

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	2nd December 2010
3.	Title:	Charge comparisons - Home Care and other non residential Social Services
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

- 5.1 As requested by Members this report sets out the Directorate's current charges benchmarked against local neighbours and members of a Chartered Institute of Professional Financial Accountants (CIPFA) benchmarking group.
- 5.2 The average amount people pay each week is lower when compared to other Council's referred to in this report.
- 5.3 The amount people pay is the same whether the service is provided by the council or an independent sector provider.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That Members receive this report and note its contents**

7. Proposals and Details

- 7.1 A revised charging policy was introduced from April 2003 to ensure that the Council met its statutory requirements to implement fairer charging guidance 'Fairer Charging Policies for Home care and Other Non Residential Social Services' issued in August 2002 under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970. This policy was informed by a detailed consultation exercise and a series of briefing sessions with Cabinet Members and Scrutiny.
- 7.2 At that time Members ratified the Charging Policy objectives to underpin the Council's values and priorities to promote: Independent living, social inclusion, accessible quality services, sustainability, anti poverty and fairness and equity.
- 7.3 Prior to the introduction of this guidance home care charges were based on flat rates, everyone was required to pay irrespective of their ability to pay. The Financial Assessment shifts the burden of charges to people who have higher income and savings. Members wanted to minimise the impact on service users. This led to the introduction, within the financial assessment scheme, of the disposable income allowance. The disposable income allowance was also established as an income regulator, to be increased or decreased depending on budget setting targets. Originally it was set at 80% but has been reduced on a phased basis to 20%. Disposable income is the amount remaining after deducting a service user's weekly expenses/ allowances from their income. This is the amount people are assessed as being able to contribute towards the cost of their care.
- 7.4 The financial assessment applies to people with savings of less than £23,500. People who have more than this amount have to pay the cost of their care at £12.85 per hour up to the Council's maximum charge, currently £200 per week.
- 7.5 Details of charges in Rotherham compared to similar councils are set out in Appendix 1 Table 1 below.
- 7.6 Appendix 1 Table 2 below sets out a comparison of the amount people pay per week for their care. The table shows that a high proportion of people pay less for their care in Rotherham, for example 50% receive a free service compared to an average of 33% in similar councils.
- 7.7 People with savings below £23,500 pay less in Rotherham than those living in similar councils. This is because Rotherham's allowances are more generous. For example Rotherham gives a discretionary disposable income allowance of 20%, our near neighbours give no disposable income allowance and the CIPFA benchmarked average is 9%.

- 7.8 However people with savings greater than £23,500 will pay more in Rotherham for home care than similar councils. This is because Rotherham's charge per hour is higher than similar councils. This affects around 250 people out of the 2200 who receive a home care service.
- 7.9 There is no difference between domiciliary care charges for internal and externally provided services. We have to set a standard maximum charge that applies irrespective of who provides the service. The financial assessment scheme is also generic. It would be unfair to charge someone more because the only service available in a particular area is more expensive to provide. It would also be complicated to administer as some people receive a service from different providers. As contract prices vary between different providers we set a charge based on the average cost to the council.

8. **Finance**

- 8.2 Financial information is contained in the tables attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

9. **Risks and Uncertainties**

- 9.1 There are no risks or uncertainties associated with this report.

10. **Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

- 10.1 There are no policy and performance issues associated with this report

11. **Background Papers and Consultation**

- 11.1 This report is for information only so there has been no consultation undertaken

Contact Name ; : Doug Parkes Business Finance and Commissioning Manager ext 23927 e. mail Doug.parkes@rotherham.gov.uk

Table 1 Charge Comparison : CIPFA and Local Neighbours						
Service	Rotherham	CIPFA average	Sheffield	Barnsley	Doncaster	
	Unit Cost	Current Charges				
Hourly Rate for Domiciliary Care	£18.00	£12.85	£11.72	£9.29	£5.00	£10.15
Maximum Weekly Charge	N/A	£200.00	£227.03	£109.23	£60.00	£403.00
Charge for Day Care	£76.00	£4.00	£10.68	£6.01	£3.00	£8.10
Meal at Day Centre	£5.20	£4.10	£2.86	£0.00	£2.00	£2.40
Transport Day Centre (Return)	N/A	£1.00	£1.46	£0.86	£1.00	£0.00
Warden Service	£12.74	£8.61	N/A	N/A	Various	£5.00
Community Alarm (Weekly)	£3.25	£3.25	£3.30	£3.95	£3.00	£2.73
% of Disposable Income allowance	N/A	20%	9%	0%	0%	0%

Table 2 CIPFA Benchmark Club average weekly payments		
The table shows the percentage of people and the amount they pay each week		
Charge Band	Rotherham %	CIPFA Average %
£200 +	0	0.10
£150 – £200	1.70	0.50
£100 - £149	2.00	2.90
£50 - £99	6.90	13.10
£25 - £49	17.30	25.40
£10 - £24	14.30	16.80
< £10	7.80	7.80
Nil	50.00	33.30