

Appendix 1 – Original letter and questionnaire

Department of Adult and Community Services

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Date:

Dear Service User

Reviewing your financial contribution to care services you receive

We are writing to you today as we are reconsidering the way that people contribute financially for the services they receive and we want to get your views before the Council makes a final decision.

From 1st April 2015 statutory guidance on charging for care and support under the Care Act is provided in The Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014. This new law for adult care and support sets out a clearer approach to charging and financial assessments with one of the drivers of the Care Act 2014 being the portability of care and financial assessments; this would be better achieved if Bradford was to adopt the standard contributions policy that is used by the majority of Local Authorities in England.

We want to make clear that anybody who has limited income will not be asked to contribute financially unless they can reasonably afford to pay.

A three month consultation started in March which will review how the financial contribution we ask people to make towards some care services they receive is calculated.

The review will specifically consider a number of changes and attached to this letter is a questionnaire asking your views on these changes. These include:

- Adopting a standard contributions policy that is used by the majority of Local Authorities in England and is a much simpler process to understand.

- If a person can afford to pay for the full cost of their care to charge for the actual cost of two carers if two carers are needed.
- If a service user is living in a Supported Living Accommodation, the support that they receive in that accommodation should be charged for.

We really would like to hear your views. We understand that these are difficult times for people but the Council are looking at as many ways as possible to sustain services for the future.

There are a number of ways that you can make your views known:-

- Complete the questionnaire attached to this letter and/or contribute your own ideas and return to Adult and Community Services in the enclosed pre-paid envelope by **Friday 6th May 2016**.
- Write direct to Adult and Community Services Contribution Consultation, 5th Floor Britannia House Bradford BD1 1HX
- Email cca.charges@bradford.gov.uk
- Use our website http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/Consultations/current_consultations
- Telephone us on 01274 437975 between 9am and 5pm

The consultation has already begun and will run for a 12 week period from Monday 29TH February until Friday 20th May 2016.

Clearly, the Council is faced with making some difficult decisions in the near future and we would value your thoughts in order to work together to continue to provide the best possible service for the adults we support in Bradford. All the information you provide is treated in the strictest confidence and will only be used to help us make these decisions. Your personal information will always remain confidential and will not be passed on to any other organisation.

Bernard Lanigan

Strategic Director
Adult and Community Services

Contributions Policy Questionnaire

Contributions

From 1st April 2015 statutory guidance on charging for care and support under the Care Act is provided in The Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014. This new law for adult care and support sets out a clearer approach to charging and financial assessments with one of the drivers of the Care Act 2014 being the portability of care and financial assessments; this would be better achieved if Bradford was to adopt the standard contributions policy that is used by the majority of Local Authorities in England.

We would value your thoughts in order to work together to continue to provide the best possible service for the adults we support in Bradford.

Changing to a standard Contributions Policy

Currently your contribution is composed of four components:

- A basic charge
- A charge on the care component of Disability Living Allowance/ Attendance Allowance/ Personal Independence Payments and Severe Disability Premium
- A charge on income
- A charge on capital and savings

The standard alternative is based on a single component:

- The total income of the service user is determined and from this the minimum income guarantee is deducted (this is the amount that the government says that you need for living costs and is based on basic income support/pension credit plus 25%). If you have any housing related costs and disability related costs these are also deducted. The money remaining is the amount used to calculate the contribution.

The standard alternative would be simpler to administer and also simpler for service users to understand.

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements about the changes we are proposing.

Please tick one box for each statement

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
1) The Councils policy is different to the rest of the country do you think it should be changed and brought into line with the rest of the country?					
2) Is the standard alternative as described above easier for you to understand than the current policy?					

Charging for cost of service - Double ups

Currently in Bradford the cost of care visits which require two workers to be present at the same time are calculated and charged for one worker only.

We are proposing that the actual cost of two carers should be charged for and if a person can afford to pay for the full cost of that they should do so.

Please tick one box for each statement

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
3) The cost of two workers should be charged for those who					

can afford to meet the cost.					
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Charging for care in Supported Living Service

If a service user is living in a Supported Living Accommodation, the support that they receive in that accommodation is not currently charged for. The proposal is that these services come under the Contributions Policy and are charged for.

Please tick one box for each statement

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
4) The support that service users receive in supported living accommodation should be charged for.					

5) Any other comments please write them in this box	Comments
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