

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 27 MARCH 2003

SOCIAL WORK CHARGES – 2003/04

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 2003/04.

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 2003/04 Revenue Estimates process, and bring thresholds in line with CoSLA guidance.
- 2.2 East Ayrshire continues to ensure that all service users have their benefit income maximised. CoSLA recommend 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 DSS benefit levels. It is also recommended that threshold levels 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 2003/04.

- 3.1.2 It is proposed that in 2003/2004 the thresholds for income disregards are:-
- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Single People | £115 per week (remain the same) |
| Couples | £175 per week (up from £169) |
- 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 Homecare services increases from £6.50 to £7.00, with effect from 1 April 2003.

3.3 Community Meals

3.3.1 It is recommended that the price of Community Meals increase from £1.40 to £1.50, with effect from 1 April 2003. Elected members should note that the proposed charge is less than the economic cost of the meals provided.

3.4 Community Alarms

3.4.1 For 2003/04 it is intended to keep the charge for Community Alarms at its current price of £5.50 per week.

3.5 Sensory Impairment Interpreters Service

3.5.1 An officer review of this service is being undertaken, and a separate report detailing any alteration to current charges will be prepared for Committee. As such it is proposed to keep charges at their current level of £25.75 until the review has been approved by Committee.

3.6 Respite Care Charges (Young People)

3.6.1 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 2003, and is in line with previous years.

Table 1 – Respite Care Charges (Young People)

Disabled Living Allowance – Care Component	2002/03	2003/04
Low Rate DLA	£14.90	£15.15
Middle Rate DLA	£37.65	£38.30
High Rate DLA	£56.25	£57.20

3.7 Respite Care Charges (Adults)

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

Table 2 – Respite Care Charges (Adults)

Client Group	2002/03	2003/04
Adults (18-24)	£58.70	£49.05
Adults (25-59)	£58.70	£60.45
Adults (60+)	£58.70	£84.60

3.7.2 The increase for Adults (60+) appears large; however as service users can now claim the minimum income guarantee the actual increase is in line with the benefits rate increase.

3.8 Older People's Care Homes

3.8.1 The current charge for other Local Authorities and self funders to use care homes operated by East Ayrshire Council is £335 per week. In future it is proposed that the charge is the same as the Council's approved rate for purchasing care from the independent sector. As this approved rate is still to be set at a National level, a report will be presented to a future committee proposing the level of charges to other Local Authorities and self funders to use East Ayrshire Council operated homes.

3.9 Residential Services

3.9.1 It is proposed to increase the charges for Kerrmuir and Carrick View from £455 to £473.20 per week, which represents a 4% cost of living uplift.

3.9.2 For The Elms and Ladeside it is also proposed to increase charges from £800 to £832 per week, which represents a 4% cost of living uplift.

3.9.3 The charges for Newhouse and Kirklee are currently being negotiated with Craegmoor and will be reported to Committee when concluded.

3.10 Hardship

3.10.1 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.

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

CHARGES FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES
APRIL 2003 RATES

REVISED THRESHOLD LEVELS BASED ON CoSLA RECOMMENDATIONS

	Maximised Income	Threshold	Previous Charge	New Charge
Older person living alone with high rate AA Older person living alone with low rate AA	£202.25 £183.35	£115 £115	£40.83 £31.53	£43.63 £34.17
Single person living alone with DLA high rate care Single person living alone with DLA middle rate care Single person living alone with DLA low rate care	£189.50 £159.20 £93.10	£115 £115 £115	£35.85 £20.93 Nil	£37.25 £22.10 Nil
Single person under 25 living alone with DLA high rate care Single person under 25 living alone with DLA middle rate care Single person under 25 living alone with DLA low rate care	£178.10 £147.80 £81.70	£115 £115 £115	£30.23 £15.30 Nil	£31.55 £16.40 Nil
Older non-householder with high rate AA Older non-householder with low rate AA	£159.30 £140.40	£115 £115	£19.70 £10.40	£22.15 £12.70
Single non-householder with DLA high rate care Single non-householder with DLA middle rate care Single non-householder with DLA low rate care	£146.55 £116.25 £93.10	£115 £115 £115	£14.73 Nil Nil	£15.77 £0.62 Nil
Single non-householder under 25 with DLA high rate care Single non-householder under 25 with DLA middle rate care Single non-householder under 25 with DLA low rate care	£135.15 £104.85 £81.70	£115 £115 £115	£9.10 Nil Nil	£10.07 Nil Nil
Older couple living alone one with high rate AA Older couple living alone one with low rate AA Older couple living alone both with high rate AA Older couple living alone both with low rate AA Older couple living alone one high rate & one low rate AA	£213.00 £194.10 £356.10 £318.30 £337.20	£175 £175 £175 £175 £175	£18.53 £9.23 £72.00 £70.30 £72.00	£19.00 £9.55 £72.00 £71.65 £72.00