

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 18 MARCH 2004

SOCIAL WORK CHARGES – 2004/05

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for alterations to charges for social work services for financial year 2004/05.

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 2004/05 Revenue Estimates process, and bring thresholds in line with CoSLA guidance, including adjustments made for Pensioner Credit Introduction.
- 2.2 East Ayrshire 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 Pensions (DWP) benefit levels. It is also recommended that threshold levels and calculations of tariff income remain or increase in line with CoSLA guidance. This will ensure that revised charges do not have an adverse effect on benefit increases. Appendix 1 highlights the revised charges for 2004/05.
- 3.1.2 Due to the introduction of Pensioner Credit the CoSLA Charging Guidance recommend a differential in the income disregard between service users over and under 65. It is proposed therefore that in 2004/2005 the thresholds for income disregards are:-

Single People Over 65	£123 per week
Couples Over 65	£188 per week

Single People Under 65	£119 per week
Couples Under 65	£182 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 Executive 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 hourly charge for these home care services increases from £7.00 to £8.00, with effect from 1 April 2004.

3.3 Community Meals

- 3.3.1 The Community Meals service is currently subject to a Best Value Review, consequently charging issues will be reported at a future committee.

3.4 Day Care – Charges To Other Local Authorities

- 3.4.1 There is no charge made to residents of East Ayrshire for day care services other than for meals. Occasionally however other authorities may want to utilise our services. The charge for this is set at £25 per day and has not been increased since 1998. It is proposed this is increased to £40 per day to reflect the actual cost to East Ayrshire.

3.5 Community Alarms

- 3.5.1 For 2004/05 it is intended to keep the charge for Community Alarms at its current price of £5.50 per week. This reflects ongoing efficiencies within the service.

3.6 Sensory Impairment Interpreters Service – Charges To Other Organisations

- 3.6.1 There is no charge made to residents of East Ayrshire for sensory impairment interpreter services. Occasionally other organisations or authorities may want to utilise our services. The charge for this is set at £25.75 per hour and has not been increased since 1998. It is proposed this is increased to £30.00 per hour to reflect the actual cost to East Ayrshire.

3.7 Service Users Care Review – Charges To Other Local Authorities

- 3.7.1 There is no charge made to residents of East Ayrshire for the review of their care needs. However, other Councils may request that the care review for their service users who have been placed within East Ayrshire Council boundaries, be carried out by East Ayrshire Council staff. The current charge for this is £100 per review. It is proposed that this is increased to £120 per review to reflect the actual cost.

3.8 Respite Care Charges (Young People)

- 3.8.1 The current and proposed weekly rates for respite care are detailed in the Table 1 below. The increase is in accordance with revised benefit rates from April 2004, and is in line with previous years.

Table 1 – Respite Care Charges (Young People)

Disabled Living Allowance – Care Component	2003/04	2004/05
Low Rate DLA	£15.15	£15.55
Middle Rate DLA	£38.30	£39.35
High Rate DLA	£57.20	£58.80

3.9 Respite Care Charges (Adults)

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

Table 2 – Respite Care Charges (Adults)

Client Group	2003/04	2004/05
Adults (18-24)	£49.05	£49.65
Adults (25-59)	£60.45	£61.25
Adults (60+)	£84.60	£87.35

3.10 Care Home Services (Older People)

3.10.1 Committee in March 2003 agreed to set the rate for our own residential services for older people at the Council's approved rate for purchasing care from the independent sector. Following negotiations this rate is due to be set at a national level. It is proposed that Committee accept that any agreed national rate which follows on from the negotiations is applied to our care services.

3.10.2 For adults under 65 residing in care homes the rates for 2003/04 are proposed as:

	Single	Double
Drug Alcohol Dependence	£407	£387
Mental Illness	£407	£387
Adult Learning Disability	£413	£393
Adult Physical Disability	£449	£429

It is proposed that, as with older people services, the rates for 2004/05 are set in line with the national rate whilst maintaining differentials.

3.11 Care Home Services (Adults)

3.11.1 It is proposed to increase the charges to other local authorities for East Ayrshire Council operated services at Kerrmuir and Carrick View from £473.20 to £492.00 per week, which represents a 4% cost of living uplift.

3.11.2 For The Elms and Ladeside respite services it is also proposed to increase charges to other local authorities from £832 to £865 per week, which represents a 4% cost of living uplift. Respite charges for residents of East Ayrshire are as paragraph 3.9.1.

3.11.3 Newhouse and Kirklea are care homes operated by an independent provider Craegmoor. Charges have been subject to ongoing negotiation with Craegmoor and will be reported to Committee when concluded. The proposed charges for Newhouse and Kirklea for 2003/04 are:

Adults Learning Disability with Higher DLA Care Component	£543.65
Adults Learning Disability without DLA Care Component	£443.65

This is an interim rate pending the outcome of negotiations with Craegmoor and is in line with national increases proposed for similar services.

3.12 Hardship

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

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 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. LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that Committee agree to:

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

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
1 March 2004
Enc (1)
EF/JK

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information on this report please contact:
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IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: EUAN COUPERWHITE

APPENDIX 1

**CHARGES FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES
APRIL 2004 RATES**

REVISED THRESHOLD LEVELS BASED ON CoSLA RECOMMENDATIONS

Service Users (Over 65 rates include maximum Savings Credit available)	Maximised Income	Threshold	Previous Maximum Charge	New maximum m Charge
Person over 65 living alone with high rate AA	£223.91	£123	£43.63	£50.46
Person over 65 living alone with low rate AA	£204.46	£123	£34.17	£40.73
Person over 60 with high rate AA	£208.40	£119	£43.63	£44.70
Person over 60 with low rate AA	£188.95	£119	£34.17	£34.98
Single person living alone with DLA high rate care	£193.90	£119	£37.25	£37.45
Single person living alone with DLA middle rate care	£162.85	£119	£22.10	£21.93
Single person living alone with DLA low rate care	£ 94.90	£119	Nil	Nil
Single person under 25 living alone with DLA high rate care	£182.30	£119	£31.55	£31.65
Single person under 25 living alone with DLA middle rate care	£151.25	£119	£16.40	£16.12
Single person under 25 living alone with DLA low rate care	£ 83.30	£119	Nil	Nil
Person over 65 not living alone, with high rate AA	£164.25	£123	£22.15	£20.63
Person over 65 not living alone, with low rate AA	£144.80	£123	£12.70	£10.90
Person over 60 not living alone, with high rate AA	£164.25	£119	£22.15	£22.63
Person over 60 not living alone, with low rate AA	£144.80	£119	£12.70	£12.90
Person under 60 not living alone with DLA high rate care	£149.75	£119	£15.77	£15.34
Person under 60 not living alone with DLA middle rate care	£118.70	£119	£ 0.62	Nil
Person under 60 not living alone with DLA low rate care	£94.90	£119	Nil	Nil
Person under 25 not living alone with DLA high rate care	£138.15	£119	£10.07	£9.52
Person under 25 not living alone with DLA middle rate care	£107.10	£119	Nil	Nil
Person under 25 not living alone with DLA low rate care	£83.30	£119	Nil	Nil
Couple over 65 living alone one with high rate AA	£239.97	£188	£19.00	£25.98
Couple over 65 living alone one with low rate AA	£220.52	£188	£9.55	£16.26
Couple over 65 living alone both with high rate AA	£387.05	£188	£72.00	£72.00
Couple over 65 living alone both with low rate AA	£348.17	£188	£71.65	£72.00
Couple over 65 living alone one high rate & one low rate AA	£367.62	£188	£72.00	£72.00
Couple over 60 living alone one with high rate AA	£219.75	£182	£19.00	£18.88
Couple over 60 living alone one with low rate AA	£200.30	£182	£9.55	£9.15
Couple over 60 living alone both with high rate AA	£366.83	£182	£72.00	£72.00
Couple over 60 living alone both with low rate AA	£327.95	£182	£71.65	£72.00
Couple over 60 living alone one high rate & one low rate AA	£347.40	£182	£72.00	£72.00