

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 23 May 2002**

#### **ANNUAL UPDATING OF APPROVED RATES FOR CARE PLACEMENTS**

##### **Report by the Director of Educational & Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval for the updating of the Council's rates for voluntary and private nursing and residential care respite placements for adults and older people, and the revision of the weekly charges for residential care in Council operated establishments.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Council requires to set a rate on an annual basis for the level of contribution which individuals pay towards their care services. Due to changes in the benefits system which were introduced on 8 April 2002, individuals who receive care in private and voluntary care homes will no longer be entitled to claim the residential allowance from the Department of Works and Pensions. The element that they would have normally claimed has been transferred to the Council and is now contained in the Social Work budget to be used to pay providers of care services.

#### **3. APPROVED RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL & NURSING CARE IN THE PRIVATE & VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

- 3.1 In previous years the approved rate for care homes was set in line with the DSS rate under the Preserved Rights Scheme. In future years the level of fee for adults in care will be negotiated on an individual basis with care providers, and their fees will be fully paid by the local authority as a result of the funding transferring to local authorities.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the Council continue to pay approved rates, above DSS rates, agreed by the Council and other local authorities in accordance with existing arrangements. New rates for the 3 private providers of Adult Care in East Ayrshire are currently being negotiated.

#### **4. APPROVED RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE OPERATED BY THE COUNCIL**

- 4.1 The weekly rates applied in Council units are detailed in Table 1. It is proposed that the rates be increased by an inflationary rise of 3%. These rates apply to self-funding individuals only who have capital and property in excess of £18,500.

<b>Table 1</b>	
<b>Type</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Residential Accommodation for Older People	£335 pw
Residential Accommodation for People with Learning Disabilities	£455pw

## **5. RESPITE CARE CHARGES (ADULTS & OLDER PEOPLE)**

- 5.1 The current and proposed weekly charges for respite care are set out in the Table 2 below. In 2002/03 the differential care home between sectors disappears due to the residential allowance being stopped from 15 April 2002. The small difference in rates reflect the level of benefits paid to individuals by the DWP.

<b>Table 2</b>		
<b>Type</b>	<b>2001/02</b>	<b>2002/03</b>
Council operated units	£56.45 pw	£58.70 pw
Private & Voluntary operated units	£119.75 pw	£58.70 pw

- 5.2 It was agreed at Committee on March 1 2001 that a review would be undertaken of the supplementation rate for the Elms respite unit, which is a commissioned unit providing respite to adults with a learning disability. Following this review it is proposed that places are made available to agencies outside the East Ayrshire boundary at a cost of £800 per week, per individual. Adults from East Ayrshire, who are assessed as requiring respite in the Elms, would pay £58.70 per week.
- 5.3 Respite for adults provided at Ladeside Gardens, Kilmaurs is funded through a partnership agreement with NHS Ayrshire & Arran. The steering group recommends that an Ayrshire rate for respite should be established. It is proposed that places made available to Agencies out-with the Ayrshire boundary be offered at a cost of £800 per week per individual.

## **6. RESPITE CARE CHARGES (YOUNG PEOPLE)**

- 6.1 The current and proposed charges for respite care are set out in the table below, based on the Disabled Living Allowance – care component rates set by the DSS. The care component rates reflect the level of disability, with the higher rate applying to the most severe disability and the lower rate to the least severe disability.

<b>Disabled Living Allowance – care component</b>	<b>2001/02</b>	<b>2002/03</b>
Higher Rate	£55.30 pw	£56.25 pw
Middle Rate	£37.00 pw	£37.65 pw
Lower Rate	£14.65 pw	£14.90 pw

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The proposed charges are estimated to generate the required level of income included in the department's budget allocation for 2002/03, based on 3% inflation.
- 7.2 The Scottish Executive has indicated that the capital limits for self-funding residents in care remains at £18,500.
- 7.3 The Council has already received a transfer of funds from the Department of Works and Pensions to compensate for the loss of the residential allowance. A report was submitted to Social Work Committee on 8 November 2001 outlining these changes. There will therefore be no financial implications for the Council.
- 7.4 It is anticipated that in 2002/2003, 24 weeks of respite in The Elms will be accessed by other local authorities based upon usage in 2001/2002. If the rate of £800 is approved, the introduction of the charge will generate income of £19,200 which will be used towards the block purchase contract, which exists between the Council and the current contracted provider. In setting this rate there is no additional cost to the individual.

## **8. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Nil.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Members of the Social Work Committee are requested to:
- (i) agree the approved rates for Council accommodation noted in Section 4.
  - (ii) agree the approved rates as detailed in Section 6 of this report.
  - (iii) confirm the Council's continuing commitment to meeting approved rates agreed with other local authorities
  - (iv) otherwise note the contents of the report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Director of Educational & Social Services**  
**25 April 2002**

**Enc (0)**  
**JD/JK**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**  
**Nil**

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

**AGENDA**