

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
2.	Date:	21st October, 2013
3	Title:	LAC (DH) (2013) 2 – Charges for Residential Accommodation – Crag Update
4	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

- 5.1 This circular notifies Local Authorities of inflationary increases to personal expenses allowance, capital limits and savings disregards which are used when carrying out financial assessments in order to calculate how much someone should pay towards their accommodation charges.
- 5.2 It also contains alerts to the Local Authorities on their responsibilities in applying a number of charging policy issues.
- 5.3 These are statutory requirements; no decision is required, there are minimal financial implications and therefore this report is for information only.

6. Recommendations

- **That the Cabinet Member receive this report and note its content.**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 The Personal Expenses Allowance – Inflationary increase

The personal expenses allowance is to increase from £23.50 to £23.90 per week from 8th April 2013. This applies to all service user's who are resident in a care home and receiving help from local authorities to meet the cost of the accommodation.

7.2 Capital Limits – No inflationary increase

The capital limits are to remain unchanged at £14,250 (lower capital limit) and £23,250 (upper capital limit).

7.3 Savings Disregard – No Inflationary Increase

The savings disregards are to remain unchanged at up to £5.75 per week for individual supported service users, and up to £8.60 per week for couples.

7.4 Introduction of Earnings Disregard in the Financial Assessment for Residential Care - Policy change, minimal impact

The introduction of a disregard of earned income in the financial assessment for residential care. This is to encourage those in residential care to pursue employment opportunities if they are able to do so. It also brings residential charging policy into line with that for non residential. The frequency of occurrence is negligible; therefore the potential impact of this is likely to be minimal.

7.5 Guidance on the Treatment of Armed Forces Independence Payments in the Financial Assessment for Residential Care– Policy Alert, no impact

With effect from 8th April 2013 Armed Forces Independence Payments will begin to replace Disability Living Allowance for veterans; the payments should be fully disregarded in the financial assessment for residential care whereas only the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance is disregarded. The frequency of occurrence is negligible; therefore the potential impact of this is likely to be minimal.

8. Finance

These are generally inflationary linked increases and policy reminders the impact of these is likely to be minimal.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There are no risks in adopting the changes outlined in this circular.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

No Implications

11. Background Papers and Consultation

11.1 Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide issued by the Department of Health.

11.2 Local Authority Circular (DH) (2013) 2 dated June, 2013 (attached).

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