

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 6 NOVEMBER 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 additions to charging threshold levels for Non Residential Social Work services, which take account of the introduction of Pension Credit.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Pensions Credit, introduced on 6 October 2003, includes a Savings Credit element, which can provide those aged over 65 with some additional income in recognition of provision which they have made for their retirement through means such as savings or occupational pensions.
- 2.2 Recent Guidance from CoSLA on Charging Policies for Non -Residential Care Services for Older People has indicated that for over 65's, the current Charging Threshold, set at 12.5% in excess of the basic income level, should be raised to 16.5% above that basic level.
- 2.3 This change is designed to be cost neutral to Authorities like East Ayrshire which currently apply the 12.5% threshold, in that the extra cost of the higher threshold should be balanced by additional charging income resulting from the new benefit.
- 2.4 The proposed change supports the underpinning principle of Pension Credit, which is to reward those who have saved for their retirement and is advocated by CoSLA following an approach from the Scottish Executive.

3. CHANGES REQUIRED

3.1 Thresholds

- 3.1.1 Charging Thresholds currently in place are £115 for single people and £175 for couples and it is now proposed that a further two thresholds be added in respect of those service users aged over 65.
- 3.1.2 The new thresholds for over 65's are £119 for single people and £182 for couples

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 It is anticipated that the increase to the weekly charging thresholds will be cost neutral.

5. LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that Committee :

- (i) approve the revised charging thresholds as detailed in section 3 of this report; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
20 October 2003
Enc (0)
EC/JW

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members requiring further information should contact:
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IMPLEMENTATION OFFICERS:

EUAN COUPERWHITE, HEAD OF RESOURCE SUPPORT
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