

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE - 1 MARCH 2001

SOCIAL WORK CHARGES – 2001/2002

Report by the Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Social Work Committee approval for revised rates of charges for services, as included in the Revenue Estimates 2001/2002.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Social Work Department makes charges for a variety of services. The range and pattern of charges remains constant and no new areas of charging have been introduced. It should be noted that, before charges are levied, officers assure themselves that the individual's income has been maximised and that the charges will not lead to undue hardship. Where there are concerns on hardship grounds, managers have delegated authority to waive or reduce charges.
- 2.2 The revised budget for income includes increases for inflation. The proposed charges are estimated to generate the required level of income included in the department's budget allocation for 2001/02, based on 3% inflation.

3. REVISION OF CHARGES

3.1 Non-Residential Charges (Including Home Care)

It is proposed that Non-Residential Charges rise in line with DSS benefit levels. In order to ensure that revised charges do not have an adverse impact on the benefit increases of service users, the threshold levels are being increased by £5 for single people and £10 for couples. Service users with chargeable incomes below the appropriate thresholds will receive a free service while those above these levels will be required to pay. Appendix 1 notes the change in charges. This revised charge will be introduced on 21 April 2001.

3.2 Charges for Home Care

It is proposed that the charge for Home Care be increased from £6.00 to £6.18 per hour. This reflects a 3% increase. Home Care service users will receive accounts based on the new charge on 24 May 2001 (covering the period 21 April to 24 May). This is to allow the charging period to match the periods which apply to the Council's system for raising charges.

3.3 Charges for New Users of the Community Alarms System

Members will recall that Community Alarm charges apply only to those individuals who have begun to use the service since 1 April 2000. A maximum charge of £5 was introduced at that time and it is proposed that the charge rise by 3% to £5.15.

3.4 Charges for Equipment & Adaptations

A charge of £25 is made for the provision of equipment & adaptations where the total value of the assessed need is less than £3,000. The charge applies to one assessed package of services, regardless of the number of items received, in a one-year period and is payable on delivery of equipment. It is proposed that this charge increases to £25.75, reflecting a 3% increase.

3.5 Charges for Lunch Clubs

It is proposed that the meals charge be increased from £1.30 to £1.33, reflecting a 3% increase.

3.6 Meals on Wheels

It is proposed that the meals charge be increased from £1.30 to £1.33, reflecting a 3% increase.

This revised charge will be introduced on 1 April 2001 and will also apply to meal charges in day centres.

3.7 Day care for Older People

The indicative charge for day care for Older People is currently £20 per session. This charge applies to service users who receive no other service from the department. It is proposed that the revised rate per session be increased to £20.60, reflecting a 3% increase.

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 Financial Regulations.

4.2 As a consequence of DSS changes in Income Support rules, the capital limit for Income Support will be increased to £12,000, with capital of under £6,000 being disregarded. At present capital under £3,000 is disregarded. The Council, in common with local authorities across Scotland has taken the DSS limits as the basis for assessing liability for charges. Therefore, the Council will now reassess service users over 60 with capital in excess of £3,000 in order to ensure that Council practice remains consistent with current DSS rules.

4.3 This may affect the level of income collected. All service users will undergo a review to define potential shortfall and Committee will be advised of this in due course.

4.4 In accordance with a recent Scottish Executive announcement, the award made to former Prisoners of War held by the Japanese in World War 2 is exempt from charges.

5. POLICY/LEGAL/PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members of the Social Work Committee are requested to:

- (i) agree the revised charges set out in Section 3 of the report following the Council's approval of the Revenue Estimates 2001/02, and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Services
ENC (1)

AYMcD/JBS
22 February 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members requiring further information should contact Stephen Moore, Head of Social Work on (01563 576920).

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT**

**CHARGES FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES
APRIL 2001 RATES**

Using Revised Thresholds

	Total Income	Revised Threshold	Previous Charge	New Charge
Elderly person living alone with high rate AA	£189.00	£115	£34.90	£37.00
Elderly person living alone with low rate AA	£170.70	£115	£26.03	£27.85
Single person living alone with DLA high rate care	£183.55	£115	£29.10	£34.28
Single person living alone with DLA middle rate care	£154.20	£115	£20.23	£19.60
Single person living alone with DLA low rate care	£90.30	£115	Nil	Nil
Single person under 25 living alone with DLA high rate care	£172.50	£115	£23.68	£28.75
Single person under 25 living alone with DLA middle rate care	£143.15	£115	£14.80	£14.08
Single person under 25 living alone with DLA low rate care	£79.25	£115	Nil	Nil
Elderly non-householder with high rate AA	£147.45	£75	£34.80	£36.23
Elderly non-householder with low rate AA	£129.15	£75	£25.93	£27.08
Single non-householder with DLA high rate care	£142.00	£75	£29.00	£33.50
Single non-householder with DLA middle rate care	£112.65	£75	£20.13	£18.83
Single non-householder with DLA low rate care	£90.30	£75	£9.33	£7.65
Single non-householder under 25 with DLA high rate care	£130.95	£75	£23.58	£27.98
Single non-householder under 25 with DLA middle rate care	£101.60	£75	£14.70	£13.30
Single non-householder under 25 with DLA low rate care	£79.25	£75	£3.90	£2.13
Couple living alone one with high rate AA	£195.85	£145	£24.80	£25.43
Couple living alone one with low rate AA	£177.55	£145	£15.93	£16.28
Couple living alone both with high rate AA	£334.25	£145	£72.00	£72.00
Couple living alone both with low rate AA	£297.65	£145	£72.00	£72.00
Couple living alone one high rate & one low rate AA	£315.95	£145	£72.00	£72.00
Couple living with family one with high rate AA	£195.85	£110	£42.30	£42.93
Couple living with family one with low rate AA	£177.55	£110	£33.43	£33.78
Couple living with family both with high rate AA	£251.15	£110	£69.08	£70.58
Couple living with family both with low rate AA	£214.55	£110	£51.33	£52.28
Couple living with family one high rate & one low rate AA	£232.85	£110	£60.20	£61.43

AGENDA