No**

(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).

No identified negative impact for sex

b) Details of Negative Impacts for Sex

N/A

c) Mitigating Actions for Sex

N/A

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Sex

N/A

22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender**a) Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender? Answer: Yes/No**

(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).

No identified negative impact in relation to sexual orientation

b) Details of Negative Impacts for Gender identity/transgender

N/A

c) Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

N/A

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Gender identity/transgender

N/A

23. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Race**a) Are there negative impacts for Race? Answer: Yes/No**

(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).

Yes

b) Details of Negative Impacts for Race

As of 12/09/23 self-funders paying the arrangement fee:

500 are white.

10 are Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds.

72 are unknown (either not stated, information not yet obtained)

There are specific health and economic inequalities that should be considered in terms of the impact of raising charges for social care. People from a Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds are more likely to suffer from underlying health conditions. Therefore, the 10 self-funders from a Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds and 72 unknowns could negatively be impacted by this proposal regarding increased cost in addition to other costs for meeting and health and care needs.

Some people may not want to pay the proposed Self-Funding Assessment Set up Fee and may choose to put their own arrangements in place. This may not be of the same quality of care organised by the council. Alternatively, those impacted may decide not to access the right levels of care and support or may decide to not access care and support at all. As a result, any Carer may be required to provide more unpaid care, thereby affecting their economic, social and emotional wellbeing. This might also result in an increased need for support from other KCC services.

The proposed changes could increase self-neglect and/or safeguarding as some people may choose to reduce or refuse care and support due to the increased cost. Some may decide to reduce or end their service resulting in their needs potentially not being met. There is limited evidence to suggest that this could happen, and this was not reflected through feedback during the consultation. There is also the potential impact on wellbeing as some people may choose to not access care and support due to the Arrangement Fee which could have an impact negatively on the persons mental health due to increased isolation, their ability to maintain personal relationships and participation in leisure activities, and contribution to society. As wellbeing is individualistic this would need to be determined for each person

There is a large number of people where race is unknown and therefore action needs to be taken to improve our data.

c) Mitigating Actions for Race

The Care Act 2014 sets out various key points at which the Local Authority has a duty. Self-funders have the same rights to access this support, alongside the general duties of the Act which are applicable to all adults who are 'ordinarily resident' within the Local Authority area and includes:

The Care Act requires the Local Authority to undertake an assessment any adult with an appearance of need for care and support, regardless of whether or not the Local Authority thinks the individual has eligible needs or of their financial situation. Therefore, self-funders can have an assessment underpinned with strengths-based and person-centred practice to understand care and support needs which will also consider their wellbeing and individual needs. And be supported to consider how their care and support needs will be met.

Access to information, advice and guidance:

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We will need to review the leaflets/information provided to people so that this information can be provided at point of assessment, so people are making informed decisions. To ensure information sets out the breakdown of the fee, so that we are open and transparent with people on how the fee

is calculated.

Quality of Care and Support:

The Care Act places duties on the Local Authority to promote the efficient and effective operation of the market for adult care and support as whole. So, it meets the needs of all people in the area who need care and support, whether arranged or funded by the states, by the individuals themselves or in other ways.

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<https://www.communitycatalysts.co.uk/smallgoodstuff/directory/?region=kent>

Cost of living impact:

To explore the option where if people cannot pay the one-off fee upfront that they can have this added to the weekly costs and spread over the year if and when the situation arises.

We will endeavour to make sure that people are aware of independent support and advice that is available through organisations such as Citizens Advice.

The Department of Health and Social Care's guidance states that a person will have their benefits maximised at the same time as the means tested assessment is carried out. Having benefits maximised helps with persons overall wellbeing, can reduce stress and can help to reduce the risk of a deterioration in a person's wellbeing. It is KCC practice, at the same time as the means tested assessment, to help a person claim all their entitled benefits. The Financial Assessment Officer will ensure the person is advised of the benefits they may be entitled to and ensure they receive the correct advice and information on how to claim, which may include signposting to the relevant organisations.

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Race

Sarah Denson – Assistant Director SSPPQA

24. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief

a) Are there negative impacts for Religion and Belief? Answer: Yes/No

(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).

No

b) Details of Negative Impacts for Religion and belief

As of 12/09/23 religion and belief for current self-funders:

Christian	176
No Religion	124
Not Stated	259
Other Religion	23

Whilst the proposed changes do not directly impact people based on their religion and belief, there is a large number of self-funders where religion and belief are unknown therefore actions are required to improve our data.

c) Mitigating Actions for Religion and belief

We also need to improve our data, this is being addressed through our operational teams which includes actions on how we improve collecting data.

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Religion and belief

Sarah Denson – Assistant Director - SSPPQA

25. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation

a) Are there negative impacts for sexual orientation. Answer:

Yes/No (If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).

No, identified negative impact in relation to sexual orientation

b) Details of Negative Impacts for Sexual Orientation

N/A

c) Mitigating Actions for Sexual Orientation

N/A

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Sexual Orientation

N/A

26. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity

a) Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity? Answer: Yes/No

(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).

No identified negative impact to Pregnancy or Maternity

b) Details of Negative Impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity

N/A

c) Mitigating Actions for Pregnancy and Maternity

N/A

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Pregnancy and Maternity

N/A

27. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for marriage and civil partnerships

a) Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships? Answer: Yes/No

(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).

No identified negative impact in relation to marriage and civil partnerships

b) Details of Negative Impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships

N/A

c) Mitigating Actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships

N/A

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Marriage and Civil Partnerships

N/A

28. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities

a) Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities? Answer: Yes/No

(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).

Yes

b) Details of Negative Impacts for Carer's Responsibilities

Carer responsibilities identified for current self-funders as of 12/09/23:

Yes - 11

No - 571

In Kent, an estimated 148,341 adults aged 16+ provide the following unpaid care each week:

- 94,640 provide 1-19 hours
- 18,131 provide 20-49 hours

- 35,570 provide 50 hours

Therefore, Carers are playing a key role in supporting people and if impacted by this proposal could increase carer support needs and the care and support for individuals they are caring for.

The potential negative impact of this proposal on Carers:

- Person may choose not to receive care and support. This might result in needs being unmet and impact on their safety and wellbeing. As a result, any Carer may be required to provide more unpaid care, thereby affecting their economic wellbeing.
- As a result, any Carer may be required to provide more unpaid care, thereby affecting their social and emotional wellbeing.
- This might also result in increased need for support from other KCC services such as more respite or the Carer is not willing and able to continue with their caring role and ASC needs to meet all needs.
- Increase in safeguarding concerns due to carer breakdown

Wellbeing and Mental Health

There is a big responsibility on Carers who are already providing unpaid care and support. A lot of Carers and families are already facing problems with their financial, mental and physical wellbeing. If people decide not to go ahead with some of the care they receive due to introduction of the proposal this could have a huge impact on the financial, mental and physical health of everyone involved including Carers and families. This is because the pressure of supporting them could fall on their Carers and this could impact them unfairly.

During the consultation the following points in relation to Carers were shared:

“Consider unpaid carers who cannot access bank accounts of those they care for where the cared for person refuses to pay. This is a hidden financial and emotional burden on carers.”

“As safeguarding manager I see more cases coming forward where the cared for is or would be self-funding. Relatives panic about the costs vs cost of living increases, though some just don't understand the process and are scared by the awful news stories others are more concerned about their inheritance. Regardless of motive it puts the cared for at greater risk. I agree that better help to get the person care is needed, I even agree it could be paid for, but I am very worried that the most vulnerable people in our community would be at enhanced risk.”

c) Mitigating Actions for Carer's responsibilities

The Care Act (2014) and its supporting regulations and guidance sets out a clear legal framework for how Local Authorities support an individual who has been identified as a Carer. An individual who has been identified as a Carer can be eligible for support in their own right. Carers have the right to information, advice and guidance, prevention, needs assessments and eligibility criteria.

To minimise the effect on emotional, social wellbeing and mental health this proposal could have on people, practitioners and Carer organisations should work Carers to ensure that the assessment and review process is holistic. They will work with the person to look at social and emotional needs and explore what is available within the community to support them.

Access to information, advice and guidance:

The Care Act requires the Local Authority to ensure that there is accessible information and advice that meets the needs of its population. And to ensure self-funders are aware of the information and support that is available. There is information available for self-funders on the Kent Connect to Support website: <https://kent.connecttosupport.org/information-and-advice/money-and-legal/paying->

[for-care-and-support/self-funding/](#)

Community Involvement Officers will make links between communities and social care teams. Sharing with social care teams what networks and community support is available.

We will need to review the leaflets/information provided to people so that this information can be provided at point of assessment, so people are making informed decisions. To ensure information sets out the breakdown of the fee, so that we are open and transparent with people on how the fee is calculated.

And signposting and supporting Carers to access the right information, advice and guidance which is available on <https://kent.connecttosupport.org/information-and-advice/carers/general-information/what-is-a-carer/> including information on Carers Assessments

<https://kent.connecttosupport.org/information-and-advice/carers/support-for-carers/carers-assessments/>

Cost of living impact:

To explore the option where if people cannot pay the one-off fee upfront that they can have this added to the weekly costs and spread over the year if, and when, the situation arises.

We will endeavour to make sure that people are aware of independent support and advice that is available through organisations such as Citizens Advice.

The Department of Health and Social Care's guidance states that a person will have their benefits maximised at the same time as the means tested assessment is carried out. Having benefits maximised helps with persons overall wellbeing, can reduce stress and can help to reduce the risk of a deterioration in a person's wellbeing. It is KCC practice, at the same time as the means tested assessment, to help a person claim all their entitled benefits. The Financial Assessment Officer will ensure the person is advised of the benefits they may be entitled to and ensure they receive the correct advice and information on how to claim, which may include signposting to the relevant organisations.

We also need to improve our data; this is being addressed through our operational teams which includes actions on how we improve collecting data.

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Carer's Responsibilities

Sarah Denson – Assistant Director SSPPQA