

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET: 18 MARCH 2009

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES APPROVED RATES AND CHARGES – 2009-2010

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for alterations to approved rates and charges for Educational and Social Services for financial year 2009/10.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Charges are made for a variety of social work services. This report will include adjustments for inflation for approved rates, as part of the 2009/10 Revenue Budget, and bring thresholds in line with CoSLA guidance.
- 2.2 East Ayrshire Council continues to ensure that all service users have their benefit income maximised. This is in line with CoSLA's recommendation that authorities should be pro-active in promoting benefit take up and that entitlement is reviewed on a regular basis.

3. REVISION OF CHARGES

3.1 Non Residential Charges

- 3.1.1 As with previous years it is recommended that Non Residential Charges increase in line with Department for Work and Pension (DWP) benefits levels. It is also recommended that threshold levels and calculation of tariff income to increase in line with CoSLA guidance. This will ensure that revised charges do not have an adverse effect on service user's benefit increases. Appendix 1 highlights the revised charges for 2009/10.
- 3.1.2 The CoSLA Charging Guidance recommends a differential in the income disregard between service users over and under 60. It is proposed therefore that in 2009/2010 the thresholds for income disregards are:-

Single People Over 60	£ 152.00 per week
Couples Over 60	£ 232.00 per week
Single People Under 60	£ 119.00 per week
Couples Under 60	£ 182.00 per week

There is an additional disregard of £50 per week for each dependent child.

3.2 Home Care Charges

3.2.1 The Scottish Government guidance on charging for Non-Personal Care services has reduced the contribution many service users, particularly older people, make towards the cost of their care at home. There are however services that continue to incur a charge and it is proposed that the indicative hourly charge for these home care services increases at a rate slightly below the DWP increase from £9.60 to £10.00, with effect from 6 April 2009.

3.2.2 The maximum charge to service users for non-residential services for 2008/2009 was £77.25 it is proposed to increase this to £81.10 for 2009/2010.

3.2.3 As at March 2009, there are currently over 2,100 service users receiving a home care service. As part of the Social Work sustainability work, details of the implementation of home care charging arrangements will be subject to review.

3.3 Community Alarms

3.3.1 In relation to Community Alarms, application of the charging policy results in many service users receiving services free or at a subsidised rate. This year it is proposed to increase the charge in line with DWP rates from £3.60 to £3.75.

3.3.2 As at March 2009, there are currently over 3,400 service users receiving a Community Alarm service. The community alarm service respond to 7000 calls every month, resulting in deployment of mobile carers to provide direct support in around 200 instances every week.
As part of the Social Work sustainability work, details of the implementation of community alarm charging arrangements will be subject to review.

3.4 Self-Directed Support

3.4.1 It is proposed, the standard hourly rate for Self-Directed Support be increased by 2.5% from £10.20 to £10.46. In line with current practice this rate may be varied by exception, where it is evidenced that specialised services to meet identified need require additional funding.

3.4.2 Where service users choose to have their supports provided by someone other than the Council, monies will move from existing service provision to the Self-Directed Support budget.

3.4.3 As at March 2009, there are currently 59 service users in receipt of Self-Directed Support.

3.5 Foster Carers, Link Carers and Adoption

Foster Carer payments

- 3.5.1 It is proposed that payments to foster carers are increased by 2.5%. In line with current practice this rate may be varied by exception, where it is evidenced that specialised services to meet identified need require additional funding. As part of the Social Work sustainability work, the rates/allowances paid to foster carers will be subject to review.

Carer	Age of child	2008/09	2009/10
Level 1	0 – 4	£109.74	£112.48
	5 – 10	£132.38	£135.69
	11 – 15	£164.72	£168.84
	16+	£213.34	£218.67
Level 2	0 – 4	£149.30	£153.03
	5 – 10	£185.35	£189.98
	11 – 15	£228.37	£234.08
	16+	£295.76	£303.15
Level 3	0 – 4	£223.27	£228.85
	5 – 10	£240.42	£246.43
	11 – 15	£262.02	£268.57
	16+	£328.91	£337.13

Respite	0 – 4	£186.30	£190.96
	5 – 10	£212.89	£218.21
	11 – 15	£245.19	£251.32
	16+	£312.34	£320.15

- 3.5.2 As at March 2009, there are currently 94 children in internal foster placements.

Link Carer payments

- 3.5.3 It is proposed to increase payments to link carers by 2.5%. As part of the Concordat, a review of link carer arrangements will take place within the context of the new national Kinship care policy. The findings of this review will be presented to Cabinet in 2009/10 as part of Social Work sustainability.

Age of child	2008/09	2009/10
0 – 4	£53.66	£55.00
5 – 10	£71.06	£72.84
11 – 15	£92.99	£95.32
16+	£125.85	£129.00

3.5.4 As at March 2009, there are currently 96 children in link care placements.

Adoption allowances

3.5.5 It is proposed to increase discretionary adoption payments by 2.5%. As part of the Social Work sustainability work, the rates/allowances paid to will be subject to review.

Age of child	2008/09	2009/10
0 – 4	£72.17	£73.98
5 – 10	£89.56	£91.80
11 – 15	£111.50	£114.29
16+	£144.36	£147.97

3.5.6 As at March 2009, there are currently 32 children in adoptive placements, for which carers receive a discretionary payment.

3.6 Day Care for Children

3.6.1 The current charge for day care for children is £2.60. It is proposed that this is increased to £2.66. All other concessions remain in line with the Admissions policy.

3.7 Community Meals

3.7.1 It is proposed that the Council continue to provide an 80p per meal subsidy for the Meals at Home Service. The current level of subsidy will be subject to review during the year.

3.8 Day Care – Charges To Other Local Authorities

3.8.1 There is no charge made to residents of East Ayrshire for day care services other than for meals.

3.8.2 Occasionally, however other local authorities may ask to utilise our services. The charge for this is set at £46.35 per day and it is proposed this is increased to £47.50 per day to reflect the actual cost to East Ayrshire.

3.9 Sensory Impairment Interpreters Service – Charges to Other Organisations

3.9.1 There is no charge made to residents of East Ayrshire for the provision of sensory impairment interpreter services.

3.9.2 Occasionally other organisations or local authorities may wish to use our services. For these organisations the charge is set at £34.00 per hour and it is proposed this is increased to £34.85.

3.10 Service Users Care Review – Charges to Other Local Authorities

3.10.1 There is no charge made to residents of East Ayrshire for the review of their care needs. However, other Councils may request that we carry out reviews

on their behalf where their service users are placed within our boundaries. The current charge for this is £136 per review. It is proposed that this is increased to £139.40 per review.

3.11 Respite Care Charges

3.11.1 Respite Care Charges (Young People)

The current and proposed weekly rates for respite care for young people are detailed in Table 1 below. The recommended increase is in accordance with DWP benefit rates from 6 April 2009, which is in line with previous years.

Table 1 – Respite Care Charges (Young People)

Disability Living Allowance – Care Component	2008/09	2009/10
Low Rate DLA	£17.75	£18.65
Middle Rate DLA	£44.85	£47.10
High Rate DLA	£67.00	£70.35

3.11.2 Respite Care Charges (Adults)

Table 2 below highlights the current and proposed charges for Respite Care for Adult service users.

Table 2 – Respite Care Charges (Adults)

Service User Group	2008/09	2009/10
Adults (18-24)	£52.65	£56.55
Adults (25-59)	£65.00	£69.90
Adults (60+)	£102.90	£108.10

3.12 Care Home Services (Older People)

3.12.1 The Concordat between the Scottish Government and local authorities made the following commitment *'improving care home quality through care home fees and the quality framework.'* The cost of implementing this commitment in full is an additional £160,000 per annum.

3.12.2 Following Lord Sutherland's Independent Review of Free Personal and Nursing Care last year, the Scottish Government has uplifted weekly payments to eligible residents in care homes to increase from April from £149 to £153 per week for personal care, with additional weekly nursing care payments rising from £67 to £69. The cost of implementing this commitment in 2009/10 will be £57,000.

3.12.3 Following negotiations between CoSLA and Scottish Care in respect of an agreed cost/quality model a 2.8% inflationary uplift has been proposed for 2009/10 and 2.7% for 2010/11. This is intended to offer short-term stability to providers. The 2009/10 rates with the proposed uplift are detailed in table 3 below:

Table 3 – Approved Rates for Residential/Nursing Care (Older People)

Type of Care	Single room	Double room
Residential	£464.86	£439.86
Nursing	£540.10	£515.10
Additional Needs	£706.40	£N/A

3.12.4 As at March 2009, there are currently 696 Older People being funded in carehomes, 196 at a residential rate; 490 at nursing rate and 10 requiring additional needs care.

Care Home Services (Adults)

3.12.5 For adults under 65 residing in care homes it is proposed that the rates for 2009/10 are set in line with the proposed rate for Older People whilst maintaining differentials.

Table 4 – Approved Rates for Residential/Nursing Care (Adults)

	Nursing		Residential	
	Single	Double	Single	Double
Drug Alcohol Dependence	£540.10	£515.10	£464.86	£439.86
Mental Illness	£540.10	£515.10	£464.86	£439.86
Adult Learning Disability	£548.10	£523.10	£472.86	£447.86
Adult Physical Disability	£586.10	£561.10	£520.86	£495.86

3.12.6 As at March 2009, there are currently 27 Adults under 65 being funded in carehomes, all at nursing care rates.

3.13 Care Home Services (Adults) / Children with Disability

3.13.1 It is proposed to increase the charges to other local authorities for East Ayrshire Council services at Berryknowe to £1,144 per week, which represents the actual cost of the service to the Council.

3.12.2 For The Elms, Craig Tara and Ladeside respite services it is also proposed to increase charges to other local authorities from £1,004.25 to £1,029.36 per week, which represents a 2.5% uplift. Respite charges for residents of East Ayrshire are as paragraph 3.10.2.

3.12.3 For Lisalanna proposed charges to other local authorities will be £2,060.76 per week. Respite charges for residents of East Ayrshire are as paragraph 3.10.1.

3.12.4 Newhouse, Kirklea, The Laurels and The Beeches are care homes operated by independent providers. The proposed rates for these establishments for 2009/10 have been uplifted in line with other care homes fees, as paragraph 3.11.3. This contingency uplift has been applied as separate negotiations are on-going.

Type of Care	Provider	Rate
Adults with Learning Disability with Higher DLA Care Component entitlement	Kirklea/Newhouse	£645.58
Adults with Learning Disability without DLA Care Component entitlement	Kirklea/Newhouse	£528.39
Adults with Learning Disabilities	The Laurels	£593.16
Adults with Complex Physical Disability	The Beeches	£851.18

3.13 Hardship

3.13.1 Elected members should note that, in cases of hardship, charges may be waived, in whole or in part, at the discretion of the Chief Social Work officer.

4. **LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Revisions to 2008/09 charges, which will be implemented with effect from 1 April 2009, follow the guidance set out in the Service Managers Checklist.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This report fulfils the duty of the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to review charges for services, as determined by section 7.1 of the Council's Financial Regulations.

5.2 In line with benefit increases from Department for Work and Pensions it is recommended that increases take effect from the first full billing period after 6 April 2009. Increases in rates and allowances payable will take effect from 6 April 2009 and for those paid in advance of 6 April 2009, backdating of increase will take place from the earliest payment date available.

6. **COMMUNITY PLANNING**

6.1 The provision of Social Work services within a charging framework that reflects the ability to pay supports the Improving Health and Eliminating Poverty themes of the Community Plan.

7. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The Social Work Service requires to set appropriate rates and charges to support the Revenue Budget process in ensuring continuity of services to the most vulnerable people in our communities.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet agree to:

- (i) The revised charges as detailed in section 3 of this report; and
- (ii) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
25 February 2009

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members requiring further information should contact Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resources Telephone: 01563 576090

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: EUAN COUPERWHITE

APPENDIX 1

CHARGES FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

APRIL 2009 RATES

REVISED THRESHOLD LEVELS BASED ON CoSLA RECOMMENDATIONS

Single People	Maximised Income	Threshold	Previous Maximum Charge	New Maximum Charge
60+ living alone with H/R AA or H/R DLA care	£253.20	£152.00	£48.20	£50.60
60+ living alone with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£229.95	£152.00	£37.13	£38.98
60+ with H/R AA or H/R DLA care	£200.35	£152.00	£23.03	£24.18
60+ with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£177.10	£152.00	£11.95	£12.55
Under 60 living alone with H/R DLA care	£228.40	£119.00	£48.65	£54.70
Under 60 living alone with M/R DLA care	£191.75	£119.00	£31.28	£36.38
Under 60 living alone with L/R DLA care	£110.45	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 60 with H/R DLA care	£175.55	£119.00	£23.48	£28.28
Under 60 with M/R DLA care	£138.90	£119.00	£6.10	£9.95
Under 60 with L/R DLA care	£110.45	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 25 living alone with H/R DLA care	£215.05	£119.00	£42.38	£48.03
Under 25 living alone with M/R DLA care	£178.40	£119.00	£25.00	£29.70
Under 25 living alone with L/R DLA care	£97.10	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 25 with H/R DLA care	£162.20	£119.00	£17.20	£21.60
Under 25 with M/R DLA care	£125.55	£119.00	Nil	£3.28
Under 25 with L/R DLA care	£97.10	£119.00	Nil	Nil

Couples	Maximised Income	Threshold	Previous Maximum Charge	New Maximum Charge
60+ living alone, both with H/R AA or DLA care	£444.85	£232.00	£77.25	£81.10
60+ living alone, one H/R AA or DLA one L/R AA or M/R DLA	£421.60	£232.00	£77.25	£81.10
60+ living alone, both with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£398.35	£232.00	£77.25	£81.10
60+ both with H/R AA or DLA care	£339.15	£232.00	£51.18	£53.58
60+ one H/R AA or DLA care, one L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£315.90	£232.00	£40.10	£41.95
60+ both with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£292.65	£232.00	£29.03	£30.33
60+ one with H/R AA or DLA care	£268.80	£232.00	£17.68	£18.40
60+ one with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£245.55	£232.00	£6.60	£6.78
Under 60, living alone, both with H/R DLA care	£405.80	£182.00	£77.25	£81.10
Under 60, living alone, one with H/R and one with M/R DLA care	£382.55	£182.00	£77.25	£81.10
Under 60, living alone, both with M/R DLA care	£340.00	£182.00	£70.10	£73.60
Under 60, both with H/R DLA care	£300.10	£182.00	£50.98	£59.05
Under 60, one with H/R DLA , one with M/R DLA care	£276.85	£182.00	£39.90	£47.43
Under 60, both with M/R DLA care	£234.30	£182.00	£19.75	£26.15
Under 60, one with H/R DLA care	£229.75	£182.00	£17.48	£23.88
Under 60, one with M/R DLA care	£187.20	£182.00	Nil	£2.60
Under 60 both with L/R DLA care	£177.40	£182.00	Nil	Nil
Under 60, one with L/R DLA care	£158.75	£182.00	Nil	Nil