

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION (2017)

Introduction

Barnsley MBC remains committed to ensuring older, disabled and vulnerable adults and their carers receive the care and support they need to promote and safeguard wellbeing and maximise independence, choice and control.

The Care Act (2014) clarifies the services which councils have to provide free of charge and the services for which they can make a charge, subject to a financial assessment confirming the person's ability to pay.

Barnsley MBC's approach to charges is outlined within its Financial Contributions Policy.

Proposed Changes To The Financial Contributions Policy

Barnsley MBC, like most councils, faces considerable challenges in providing adult social care services. There is increasing demand for such services and rising costs but, at the same time, councils are facing cuts to their funding as a result of the national austerity measures.

In order to be able to continue meeting the needs of as many people as possible, it is increasingly necessary to ensure that services are as efficient as possible and targeted at those in greatest need.

This requirement for greater efficiency, combined with the Council's corporate objective of empowering individuals to become more directly responsible for their health and wellbeing, has led to the following 3 proposals upon which we would welcome your comments:

1. To remove the ceiling on the maximum amount a person is required to contribute towards his or her adult social care package within the community.
2. To introduce a 'one-off' arrangement fee for charging people receiving an adult social care package if they have capital savings above an upper limit.
3. To limit the amount disregarded by the Council concerning spending incurred by service users due to a disability, to only additional expenditure.

For care and support provided to you in your own home, Barnsley MBC currently sets a maximum weekly contribution of £150, regardless of the size of the care package. However, this does not apply to permanent care in a care home where people can be required to pay the full cost of their care and support. We estimate that this change could affect around 97 people or 6% of service users who are, currently, receiving community based care and support.

In addition, 688 service users have Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) disregarded from their financial assessments but not all would be affected by the change as most will, already, only be claiming additional expenditure.

Greater detail on the proposals and how they could affect you, is set out in the draft, revised policy which can be found [here](#). A fact sheet on the proposed changes can be found [here](#).

We are very interested in obtaining your response to the following questions by the deadline date of Friday, 26th May at 4.00pm:

Tell Us About You

Question 1: Please indicate why you are interested in completing this consultation, by ticking one of the boxes below:

- A service user
- A carer
- A relative
- On behalf of someone likely to be affected by the proposals
- On behalf of an organisation with an interest in the proposals

Question 3: Please tell us if you are male or female

- Male
- Female

Question 3: Please indicate which age range you belong to by clicking one of the boxes below:

- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75-84
- 85 and over

Question 4: Please tell us your ethnic origin by ticking one of the following boxes:

- White (British, English, Scottish, Welsh or Northern Irish)
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish traveller
- Any other White background
- Mixed/multiple Asian groups
- Asian or Asian British
- Black or Black British
- Arab

Question 5: Please state if you have a disability or impairment, by ticking one of the following boxes:

- Yes
- No

Question 6: Please give your post code in the box below

Question 7: Are you currently receiving an adult social care package?

- Yes
- No

Question 8: Do you receive care and support at home?

- Yes
- No

Question 9: If you have answered yes to the previous question, please state if your care and support is provided at home or in residential or nursing care

- At Home
- Residential/nursing care
- Any other type of provision (please state below)

Proposals

Question 10: Do you currently make a financial contribution to your care package?

- Yes
- No

Question 11: In order to continue supporting as many people as possible, we are proposing to remove the £150 weekly cap. The cap only applies to service users who receive care and support in the community and not those in residential or nursing care. Please indicate in the box below if you agree that all people in Barnsley who receive care and support and who can afford to pay more, should do so?

Question 12: If people have the means to pay for their own care and support but want the Council to make the care arrangements for them, do you agree they should pay a 'one-off' fee to cover the cost of making the arrangement?

- Yes
- No

Question 13: If you have answered 'No' to the previous question, please state why you disagree by using the box below.

Question 14: Appropriate disability related expenditure is able to be disregarded from a person's financial assessment. It is proposed that the Financial Contributions Policy is amended to make clear that this should in future only apply to any additional expenditure incurred in relation to a person's disability and not all if the expenditure. Do you agree (please state below)

Impact Of The Proposals

Question 15: Please describe how the proposed changes could affect you, by writing in the box below

Question 16: Any Other Comments (Please use the box below)

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Your comments will be treated in strict confidence and will help inform whether or not Barnsley MBC decides to implement the proposed changes to the financial charging policy. This decision will be taken by a meeting of the Council's Cabinet, later this year.