

Appendix 2 – Revised letter, questionnaire and examples

[Insert Name and Address]
[Insert Address]
[Insert Address]
[Insert Address]
[Insert Address]
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Department of Adult and Community Services

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Date:

Dear Service User

Reviewing your financial contribution to care services you receive

From 1st April 2015 the law about charging for care and support changed. The Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014 is the new law for charging for adult care and support services. The aim is to make things easier to understand and that if you move to another part of the country you should not need a new financial assessment or care plan.

We wrote to you in March asking your opinion about the possible changes to how much you pay for the services you receive. From the feedback we were told that it was hard to understand and there was not enough information. We are now extending the consultation period until the 10th August 2016, and sending out this information again in more detail and in a way that is easier to understand.

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.

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 **10th August 2016**.
- Attend our consultation event on the 19th July 2016 at 2.00pm at Cornerstones Community Centre Littlelands Bingley BD16 1AL
- 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

As your Council we are having to make some difficult decisions in the near future and we would value your thoughts in order to work together to provide the best possible service. 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 the law about charging for care and support changed. The Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014 is the new law for charging for adult care and support services. The aim is to make things easier to understand and that if you move to another part of the country you should not need a new financial assessment or care plan.

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 calculated as follows:

- The total income of the service user is determined (including capital and savings)
- 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 easier for service users to understand.

Attached are examples to explain this.

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 made the same?					
2) Do you think the standard policy is fair? If not please tell us why in the comments box					
3) Is the					

STANDARD ALTERNATIVE as described above easier for you to understand than the current policy?					
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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.

Attached are examples to explain this.

Please tick one box for each statement

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
4) The cost of two workers should be charged for those who can afford to meet the cost.					

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.

Attached are examples to explain this.

Please tick one box for each statement

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
5) 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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Examples to help you understand the questionnaire

Changing to a Standard Contributions Policy

Example 1

Service user is under 25 and receives a service 10 hours home care of which 3 and a half hour are provided by two carers.
Cost of service £113.43 per week.

Service User income per week

Employment Support Allowance £109.85

Disability Living Allowance – High Rate Care £82.30

Disability Living Allowance – Mobility £57.45

Total Income £249.60

Contribution under the current policy

Basic charge of £4.55 as income excluding DLA Mobility is over £137.31

Charge of £18.18 which is 33% of the middle rate DLA Care of £55.10

Assessed contribution £22.73

Contribution under the proposed policy

Income taken into account

Employment Support Allowance £109.85

Disability Living Allowance – Middle Rate Care £55.10

Total Income £164.95

Minimum Income guarantee £137.31

Assessed contribution £27.64

Less any Disability Related Costs

Disability related costs will be considered in the financial assessment where the expenditure is needed to support independent living and where a service user has little or no choice but to have the expense because of their disability/illness and that this is written in their care plan.

Less any Housing Related Costs

Mortgage payments/Rent – allow full amount less any Housing Benefit paid.

Council Tax - allow full amount less any Local Council Tax reduction applied.

Example 2

Service user is between 25 and pension age and receives a service 5 days day care.

Cost of service £175.00 per week.

Service User income per week

Employment Support Allowance £125.05

Severe Disability Premium £61.85

Disability Living Allowance – Middle Rate Care £55.10

Disability Living Allowance – Mobility £21.80

Total Income £263.80

Contribution under the current policy

Basic charge of £4.55 as income excluding DLA Mobility is over £156.31

Charge of £18.18 which is 33% of the middle rate DLA Care of £55.10

Charge of £20.41 which is 33% of the Severe Disability Premium of £61.85

Assessed contribution £43.14

Contribution under the proposed policy

Income taken into account

Employment Support Allowance £125.05

Severe Disability Premium £61.85

Disability Living Allowance – Middle Rate Care £55.10

Total Income £242.00

Minimum Income guarantee £156.31

Assessed contribution £85.69

Less any Disability Related Costs

Disability related costs will be considered in the financial assessment where the expenditure is needed to support independent living and where a service user has little or no choice but to have the expense because of their disability/illness and that this is written in their care plan.

Less any Housing Related Costs

Mortgage payments/Rent – allow full amount less any Housing Benefit paid.

Council Tax - allow full amount less any Local Council Tax reduction applied.

Example 3

Service user is pension age and receives a service 14 hours home care a week .

Cost of service £192.50 per week.

Service User income per week

State Pension £69.44

Pension Credit £86.16

Attendance Allowance – High Rate Care £82.30

Disability Living Allowance – Mobility £57.45

Total Income £295.35

Contribution under the current policy

Basic charge of £4.55 as income excluding DLA Mobility is over £194.50

Charge of £18.18 which is 33% of the middle rate DLA Care of £55.10

Assessed contribution £22.73

Contribution under the proposed policy

Income taken into account

State Pension £69.44

Pension Credit £86.16

Attendance Allowance – Middle Rate Care £55.10

Total Income £210.70

Minimum Income guarantee £194.50

Assessed contribution £16.20

Less any Disability Related Costs

Disability related costs will be considered in the financial assessment where the expenditure is needed to support independent living and where a service user has little or no choice but to have the expense because of their disability/illness and that this is written in their care plan.

Less any Housing Related Costs

Mortgage payments/Rent – allow full amount less any Housing Benefit paid.

Council Tax - allow full amount less any Local Council Tax reduction applied.

Example 4

Service user is pension age and receives a service 3.5 hours home care a week.

Cost of service £48.13 per week.

Service User income per week

State Pension £117.20

Pension Credit £11.12

Private Pension £27.28

Severe Disability Premium £61.85

Attendance Allowance – High Rate Care £82.30

Total Income £299.75

Contribution under the current policy

Basic charge of £4.55 as income excluding DLA Mobility is over £194.50

Charge of £18.18 which is 33% of the middle rate DLA Care of £55.10

Assessed contribution £43.14

Contribution under the proposed policy

Income taken into account

State Pension £117.20

Pension Credit £11.12

Private Pension £27.28

Severe Disability Premium £61.85

Attendance Allowance – Middle Rate Care £55.10

Total Income £272.55

Minimum Income guarantee £194.50

Assessed contribution £78.05

NB The policy never charges more than the cost of service so in this instance the assessed contribution would be £43.14

Less any Disability Related Costs

Disability related costs will be considered in the financial assessment where the expenditure is needed to support independent living and where a service user has little or no choice but to have the expense because of their disability/illness and that this is written in their care plan.

Less any Housing Related Costs

Mortgage payments/Rent – allow full amount less any Housing Benefit paid.

Council Tax - allow full amount less any Local Council Tax reduction applied.

Charging cost of service for double up

The following service user gets 16 hours home care of which 14.25 requires two carers.

The cost of the service is;

16 x £13.75 = £220.00

14.25 x £13.75 = £195.94

Total £415.94

The service user has chosen not to disclose their financial information and to pay the cost of the service.

Currently as we only charge for one carer the service user pays £220.00

Under the proposals to charge for two carers the service user would pay £415.94

The following service user gets 10.5 hours home care of all which requires two carers.

The cost of the service is;

$$10.5 \times 2 \times £13.75 = £288.76$$

The service user has been financially assessed as being able to contribute £22.73

Under the proposals to charge for two carers the service user would still only pay £22.73 as this is what they have been financially assessed as being able to contribute.

Charging for care and support in Supported Living Accommodation

In Bradford some people who live in Supported Accommodation and receive social care funded care and support are not charged for these services now. Other service users who live in their own home and receive social care funded care and support are charged for these services. To ensure everyone is treated the same the proposal is that these services come under the contributions policy and are therefore charged.

A service user living in supported accommodation receives 40.5 hours of care and support. Because they live in supported accommodation they do not make a contribution to this service.

A service user living at home receiving 1 day at day care and 6 hours care and support makes a contribution of £22.73.