

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

To: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member, Adult Social Services

Subject: **PROPOSED REVISION OF RATES PAYABLE AND CHARGES LEVIED FOR ADULT SERVICES IN 2010-11**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To seek Member approval to the revision in the rates payable and charges levied, for the services listed below, in 2010-11.

FOR INFORMATION/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 2010-11 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 down by Parliament.

(4) The effective date, unless otherwise stated, for all proposed changes will be 12 April 2010, in line with the benefits uplift date announced in the Department for Work and Pensions News Release issued December 2009.

Charges and Rates Payable for Adult Services

2. (1) All rates and charges proposed for 2010-11 in respect of the Adult Services are shown at Appendix 1. For ease of Member 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 2.5% in line with the pensions uplift set by the Department for Works and Pensions.
- People with Learning Difficulties – the rate to increase by 1.8% in line with the uplift to income related benefits 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 Charging for Residential Accommodation Guidance (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 2009.

Non Residential Adult Services

(8) Under domiciliary charging rules, people who have savings or investments of more than £23,250 will pay the full cost of their care.

(9) People who have savings under £23,250 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.

Better Homes Active Lives (PFI) Schemes

(10) The non-residential charging rules will also apply to these schemes. However when working out the cost of care and support an additional cost will be added to the cost of any hours of care and support as follows:

- Extra Care Schemes for Older People – Additional cost of £25 per week, which is the cost of the 24 hour emergency cover available (for example if a personal falls).
- Schemes for people with Learning Difficulties – Additional cost of £39.55 per week, which is the cost of the sleeping night support service.

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 £3.40 and £4.40 respectively. See Appendix 1.

Voluntary Drivers/Escorts Mileage Rates

(13) The current rate is in line with the Inland Revenue rate of 40p per mile and therefore remains at the same level for 2010-11.

Other Local Authority charges for Adult Services

(14) 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.

(15) The Inter Authority charges are as follows:

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

Charges and Rates Payable for Adult Services – Conclusion

(16) The Cabinet Member is asked to:

- APPROVE the revised rates and the basis on which they are charged for: Client Contributions for residential care, Better Homes Active Lives schemes and Meals Charges.

- NOTE the charging policy for Non Residential Adult Services.
- NOTE that the Voluntary Drivers mileage rate remains at the same level as the 2009-10 rate.
- NOTE the revisions made to personal allowances.
- NOTE that the charge for Blue Badge applications remains the same.
- NOTE the Inter Authority Protocol in place in relation to Inter Authority charging.

All as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report

Gypsy Site Rents

3. (1) The proposal is to increase the site rents by 2.5%, effective from 1 April 2010. Notification of the implementation of the increase will be sent to licenses on 2 March 2010, in order to meet the required 28 day notice period.

(2) Barnfield Park Caravan Site and Polhill Caravan Site provide occupiers with good locations, above average size plots and a relatively high standard of amenities. Although the amenities at Polhill were fully refurbished in 2004/05 the Rent was not increased. It will be recommended that the rents for Barnfield Park and Polhill be increased by more than 2.5%, to bring them more into line with rents being charged on the other KCC managed sites

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

Charges and Rates Payable for Gypsy Site Rents – Conclusion

(4) The Cabinet Member is asked to:

- APPROVE the revised rates for Gypsy Sites as detailed in Appendix 2 of this report

General Charges and Rates Payable

Consultancy

4. (1) Corporate Finance have provided the 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 2009-10. The charge is shown in Appendix 3.

General Charges and Rates Payable – Conclusion

(3) The Cabinet Member is asked to:

- NOTE the revised rates for Consultancy and key publications as detailed in Appendix 3 of this report.

Recommendation

5. (1) The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services is asked to **note and approve as appropriate the proposed revision of rates payable and charges levied for Kent Adult Social Services in 2010/11 as detailed in** paragraphs:

- (a) 2(16) and appendix 1
- (b) 3(4) and appendix 2
- (c) 4(3) and appendix 3

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Background documents: None