

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 24 MARCH 2005

### SOCIAL WORK CHARGES – 2005-06

#### Report by the Executive 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 2005/06.

#### 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 2005/06 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 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 2005/06.
- 3.1.2 The CoSLA Charging Guidance recommend a differential in the income disregard between service users over and under 60. It is proposed therefore that in 2005/06 the thresholds for income disregards are:-

Single People Over 60	£128 per week
Couples Over 60	£195 per week

Single People Under 60	£119 per week
Couples Under 60	£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 indicative hourly charge for these home care services increases from £8.00 to £8.50, with effect from 11 April 2005.
- 3.2.2 Over the past year CoSLA charging guidance has been reviewed to include adult services. There has always been scope to charge adults (Learning Disabled, Mental Ill Health) for care services they receive. To date this has not been fully implemented . It is proposed that in 2005 / 2006 we as in other areas of charging adopt the national guidance and apply charges.

## 3.3 Direct Payments

- 3.3.1 It is proposed, the standard hourly rate for Direct Payments be increased from £9.10 to £9.37. This facilitates a salary increase in line with the recently confirmed settlement for local authority employees. 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.
- 3.3.2 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 a Direct Payments budget.

## 3.4 Foster Carers

- 3.4.1 It is proposed that payments to foster carers are increased by 2.6%. 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.

<b>Carer</b>	<b>Age of child</b>	<b>2005 / 06</b>
Level 1	0 - 4	100.44
	5 - 10	121.16
	11 - 15	150.74
	16+	195.24
Level 2	0 - 4	136.63
	5 - 10	169.62
	11 - 15	208.99
	16+	270.67
Level 3	0 - 4	204.33
	5 - 10	220.02
	11 - 15	239.79
	16+	301.00

### **3.5 Community Meals**

3.5.1 The Community Meals service has been the subject of a Best Value Review and as a result the service has been split between Meals at Home (an assessed service) and Meals in Community Settings (lunch clubs). The Meals at Home service is currently subject to a procurement process. As previously agreed it is proposed that the successful bid and therefore unit cost per meal will be subsidised by the Council at £0.80. The provision of meals and collection of income for Lunch Club meals will now be taken over fully by On Site Services with effect from 1 April 2005.

### **3.6 Day Care – Charges To Other Local Authorities**

3.6.1 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 £40 per day and it is proposed this is increased to £41 per day to reflect the actual cost to East Ayrshire, which represents a 2.95% cost of living increase.

### **3.7 Community Alarms**

3.7.1 Over recent years we have moved towards a charge that reflects the actual cost of services to the Council. In relation to Community Alarms, application of the charging policy results in many service users receiving services free or at a subsidised rate. Through efficiencies in the service the charge for those who do pay has not increased in the past two years. This year we would propose to reduce the charge further from £5.50 to £3.30, as this reflects the actual weekly unit cost for the service.

### **3.8 Sensory Impairment Interpreters Service – Charges To Other Organisations**

3.8.1 There is no charge made to residents of East Ayrshire for sensory impairment interpreter services. Occasionally other organisations or authorities may wish to use our services. The charge for this is set at £30.00 per hour and it is proposed this is increased to £31.00 per hour to reflect the actual cost to East Ayrshire.

### **3.9 Service Users Care Review – Charges To Other Local Authorities**

3.9.1 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 £120 per review. It is proposed that this is increased to £124 per review to reflect the actual cost.

### **3.10 Respite Care Charges (Young People)**

3.10.1 The current and proposed weekly rates for respite care are detailed in Table 1 below. The increase is in accordance with revised benefit rates from 11 April 2005, and is also in line with previous years.



**Table 1 – Respite Care Charges (Young People)**

<b>Disabled Living Allowance – Care Component</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2005/06</b>
Low Rate DLA	£15.55	£16.05
Middle Rate DLA	£39.35	£40.55
High Rate DLA	£58.80	£60.90

**3.10 Respite Care Charges (Adults)**

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

**Table 2 – Respite Care Charges (Adults)**

<b>Client Group</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2005/06</b>
Adults (18-24)	£49.65	£49.65
Adults (25-59)	£61.25	£61.35
Adults (60+)	£87.35	£90.65

**3.11 Care Home Services (Older People)**

3.11.1 It is proposed that the rate for purchasing care home services for older people be set at the CoSLA recommended rate from 11 April 2005. Similarly as in previous years it is proposed that charges for our own residential services are set at the same level. The proposed rates are detailed in table 3 below.

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

	<b>Single</b>	<b>Double</b>
Residential	£364	£344
Nursing	£428	£408

3.11.2 For adults under 65 residing in care homes it is proposed that the rates for 2005/06 are set in line with the national rate for Older People whilst maintaining differentials.

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

	<b>Nursing</b>		<b>Residential</b>	
	<b>Single</b>	<b>Double</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>Double</b>
Drug Alcohol Dependence	£428	£408	£364	£344
Mental Illness	£428	£408	£364	£344
Adult Learning Disability	£436	£416	£376	£356
Adult Physical Disability	£474	£454	£415	£395

### **3.12 Care Home Services (Adults) / Children with Disability**

3.12.1 It is proposed to increase the charges to other local authorities for East Ayrshire Council operated services at Kerrmuir and Carrick View from £492.00 to £507.00 per week, which represents a 2.95% cost of living uplift.

3.12.2 For The Elms, Craig Tara and Ladeside respite services it is also proposed to increase charges to other local authorities from £891 to £917 per week, which represents a 2.95% cost of living uplift. Respite charges for residents of East Ayrshire are as paragraph 3.9.1.

3.12.3 For Lisalanna proposed charges to other local authorities will be £1,840 per week. Respite charges for residents of East Ayrshire are as paragraph 3.8.1.

3.12.4 Newhouse, Kirklea and The Laurels are care homes operated by independent providers. The proposed charges for Newhouse, Kirklea and The Laurels for 2005/06 are:

Adults with Learning Disability with Higher DLA Care Component	Kirklea/Newhouse	£575
Adults with Learning Disability without DLA Care Component	Kirklea/Newhouse	£470
Adults with Learning Disabilities	The Laurels	£528

### **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 Executive 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.

4.2 In line with Benefit increases from Department for Work and Pensions it is recommended that increases take effect from 11 April 2005

## **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**  
**Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**  
**3 March 2005**  
**Enc (1)**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

For further information on this report please contact:  
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**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: JACKIE DONNELLY**

**APPENDIX 1**

**CHARGES FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES - APRIL 2005 RATES**

**REVISED THRESHOLD LEVELS BASED ON CoSLA RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b>Single People</b>	<b>Maximised Income</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Previous Maximum Charge</b>	<b>New Maximum Charge</b>
60+ living alone with H/R AA or H/R DLA care	£214.55	£128.00	£42.70	£43.78
60+ living alone with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£195.50	£128.00	£32.98	£33.75
60+ with H/R AA or H/R DLA care	£170.05	£128.00	£20.63	£21.03
60+ with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£150.00	£128.00	£10.90	£11.00
Under 60 living alone with H/R DLA care	£197.95	£119.00	£37.45	£39.48
Under 60 living alone with M/R DLA care	£166.20	£119.00	£21.93	£23.60
Under 60 living alone with L/R DLA care	£96.20	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 60 with H/R DLA care	£152.45	£119.00	£15.34	£16.73
Under 60 with M/R DLA care	£120.70	£119.00	Nil	£0.85
Under 60 with L/R DLA care	£96.20	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 25 living alone with H/R DLA care	£186.25	£119.00	£31.65	£33.63
Under 25 living alone with M/R DLA care	£154.50	£119.00	£16.12	£17.75
Under 25 living alone with L/R DLA care	£84.50	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 25 with H/R DLA care	£140.75	£119.00	£9.52	£10.88
Under 25 with M/R DLA care	£109.00	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 25 with L/R DLA care	£84.50	£119.00	Nil	Nil
<b>Couples</b>				
60+ living alone, both with H/R AA or DLA care	£379.25	£195.00	£72.00	£72.00
60+ living alone, one H/R AA or DLA one L/R AA or M/R DLA	£359.20	£195.00	£72.00	£72.00
60+ living alone, both with L/R AA or M/R DLA	£339.15	£195.00	£72.00	£72.00
60+ both with H/R AA or DLA care	£288.25	£195.00	£45.28	£46.63
60+ one H/R AA or DLA care, one L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£268.20	£195.00	£35.55	£36.60
60+ both with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£248.15	£195.00	£25.83	£26.58
60+ one with H/R AA or DLA care	£227.65	£195.00	£15.88	£16.33
60+ one with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£207.60	£195.00	£6.15	£6.30
Under 60, living alone, both with H/R DLA	£351.45	£182.00	£72.00	£72.00
Under 60, living alone, one with H/R DLA one with M/R DLA	£331.40	£182.00	£71.18	£72.00
Under 60, living alone, both with M/R DLA	£294.45	£182.00	£53.08	£56.23
Under 60, both with H/R DLA	£260.45	£182.00	£36.75	£39.23
Under 60, one with H/R DLA , one with M/R DLA	£240.40	£182.00	£27.63	£29.20
Under 60, both with M/R DLA	£203.45	£182.00	£8.93	£10.73
Under 60, one with H/R DLA	£199.85	£182.00	£7.35	£8.93
Under 60, one with M/R DLA	£162.90	£182.00	Nil	Nil