

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET: 23 MARCH 2011

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES APPROVED RATES AND CHARGES – 2011/12

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for annual alterations to approved rates and charges for Social Work services for the Financial Year 2011/12.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As part of the Council's budget setting exercise charges were agreed for a range of non residential social care services. The Budget Paper of 9 February indicated that some fees could not be determined at that time as information was required from third parties.
- 2.2 This report details inflationary adjustments to rates and charges, which have been reflected in the Social Work Revenue Budget 2011/12, and takes account of the guidance now available from COSLA, the Department of Work and Pensions and the Scottish Government. It seeks Elected Member approval to increase thresholds for income disregards and maximum charges to service users for a range of Social Work services.
- 2.3 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 AND APPROVED RATES

3.1 Non Residential Charges – Community Care Services

- 3.1.1 It is proposed that the maximum charge to an individual service user for Non-Residential services is £85.28 for 2011/12 (up from £82.72 in 2010/11). As with previous years it is recommended that Non Residential Charges increase in line with Department for Work and Pension (DWP) benefits levels which have been uplifted by 4% for older people and 3.1% for other service user groups. It is also recommended that threshold levels and calculation of tariff income increase in line with COSLA guidance to ensure that revised charges do not have an

adverse effect on service user's benefit increases. Appendix 1 outlines the revised maximum charges for 2011/12.

- 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 2011/12 the thresholds for income disregards are:-

	2010/11	2011/12
Single People Over 60	£155.00 per week	£160.00 per week
Couples Over 60	£236.00 per week	£244.00 per week
Single People Under 60	£119.00 per week	£119.00 per week
Couples Under 60	£182.00 per week	£182.00 per week

3.2 Self-Directed Support

- 3.2.1 Following an assessment of care needs, service users can choose to have their supports provided by someone other than the Council; monies will then be moved from the service provision budget to the Self-Directed Support budget.

- 3.2.2 It is proposed that the standard hourly rate for Self-Directed Support is increased by 1% from £10.56 to £10.67 for 2011/12. In line with current best practice this rate may be varied by exception, where it is evidenced that specialised services to meet identified need require additional funding.

- 3.2.3 As at March 2011, there are currently 82 service users in receipt of Self-Directed Support, an increase of almost 25% from March 2010.

3.3 Community Meals

- 3.3.1 It is proposed, to continue the current subsidy of 40p per meal for the Meals at Home Service.

3.4 Respite Care Charges

3.4.1 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 11 April 2011, which is in line with previous years' policy.

Table 1 – Respite Care Charges (Young People)

Disability Living Allowance Care Component	2010/11	2011/12
Low Rate DLA	£18.95	£19.55
Middle Rate DLA	£47.80	£49.30
High Rate DLA	£71.40	£73.60

3.4.2 Respite Care Charges (Adults)

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

Table 2 – Respite Care Charges (Adults)

Service User Group	2010/11	2011/12
Adults (18-24)	£57.55	£59.70
Adults (25-59) and under PCMQA	£71.15	£73.75
Adults (60+) and over PCMQA	£110.30	£114.75

Note: PCMQA is Pension Credit Minimum Qualifying Age

3.5 Care Home Services for Older People

3.5.1 COSLA, Scottish Care, the Care Commission, and the Scottish Government have agreed that a freeze will be applied to current approved rates for 2011/12, whilst maintaining the additional funding made to the best performing care homes (as per Care Commission grades) to continue the quality agenda.

3.5.2 The Scottish Government has uplifted the Free Personal and Nursing Care payments to eligible residents in care homes by 1.9% for 2011/12. Thus, the Council contribution will increase from £156 per week per service user for personal care to £159 per week. Additional weekly nursing care payments will increase from £71 to £72 per service user per week. The cost to East Ayrshire Council of implementing this statutory instrument in 2011/12 will be approximately £35,000.

3.5.3 East Ayrshire Council purchases all care home service provision for older people from the independent sector. The 2011/12 weekly rates are detailed below, in table 3:

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

Type of Care	Single room	Double room
Residential	£474.16	£449.16
Nursing	£550.81	£525.81
Additional Needs	£720.53	£N/A

3.5.4 In addition, to these rates, quality payments of up to £3 per week per service user are made for Residential and Nursing placements, to the best performing care homes who meet prescribed quality payment criteria.

3.5.5 During 2010/11, there has been an average of 731 Older People being funded in carehomes, 228 at a residential rate; 493 at nursing rate and 10 requiring additional needs care.

3.6 Care Home Services for Adults

3.6.1 For adults under 65 residing in care homes it is proposed that the rates for 2011/12 remain at previous years' rates whilst maintaining specified differentials.

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

Type of Care	Nursing		Residential	
	Single	Double	Single	Double
Drug Alcohol Dependence	£550.81	£525.81	£474.16	£449.16
Mental Illness	£550.81	£525.81	£474.16	£449.16
Adult Learning Disability	£558.81	£533.81	£482.16	£457.16
Adult Physical Disability	£596.81	£571.81	£530.16	£505.16

As at March 2011, there are currently 38 Adults under 65 being funded in care homes; 2 service users at residential rates and 36 at nursing care rates.

3.6.2 Specialised Care Home Services for Adults

Newhouse, Kirklea, The Laurels and The Beeches are care homes where specialised care is provided and are operated by independent providers. It is proposed that weekly rates paid to these providers are frozen for 2011/12.

Table 5 – Weekly Rates for Specialised Care (Adults)

Type of Care	Provider	Rate
Adults with Learning Disability with Higher DLA Care Component entitlement	Kirklea/Newhouse	£658.49
Adults with Learning Disability without DLA Care Component entitlement	Kirklea/Newhouse	£538.96
Adults with Learning Disabilities	The Laurels	£605.02
Adults with Complex Physical Disability	The Beeches	£868.20

3.7 Hardship

3.7.1 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.

3.8 Approved Rates – Children's Services

3.8.1 Foster Carer payments

3.8.2 It is proposed that payments to foster carers are increased by 2% in 2011/12. The table shows the proposed rates per age banding. 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.

Carer	Age of child	2011/12 Rate per week
Level 1	0 – 4	£115.87
	5 – 10	£139.79
	11 – 15	£173.94
	16+	£225.28
Level 2	0 – 4	£157.65
	5 – 10	£195.72
	11 – 15	£241.15
	16+	£312.30
Level 3	0 – 4	£235.76
	5 – 10	£253.88
	11 – 15	£276.69
	16+	£347.31
Respite	0 – 4	£196.73
	5 – 10	£224.80
	11 – 15	£258.91
	16+	£329.82

3.8.3 As at March 2011, there are currently 102 children in internal foster placements.

3.8.4 In addition to the internal placements, 53 children are currently in external foster placements. These placements are purchased from the independent sector, with an average cost of £1,000 per week per placement. Separate negotiations are on-going with providers to review the cost of service provision.

3.9 Secure Accommodation

3.9.1 Following a Children's Hearing or Court decision, children can be placed in secure accommodation. Children and Families budgets currently fund these placements. The average cost per placement is £5,215 per week. During 2010/11, there has been an average of 1 placement per week. The Scottish Government is currently negotiating a nationally agreed contract and weekly rate with specialist providers.

3.10 Kinship Carer payments

3.10.1 Kinship carer placements are paid a flat weekly rate. It is proposed that payments to these carers are increased by 2% to £56.10 per week for 2011/12.

3.10.2 As at March 2011, 34 children are in Kinship carer placements.

3.11 Adoption allowances

3.11.1 It is proposed that these weekly allowances are increased by 2% for 2011/12. The following table shows the weekly allowances per age bandings.

Age of child	2011/12 Weekly Allowance
0 – 4	£128.87
5 – 10	£146.79
11 – 15	£182.73
16+	£222.26

3.11.2 Child benefit payments are deducted from these allowances. All allowances paid are reviewed on an annual basis by the adoption and permanency panel, following completion of a financial assessment by adoptive parents.

3.11.3 As at March 2011, there are currently 32 children in adoptive placements, for which adoptive parents are in receipt of this allowance.

4. **LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Charges made for services are in accordance with the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, chapter 49 (as amended) and the Community Care and Health

(Scotland) Act 2002. Scottish Government policy and COSLA recommendations have also be incorporated in the rates and charges for 2011/12.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report, in conjunction with the Cabinet report dated 9 February 2011, 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 11 April 2011.
- 5.3 The 'Managing Charging – Service Managers Checklist' has been completed and has informed this report.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- 6.1 The provision of Educational and Social services within a charging framework that reflects the ability to pay supports the Improving Health and Wellbeing theme of the Community Plan.

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Educational and Social services require to set appropriate rates and charges to support the Revenue Budget process whilst ensuring continuity of services to the most vulnerable people in our communities.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and no disproportional impact on any single group identified. Section 3 and Annex 1 of this report detail the proposed charges revised threshold levels for specified service user groups.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet agree to:
 - (i) the revised rates and charges 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
9 March 2011

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. COSLA Charging Guidance for Non-Residential Social Care Services;**
- 2. Cabinet report dated 9 February 2011.**

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 SERVICES

APRIL 2011 RATES

REVISED THRESHOLD LEVELS BASED ON COSLA RECOMMENDATIONS

Single People	Maximised Income	Threshold	2010/11 Maximum Charge	2011/12 Maximum Charge
60+ living alone with H/R AA or H/R DLA care	£266.25	£160.00	£51.33	£53.13
60+ living alone with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£241.95	£160.00	£39.53	£40.98
60+ with H/R AA or H/R DLA care	£210.95	£160.00	£24.50	£25.48
60+ with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£186.65	£160.00	£12.70	£13.33
Under 60 living alone with H/R DLA care	£239.30	£119.00	£56.58	£60.15
Under 60 living alone with M/R DLA care	£200.95	£119.00	£37.95	£40.98
Under 60 living alone with L/R DLA care	£115.90	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 60 with H/R DLA care	£184.00	£119.00	£29.75	£32.50
Under 60 with M/R DLA care	£145.65	£119.00	£11.13	£13.33
Under 60 with L/R DLA care	£115.90	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 25 living alone with H/R DLA care	£225.25	£119.00	£49.78	£53.13
Under 25 living alone with M/R DLA care	£186.90	£119.00	£31.15	£33.95
Under 25 living alone with L/R DLA care	£101.85	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 25 with H/R DLA care	£169.95	£119.00	£22.95	£25.48
Under 25 with M/R DLA care	£131.60	£119.00	£4.33	£6.30
Under 25 with L/R DLA care	£101.85	£119.00	Nil	Nil

Couples	Maximised Income	Threshold	2010/11 Maximum Charge	2011/12 Maximum Charge
60+ living alone, both with H/R AA or DLA care	£467.50	£244.00	£82.72	£85.28
60+ living alone, one H/R AA or DLA one L/R AA or M/R DLA	£443.20	£244.00	£82.72	£85.28
60+ living alone, both with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£418.90	£244.00	£82.72	£85.28
60+ both with H/R AA or DLA care	£356.90	£244.00	£54.60	£56.45
60+ one H/R AA or DLA care, one L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£332.60	£244.00	£42.80	£44.30
60+ both with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£308.30	£244.00	£31.00	£32.15
60+ one with H/R AA or DLA care	£283.30	£244.00	£18.90	£19.65
60+ one with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£259.00	£244.00	£7.10	£7.50
Under 60, living alone, both with H/R DLA care	£425.10	£182.00	£82.72	£85.28
Under 60, living alone, one with H/R and one with M/R DLA care	£400.80	£182.00	£82.72	£85.28
Under 60, living alone, both with M/R DLA care	£356.25	£182.00	£81.75	£85.28
Under 60, both with H/R DLA care	£314.50	£182.00	£61.53	£66.25
Under 60, one with H/R DLA , one with M/R DLA care	£290.20	£182.00	£49.73	£54.10
Under 60, both with M/R DLA care	£245.65	£182.00	£28.10	£31.83
Under 60, one with H/R DLA care	£240.90	£182.00	£25.83	£29.45
Under 60, one with M/R DLA care	£196.35	£182.00	£4.20	£7.18
Under 60 both with L/R DLA care	£186.15	£182.00	Nil	£2.08
Under 60, one with L/R DLA care	£166.60	£182.00	Nil	Nil