

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 23 MARCH 2006

SOCIAL WORK CHARGES – 2006-07

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 2006/07.

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 2006/07 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 2006/07.

- 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 2006/2007 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 £8.50 to £9.00, with effect from 10 April 2006.

3.2.2 Over the past year it has emerged that there is a growing anomaly in interpretation of Scottish Executive Guidance in relation to free personal care and the Statutory Instrument. The anomaly is in relation to “assistance with the preparation of food”. In the past the majority of Scottish Local Authorities including East Ayrshire, have followed the Scottish Executive Guidance and treated this as a practical task falling within the scope of charging. Discussions between CoSLA and the Scottish Executive in clarifying this issue are at an advanced stage. The consequence of any change in current guidance will be a significant loss of income to East Ayrshire Council.

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. Last year through efficiencies in the service the charge for those who do pay was significantly reduced from £5.50 to £3.30, to reflect the actual weekly unit cost for the service. This year it is proposed to increase the charge in line with inflation to £3.40.

3.4 Direct Payments

3.4.1 It is proposed, the standard hourly rate for Direct Payments be increased from £9.37 to £9.65. 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 require to move from existing service provision to the Direct Payments budget.

3.5 Foster Carers

3.5.1 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	2006 / 07
Level 1	0 – 4	£103.45
	5 – 10	£124.79
	11 – 15	£155.26
	16+	£201.10
Level 2	0 – 4	£140.73
	5 – 10	£174.71
	11 – 15	£215.26
	16+	£278.79
Level 3	0 – 4	£210.46
	5 – 10	£226.62
	11 – 15	£246.98
	16+	£310.03

3.6 Community Meals

3.6.1 It is proposed that the Council continue to provide an 80p per meal subsidy for the Meals at Home Service.

3.7 Day Care – Charges To Other Local Authorities

3.7.1 There is no charge made to residents of East Ayrshire for day care services other than for meals. Occasionally however other local authorities may ask to utilise our services. The charge for this is set at £41 per day and it is proposed this is increased to £42 per day to reflect the actual cost to East Ayrshire. This represents a 3% cost of living increase.

3.8 Sensory Impairment Interpreters Service – Charges To Other Organisations

3.8.1 There is no charge made to residents of East Ayrshire for the provision of sensory impairment interpreter services. Occasionally other organisations or local authorities may wish to use our services. For these organisations the charge is set at £31.00 per hour and it is proposed this is increased in line with inflation to £32.00

Comment [PW1]: 2.95% rounded up - £30.88

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 £124 per review. It is proposed that this is increased in line with inflation to £128 per review.

Comment [PW2]: 2.95% increase rounded up - £123.54

3.10 Respite Care Charges

3.10.1 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 10 April 2006, which is also in line with previous years.

Table 1 – Respite Care Charges (Young People)

Disability Living Allowance – Care Component	2005/06	2006/07
Low Rate DLA	£16.05	£16.50
Middle Rate DLA	£40.55	£41.65
High Rate DLA	£60.90	£62.25

3.10.2 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	2005/06	2006/07
Adults (18-24)	£49.65	£50.40
Adults (25-59)	£61.35	£62.35
Adults (60+)	£90.65	£94.45

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 10 April 2006. 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)

	Single	Double
Residential	£406.78	£386.78
Nursing	£471.45	£451.45

This represents a fee increase of £42.90 and £44.17 in 2006/07 (11.79% and 10.34%) for residential and nursing respectively.

3.11.2 For adults under 65 residing in care homes it is proposed that the rates for 2006/07 are set in line with the national 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	£471.45	£451.45	£406.78	£386.78
Mental Illness	£471.45	£451.45	£406.78	£386.78
Adult Learning Disability	£479.45	£459.45	£418.78	£398.78
Adult Physical Disability	£517.45	£497.45	£457.78	£437.78

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 to £785 and £841 per week respectively, 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 £917 to £945 per week, which represents a 3% cost of living uplift. Respite charges for residents of East Ayrshire are as paragraph 3.10.

3.12.3 For Lisalanna proposed charges to other local authorities will be £1895 per week. Respite charges for residents of East Ayrshire are as paragraph 3.10.

3.12.4 Newhouse, Kirklea, The Laurels and The Beeches are care homes operated by independent providers. The proposed charges for these establishments for 2006/07 are:

Adults with Learning Disability with Higher DLA Care Component entitlement	Kirklea/Newhouse	£ 592
Adults with Learning Disability without DLA Care Component entitlement	Kirklea/Newhouse	£ 484
Adults with Learning Disabilities	The Laurels	£ 544
Adults with Complex Physical Disability	The Beeches	£780

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. 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 take effect from 10 April 2006.

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. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 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
EF/JB
1 March 2006
Enc (1)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information on this report please contact:
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**CHARGES FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES
APRIL 2006 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	£223.05	£133.00	£43.78	£45.00
60+ living alone with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£202.45	£133.00	£33.75	£34.73
60+ with H/R AA or H/R DLA care	£176.30	£133.00	£21.03	£21.65
60+ with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£155.70	£133.00	£11.00	£11.35
Under 60 living alone with H/R DLA care	£202.90	£119.00	£39.48	£41.95
Under 60 living alone with M/R DLA care	£170.35	£119.00	£23.60	£25.68
Under 60 living alone with L/R DLA care	£99.45	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 60 with H/R DLA care	£156.15	£119.00	£16.73	£18.58
Under 60 with M/R DLA care	£123.60	£119.00	£0.85	£2.30
Under 60 with L/R DLA care	£99.45	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 25 living alone with H/R DLA care	£190.25	£119.00	£33.63	£35.63
Under 25 living alone with M/R DLA care	£158.40	£119.00	£17.75	£19.70
Under 25 living alone with L/R DLA care	£86.50	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 25 with H/R DLA care	£144.20	£119.00	£10.88	£12.60
Under 25 with M/R DLA care	£111.65	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Under 25 with L/R DLA care	£86.50	£119.00	Nil	Nil
Couples				
60+ living alone, both with H/R AA or DLA care	£392.05	£203.00	£72.00	£72.00
60+ living alone, one H/R AA or DLA one L/R AA or M/R DLA	£371.45	£203.00	£72.00	£72.00
60+ living alone, both with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£350.85	£203.00	£72.00	£72.00
60+ both with H/R AA or DLA care	£298.55	£203.00	£46.63	£47.78
60+ one H/R AA or DLA care, one L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£277.95	£203.00	£36.60	£37.48
60+ both with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£257.35	£203.00	£26.58	£27.18
60+ one with H/R AA or DLA care	£236.30	£203.00	£16.33	£16.65
60+ one with L/R AA or M/R DLA care	£215.70	£203.00	£6.30	£6.35
Under 60, living alone, both with H/R DLA care	£360.30	£182.00	£72.00	£72.00
Under 60, living alone, one with H/R and one with M/R DLA care	£339.70	£182.00	£72.00	£72.00
Under 60, living alone, both with M/R DLA care	£301.85	£182.00	£56.23	£59.93
Under 60, both with H/R DLA care	£266.80	£182.00	£39.23	£42.40
Under 60, both with M/R DLA care	£252.20	£182.00	£29.20	£35.10
Under 60, one with H/R DLA , one with M/R DLA care	£208.35	£182.00	£10.73	£13.18
Under 60, both with M/R DLA care	£204.55	£182.00	£8.93	£11.28
Under 60, one with H/R DLA care	£167.70	£182.00	Nil	Nil
Under 60, one with M/R DLA care	£158.05	£182.00	Nil	Nil
Under 60 both with L/R DLA care	£142.55	£182.00	Nil	Nil
Under 60, one with L/R DLA care				

