

By: Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services

To: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member, Older People's Services
(including Public Health)

Subject: **PROPOSED REVISION OF RATES PAYABLE AND CHARGES LEVIED FOR ADULT SERVICES IN 2011-12**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To seek Member approval to the revision in the rates payable and charges levied for the services listed below in 2011-12.

FOR DECISION

Introduction

1. (1) This report is produced annually and seeks approval of the Directorate's proposed rates and charges levied for the forthcoming financial year, along with any potential changes to the Directorates charging policy.

(2) This forthcoming year is slightly different due to the impending restructure of all functions/directorates within the County Council, effective from April 2011. The report will touch on Children's Social Services but remains primarily focused on Adult Social Services and the rates and charges that are currently in place.

(3) There will be a number of further reports to SMT over the coming months on the changes to non-residential charging proposed in the Medium Term Financial Plan; these proposals are therefore not referred to in this report.

(4) All proposed rates and charges levied for 2011-12 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

(5) The report distinguishes between these rates and charges over which Members can exercise their discretion and those which are laid down by Parliament.

(6) The effective date, unless otherwise stated, for all proposed changes will be the week beginning 11 April 2011. This is in line with the benefits uplift announced in the 'The Department of Work & Pensions – Social Security Benefits Up-rating' issued December 2010.

Charges and Rates Payable for Children's Services

2. (1) Finance colleagues in Children, Families and Education have confirmed that although they annually review their rates and charges, it is not considered a Key Decision. Approval comes from the County Council setting its annual directorate budget, so they operate to a later timetable.

(2) The key date for them relates to their payment system which is updated towards the end of March.

Charges and Rates Payable for Adult Services

3. (1) All rates and charges proposed for 2011-12 in respect of Adult Services are shown in Appendix 1. For ease of Member reference, the basis of their proposed increase is shown throughout Section 3.

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 affected through the independent sector, purchased by the County Councils.

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

a) Older People

This rate will be increased by 3.1% from £407.92 to £420.56, which represents the increase in the Consumer Price Index. This is the rate used by the Department of Works & Pensions to uplift pensions and is the amount assumed within the MTP;

b) People with Learning Difficulties

This rate will be increased by 3.1% from £556.07 to £573.31 as again CPI is used to uplift working aged benefits; this is the amount assumed within the MTP.

The revised rates are shown in Appendix 1.

(5) There is no maximum contribution for placements in independent sector homes.

(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 Works and Pensions as detailed in its Social Security Benefits Up-rating issued December 2010. The allowance will increase from £22.30 to £22.60 per week as detailed in Appendix 1.

Non Residential Adult Services

(8) Under current non residential charging rules, people who have savings or investments of more than £23,250 (as at April 2010) will pay the full cost of their care. The decision regarding the revision to this threshold will not be known until mid January. An increase to the savings/investment limit is made yearly in line with inflation, by the Department of Health.

People who have savings under the limit 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. Full details are in the "Charging for Domiciliary Care" booklet.

Better Homes Active Lives (PFI) Schemes

(9) The non-residential charging rules will also apply to these schemes. However, when working out the cost of the care and support, an additional cost will be added to the cost of any hours of care and support; it is recommended that these rates are increased by 3.1%, as follows:

a) Extra-care schemes for older people

The current rate £25 per week, which is the cost of the 24 hour emergency cover available (for example if a person falls), will increase to £25.77.

b) Schemes for people with Learning Difficulties

The current rate of £39.55 per week, which is the cost of the sleeping night support service, will increase to £40.78.

Blue Badges

(10) With effect from 1 April 1983, this charge was introduced to cover the administration of the application. This charge is not within our discretion to alter; therefore the current fee of £2.00 per application remains the same.

(11) The Department of Transport have been consulting on the future management of the scheme, but nothing formally has been issued at the time of writing this report.

(12) Within the Learning Disabilities and Health Reform Grant is £5.4m nationally which will transfer from PCTs to upper tier councils, for the assessment of applicants, although further clarity is being sought on this.

Meals Charges/Other Snacks - Local Authority Day Centres

(13) There are two meal charges (i) meals (ii) meals and other snacks. It is proposed to increase these by 3.1% CPI (rounding to the nearest 5p):

- Meals Charge increases from £3.40 to £3.50;
- Meals and Other Snacks increases from £4.40 to £4.50

The proposed rates are shown in Appendix 1.

Voluntary Drivers/Escort Mileage Rates

(14) The current rate is usually reviewed in line with the Chancellor of the Exchequer's annual budget announcement. For 2011-12 there are no proposals to increase the rate of 40p per mile so it therefore remains at the same level for 2010- 11.

(15) There is an Inter Authority Protocol in place in relation to Inter Authority charges. This only applies to those local authorities who are signatories to the protocol.

(16) The Inter Authority charges in 2010/11 were as follows, for any need related assessments or reviews:

- £100 for a review
- £150 for an assessment or £25 per hour (if more than six hours work)

Gypsy & Traveller Site Rents

4. (1) With effect from 2011-12 the management of the Gypsy & Travellers Unit will become the responsibility of the Enterprise and Environment Directorate, so this section is for Cabinet Member information only.

(2) At the Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board meeting on the 18 November it was agreed that site rents increase by 2.5%, with effect from 1 April 2011.

(3) Further details around these increases and policy can be found in the above report.

(4) Appendix 2 lists the current and proposed rates for ease of reference.

General Charges and Rates

5. (1) Corporate Finance dictates the rates to be levied for:
- i) Middle Management;
 - ii) Senior Management;
 - iii) Director when undertaking consultancy work.

Appendix 3 details the charges.

Publications

(2) The proposal is to leave the charge for key publications at the same level as 2010-11. The charge is shown on Appendix 3.

Recommendations

6. (1) The Cabinet Member for Older People's Services (including Public Health) is invited to:
- a) **NOTE** the timetable regarding the review of children's services rates & charges;
 - b) **APPROVE** the increase to client contributions for residential care for Older People placed in our own homes;
 - c) **APPROVE** the increase to client contributions for those with Learning Difficulties placed in our own homes;
 - d) **APPROVE** upon the increase to client contributions for Meals Charges.
 - e) **NOTE** the charging policy for Non Residential Adult Services and **APPROVE** the increases in the Better Homes Active Lives schemes;
 - f) **NOTE** that the Voluntary Drivers mileage rate remain at the same level as 2010-11 rate;
 - g) **NOTE** the revisions made to personal allowances and the Blue Badge charge which this Authority has no discretion to alter;
 - h) **CONFIRM** the Inter Authority Protocol in place in relation to Inter Authority charging remains the same as in 10/11;
 - i) **NOTE** the proposed increase to Gypsy & Traveller Site Rents;
 - j) **NOTE** the rates for consultancy work and key publications.

Michelle Goldsmith
Directorate Finance Manager
Tel: 01622 221770
Email: Michelle.goldsmith@kent.gov.uk

Background documents: Department of Work & Pensions-Social Security Benefits Upating-December 2010