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Charges for adult social care services - Consultation

Proposed changes to
Kent County Council's charging policy
for non-residential services



Consultation analysis report
13 September 2011



Earlier this year, Kent County Council began a consultation on proposals to introduce some new charges and increase others for non-residential adult social care services. “Non-residential” means social care services other than those delivered through a residential or nursing care home, or involving any nursing care. After that consultation finished, members of staff from adult social services looked at all the responses received and produced a report with recommendations. The following four proposals were put forward for consultation and have been discussed earlier in the week by members of the Cabinet and the Adult Social Services Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Charge people who use mental health services in the same way as all other people who receive services.
2. Include day care and transport as part of the services for which a charge can be made.
3. Increase the amount of available income that is taken into account when working out a person's charge from 85% to 100%.
4. Reduce the standard amount allowed for the Disability Related Expenditure Assessment (DREA) from £21 to £17 per week for everyone.

Today, the **Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Public Health, Graham Gibbens**, decided that all four proposals will go ahead. Charges will be introduced for mental health services, day care and transport from April 2012. The amount of income considered when working out charges will change to 100% from January 2012, at the same time as the DREA amount changes to £17 per week.

KCC remains committed to providing adult social care for people with moderate level needs (as well as for those with critical or substantial level needs). In order for us to be able to do this, and to be able to meet the increasing demands on adult social care both in terms of what they cost and the numbers of additional people needing services, we need to raise more money from people who use those services, and who can afford to pay more for them.

Most other authorities only provide for people with critical or substantial level needs; out of the 152 councils who provide adult social services there are only 26 that still offer to support people with moderate needs. Our members believe it is really important we maintain this level of support to people in Kent.

Decision taken - changes to social care charging

Changing the way that charges for adult social services are calculated means more money will be available to spend on providing care and support.

Changes to charges for home care and other non-residential services factsheet

What happens next?

Kent County Council will write to all those who are receiving services to inform them about the decision. Those people that KCC already has financial information about will have their new charge calculated. For those who will start making a contribution for the first time, KCC will arrange to visit them so that a financial assessment can be carried out.

Who do I contact for more information?

The number to call for information is 08458 247 100.

Will I have to pay?

Whether or not you will pay, and how much you will have to pay, will depend on the financial assessment, based on your particular circumstances.

How do I request financial assessment?

You can ask for a financial assessment by calling 08458 247 100. The council will either arrange a visit or ask you to send in information to carry out a financial assessment.

How do I claim a disability-related assessment?

There is a standard disability-related allowance that everyone is entitled to without assessment. People on disability-related benefits have a right to have an individual disability-related assessment. You can do this by contacting their case manager.

Where can I get support?

If you have specific questions about charging, you should contact your case manager in the first instance. You can also get information by calling 08458 247 100. There are also a number of voluntary organisations in Kent that can provide support or advocacy if needed.

When does my charge go up? / When will I receive an invoice after the changes?

Changes to do with the amount of available income and disability-related expenditure allowance will be made first and new invoices should be received in mid January 2012. New invoices for mental health services, day care and transport will follow in April 2012.

What services will be charged for?

Personal care provided at home and away from the home
Direct payments
Personal budget services
Respite care provided in the home and away from the home (care home)
Day care activities/services
Transport

What services are free of charge?

Information and advice
Social work (case management) assessment and support
Occupational therapy assessment and equipment
Enablement service for up to three weeks, maximum of six weeks
Intermediate care services for a maximum of six weeks
Services that are the responsibility of the NHS including NHS Continuing healthcare
Services provided to carers
Section 117 (Mental Health Act 1983) after-care services

How do I pay my assessed charge?

You can pay by Direct Debit or through your bank in the normal way.

What if I do not agree with what I have been assessed to pay?

You should first contact your case manager and let him or her know for your circumstances to be looked into.