

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL CABINET: 26 MARCH 2008

SOCIAL WORK APPROVED RATES AND CHARGES – 2008/09

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 alterations to approved rates and charges for social work services for financial year 2008/09.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Charges are made for a variety of social work services. This report will include adjustments for inflation, as part of the 2008/09 Revenue Estimates process, 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 remain or increase in line with CoSLA guidance. This will ensure that revised charges do not have an adverse effect on people's benefit increases. Appendix 1 highlights the revised charges for 2008/09 effective from 7th April 2008.
- 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 2008/2009 the thresholds for income disregards are:-

Single People Over 60	£145.00 per week
Couples Over 60	£221.00 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 Following Scottish Government initiatives on Personal Care and Supporting People, the contribution many service users, particularly older people, make towards the cost of their care at home has reduced significantly. 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 from £9.25 to £9.60, with effect from 12 April 2008, the first full billing week following uprating of benefits.
- 3.2.2 The maximum weekly charge to service users for non-residential services for 2007/2008 was £75, it is proposed to increase this to £77.25 for 2008/2009.
- 3.2.3 There are currently 1,941 service users receiving a home care service.

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 inflation from £3.50 to £3.60.
- 3.3.2 There are currently 2,548 service users receiving a Community Alarm Service.

3.4 Blue Badge Scheme

- 3.4.1 To date, east Ayrshire Council has not charged for the issuing of a disabled person's badge. Changes in regulations from 1st April 2007 allow for a fee of up to £20 to be charged for this service.

We are reviewing current arrangements and will bring proposals for charging forward as part of the sustainability plan.

Between 2,500 – 3000 Blue Badges are issued each year in East Ayrshire.

3.5 Self Directed Support

- 3.5.1 It is proposed, the standard hourly rate for Self Directed Support be increased from £9.94 to £10.20. 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.
- 3.5.2 The number of self directed payment support recipients is currently 56.
- 3.5.3 Where service users choose to have their supports provided by someone other than the Council, monies will require to move from existing service provision to the Self Directed Payments budget.

3.6 Foster Carers, Link Carers and Adoption

3.6.1 It is proposed that payments to foster carers are increased by 3%. 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	2007/08	2008/09
Level 1	0 – 4	£106.55	£109.74
	5 – 10	£128.53	£132.38
	11 – 15	£159.92	£164.72
	16+	£207.13	£213.34
Level 2	0 – 4	£144.95	£149.30
	5 – 10	£179.95	£185.35
	11 – 15	£221.72	£228.37
	16+	£287.15	£295.76
Level 3	0 – 4	£216.77	£223.27
	5 – 10	£233.42	£240.42
	11 – 15	£254.39	£262.02
	16+	£319.33	£328.91

Respite	0 – 4	£180.87	£186.30
	5 – 10	£206.69	£212.89
	11 – 15	£238.05	£245.19
	16+	£303.24	£312.34

There are currently 83 children in foster placements

3.6.2 It is proposed to increase payments to link carers by 3%.

* The implication of the Kinship and Foster Care Strategy will require further consideration before advising members of any likely changes.

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

There are currently 87 children being cared for by link carers.

3.6.3 It is proposed to increase adoption payment rates by 3%

Age of child	2007/08	2008/09
0 – 4	£70.07	£72.17
5 – 10	£86.96	£89.56
11 – 15	£108.25	£111.50
16+	£140.16	£144.36

There are currently 32 children in adoptive placements which incur a payment.

3.7 Community Meals

3.7.1 The Council currently provides an 80p per meal subsidy for the Meals at Home Service. We are reviewing this arrangement and will make a recommendation in the sustainability report. There are currently 600 service users in receipt of a meals service.

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. We are currently reviewing this arrangement and will bring proposals forward within the sustainability report.

3.8.2 Occasionally however other local authorities may ask to utilise our services. The charge for this is set at £45 per day and it is proposed this is increased to £46.35 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. We are currently reviewing this arrangement and will outline our recommendation in the sustainability report.

3.9.2 Occasionally other organisations or local authorities may wish to use our services. For these organisations the charge is set at £33.00 per hour and it is proposed this is increased in line with inflation to £34.00

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 £132 per review. It is proposed that this is increased in line with inflation to £136 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 revised benefit rates from 7 April 2008, which is also in line with previous years.

Table 1 – Respite Care Charges (Young People)

Disability Living Allowance – Care Component	2007/08	2008/09
Low Rate DLA	£17.10	£17.75
Middle Rate DLA	£43.15	£44.85
High Rate DLA	£64.50	£67.00

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)

Client Group	2007/08	2008/09
Adults (18-24)	£51.65	£52.65
Adults (25-59)	£63.95	£65.00
Adults (60+)	£98.60	£102.90

3.12 Care Home Services (Older People)

3.12.1 The Scottish Government has made resources available to increase the fee paid to Care Homes for older people. A requirement of this additional funding is that it is based on a cost/quality model, with increased rates being paid to care homes that meet quality criteria.

Negotiations between CoSLA and Scottish Care in respect of this year's increase in care home fees have now concluded and are detailed in table 3 below. The overall uplift is £21.98 (Nursing) and £15.15 (residential) and comprises inflation (2.7%) on the 07/08 base fee plus DWP increase and an additional quality element (£6.81 for nursing and £1.76 for residential care)

For individuals who are self-funding (have capital over £21,500) Free Personal and or Nursing Care entitlement will be paid by the Council. The CoSLA approved rate for 2008/09 is £149 per week for residential care and £67 per week for nursing care.

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

	Single	Double
Residential	£450.46	£425.45
Nursing	£523.55	£498.35

There are currently 681 older people being funded in care homes, 196 at residential rate and 485 at nursing care rate.

- 3.12.2 For adults under 65 residing in care homes it is proposed that the rates for 2007/08 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	£523.35	£498.35	£450.45	£425.45
Mental Illness	£523.25	£498.35	£450.45	£424.45
Adult Learning Disability	£531.35	£506.35	£462.45	£437.45
Adult Physical Disability	£569.35	£544.35	£506.45	£476.45

There are currently 14 people under 65 years being funded in care homes, all at nursing care rate.

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 operated services at Kerrmuir and Carrick View to £1087 per week, which represents the actual cost of the service to the Council.
- 3.13.2 For The Elms, Craig Tara and Ladeside respite services it is also proposed to increase charges to other local authorities from £975 to £1004.25 per week, which represents a 3% uplift. Respite charges for residents of East Ayrshire are as paragraph 3.11.
- 3.13.3 For Lisalanna proposed charges to other local authorities will be £2,010.50 per week. Respite charges for residents of East Ayrshire are as paragraph 3.11.
- 3.13.4 Newhouse, Kirklea, The Laurels and The Beeches are care homes operated by independent providers. The proposed rates for these establishments for 2008/09 are:

Adults with Learning Disability with Higher DLA Care Component entitlement	Kirklea/Newhouse	£628
Adults with Learning Disability without DLA Care Component entitlement	Kirklea/Newhouse	£514
Adults with Learning Disabilities	The Laurels	£577
Adults with Complex Physical Disability	The Beeches	£828

3.14 Hardship

3.14.1 Elected members should note that, in cases of hardship, charges may be waived, in whole or in part, at the discretion of the Executive Head of Social Work.

4. **LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Nil.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This report fulfils the duty of the 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 to charges take effect from the first full billing periods after 7th April 2008. Increase in rates payable will take effect from 7th April 2008 and for those paid in advance of 7th April, backdating of increase will take place from the earliest payment possible.

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 Estimate 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 content of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
Enc (1)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: JACKIE DONNELLY, EXECUTIVE HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK

Anyone wishing further information please contact Jackie Donnelly, Executive Head of Social Work on 01563 – 576920

APPENDIX 1

CHARGES FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

APRIL 2008 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	£241.40	£145.00	£46.50	£48.20
60+ living alone with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£219.25	£145.00	£35.83	£37.13
60+ with H/R AA or H/R DLA care	£191.05	£145.00	£22.28	£23.03
60+ with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£168.90	£145.00	£11.60	£11.95
Under 60 living alone with H/R DLA care	£216.30	£119.00	£45.33	£48.65
Under 60 living alone with M/R DLA care	£181.55	£119.00	£28.50	£31.28
Under 60 living alone with L/R DLA care	£104.10	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 60 with H/R DLA care	£165.95	£119.00	£21.10	£23.48
Under 60 with M/R DLA care	£131.20	£119.00	£4.28	£6.10
Under 60 with L/R DLA care	£104.10	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 25 living alone with H/R DLA care	£203.75	£119.00	£39.18	£42.38
Under 25 living alone with M/R DLA care	£169.00	£119.00	£22.35	£25.00
Under 25 living alone with L/R DLA care	£91.55	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 25 with H/R DLA care	£153.40	£119.00	£14.95	£17.20
Under 25 with M/R DLA care	£118.65	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 25 with L/R DLA care	£91.55	£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	£424.05	£221.00	£75.00	£77.25
60+ living alone, one H/R AA or DLA one L/R AA or M/R DLA	£401.90	£221.00	£75.00	£77.25
60+ living alone, both with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£379.75	£221.00	£75.00	£77.25
60+ both with H/R AA or DLA care	£323.35	£221.00	£49.35	£51.18
60+ one H/R AA or DLA care, one L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£301.20	£221.00	£38.68	£40.10
60+ both with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£279.05	£221.00	£28.00	£29.03
60+ one with H/R AA or DLA care	£256.35	£221.00	£17.10	£17.68
60+ one with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£234.20	£221.00	£6.43	£6.60

Couples cont'd	Maximised Income	Threshold	Previous Maximum Charge	New Maximum Charge
Under 60, living alone, both with H/R DLA care	£384.65	£182.00	£75.00	£77.25
Under 60, living alone, one with H/R and one with M/R DLA care	£362.50	£182.00	£75.00	£77.25
Under 60, living alone, both with M/R DLA care	£322.20	£182.00	£65.00	£70.10
Under 60, both with H/R DLA care	£283.95	£182.00	£46.78	£50.98
Under 60, one with H/R DLA , one with M/R DLA care	£261.80	£182.00	£36.10	£39.90
Under 60, both with M/R DLA care	£221.50	£182.00	£16.55	£19.75
Under 60, one with H/R DLA care	£216.95	£182.00	£14.53	£17.48
Under 60, one with M/R DLA care	£176.65	£182.00	Nil	Nil
Under 60 both with L/R DLA care	£167.30	£182.00	Nil	Nil
Under 60, one with L/R DLA care	£149.55	£182.00	Nil	Nil