

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
2	Date:	9 December 2013
3	Title:	Charging Exemptions for Non Residential Care
4	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5 **Summary**

Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services issues under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 sets out guidance and statutory framework for calculating how much someone should pay towards their non-residential services. This policy was updated in April 2010 to take account of new statutory guidance related to the introduction of Self Directed Support Personal Budgets.

In some incidences applying charges to services assessed to meet eligible needs can prevent some of our most vulnerable customers from accessing services. There is an inconsistent approach in place in applying charges; this report seeks to regularise it.

6 **Recommendations**

- **To agree the attached policy.**

7 **Proposals and Detail**

Authorising Exemption to charges

Social care assessors will need to ensure all assessments, risk assessments and support plans are completed clearly identifying risks and why an exemption to charges is required and support/ services needed to meet individual's eligible needs.

Team Manager will need to approve, authorise and where urgent authorisation is required outside of Resource Allocation Panel, then this will need to be approved by Service Manager.

8 **Finance**

Financial assessments will need to be completed and will continue to calculate how much someone should pay towards their non-residential services. Cost and non-payment of charges will be monitored through the Resource Allocation Panel.

Financial impact of exemptions will be minimal; Fairer Charging calculations would most likely identify most customers to be below the threshold for charges to apply.

9 **Risks and Uncertainties**

- Housing, risk of being served notice by environmental health if not supported to improve living conditions.
- Risk of continuing cycle of self-neglect, causing critical level of risk to health.
- Anti-social behaviour incidents, support to report to police when incidents happen enabling the police to respond more quickly.
- Substance misuse, risk of malnutrition, loss of dignity and support to access services i.e. Clearways for treatment.
- Risk of deterioration in mental health, low mood, suicidal ideation should support not be provided.

10 **Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

This policy would in effect formalise a process which is already in place and being applied without any monitoring and scrutiny/agreement of exemptions.

All cases/ assessments will need to be submitted to the Resource Allocation Panel for the exemption to be agreed. Cases will be reviewed at 12 weeks to determine if the services or exemption is still required.

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Charging Exemptions for Home care and community support services

Introduction

Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services issues under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 sets out guidance and statutory framework for calculating how much someone should pay towards their non-residential services. This policy was updated in April 2010 to take account of new statutory guidance related to the introduction of Self Directed Support Personal Budgets.

Exemption to charges

In some incidences applying charges to services assessed to meet eligible needs can prevent some of our most vulnerable customers from accessing services. For example, ability or refusal to pay, lack of insight or ability to weigh up risks to one self if services were not provided.

Exemption Categories

This list is not exhaustive, all exemption will need to be discussed, agreed with Team Managers prior to submitting to Resource Allocation Panel for authorisation.

This does not include entitlement to services under Section 117 of the 1983 Mental Health act or services provided to keep someone safe under safeguarding procedures.

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Authorising Exemption to charges

Social care assessors will need to ensure all assessments, risk assessments and support plans are completed clearly identifying risks and why an exemption to charges is required and support/ services needed to meet individual's eligible needs. Team Manager will need to approve, authorise and where urgent authorisation is required outside of Resource Allocation Panel, then this will need to be approved by Service Manager.

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