Have your say on the proposed changes to the Charging Policy for those in receipt of community based social care services

What is the Charging Policy?
Redbridge residents in receipt of social care are financially assessed to decide the contribution that they should make to the cost of their care. The national legislation (Care Act 2014, Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014) provides the framework within which local authorities must decide their local contributions policy for community based services.

This local policy is known as the ‘Charging Policy’ and it sets out how fees and charges are decided for those who receive adult social care community based services in Redbridge.

Community based services include homecare, day-care, direct payments, supported living, extra care, transport and some other services are assessed under our charging policy.

Is everyone affected by the Charging Policy?
Anyone who receives community based adult social care services are financially assessed to decide how much they are required to contribute towards the cost of their care and support services. The amount a person is required to pay is dependent on their income. The national legislation ensures that the Council’s Charging Policy does not take a person below the minimum amount the Government states you should be left with to live off and that people are not charged more than it is reasonably practicable for them to pay.

Each of the proposals will affect different people in different ways depending on how much you have been assessed to pay towards your care. Some of the proposals will only affect people who have been assessed as being able to pay the maximum amount and will not impact on people who are only able to make a contribution towards their care. Other proposals will affect people who are in receipt of certain benefits. The details of each proposal and how they will impact on people are contained in the questionnaire.

Why are changes to the Charging Policy being proposed?
Redbridge Council currently charges for the following adult social care services, following a financial assessment:

- Day care
- Personal care/ domiciliary care
- Permanent residential
- Nursing and
- Respite care.

The Council’s approach to charging for adult social care services has been consistently applied for some time, with regular reviews of the rates and increases in line with the Retail Price Index.

Redbridge Council’s adult social care services are under growing financial pressure. The numbers of residents requiring adult social care support is increasing despite reductions in the amount of money available for us to spend. Adult Social Care needs to save £14.1m of its £54.2m budget by 2021/22 and is currently reviewing services across all care groups.
The review of charging is one of a number of projects within the Adult Social Care and Public Health Transformation Programme, all of which are reviewing our current services and determining how they need to change to meet the financial and increased demand challenges.

**What changes are being proposed?**

We are proposing the following changes:

1. Apply a £250 fee to cover the Council’s administration costs for people receiving non-residential care with assets above the upper capital limit of £23,250;
2. Apply a weekly fee of £5 to cover the Council’s administration costs for Appointeeships;
3. Change the current system of charging people from the actual hours received to the planned hours of care and support;
4. Start charging for meeting a person’s care and support needs from the moment the care starts;
5. Remove the existing maximum charge for care of £450 per week and replace with a maximum charge of £600 per week;
6. Take into account £10 of the higher rate Disability Living Allowance (care component), Personal Independence Payment (daily living component) and Attendance Allowance in the financial assessment calculation; and
7. Apply a standard rate of £15 per week for Disability Related Expenditure.

Where service users with eligible needs fund the full cost of their residential care, the Council will change from providing a full placement service to only providing advice and information. However, this service change will only apply where individuals have family or others who can assist them with finding residential placements. Full support, including placing self-funding service users in residential care homes, will continue to be provided for those who do not have family support. Details of each of these proposals can be found in the questionnaire.

**How will these proposals help?**

It is estimated that the proposed changes to the Charging Policy will generate around £377,000 in 2018/19.

**Who could the proposals potentially affect?**

The questionnaire gives examples of how each proposal could impact on an individual. In addition, we are in the process of completing a full Equality Impact Assessment which will look in detail at how the proposals impact on different groups covered by the Equality Act. This will be published alongside the recommendation paper to Cabinet in February 2018.

**We would like to hear your views on these proposals**

We appreciate that those receiving services, their family members and carers may be concerned about the proposed changes but we remain committed to providing services to our most vulnerable residents. This is why your views are important to us.

The consultation is open to all Redbridge residents, users of adult social care services in Redbridge, their carers, families, community and voluntary organisations, health partners and any other interested parties.
The findings from the consultation will contribute to the final recommendations made on the changes to the Charging Policy. A report will be presented to Cabinet who will decide whether changes are made to the Charging Policy. If the decision is made to make changes it is expected that those changes will come into effect from 1st April 2018.

How can I share my views?

You can share your views by:

- Completing a questionnaire. We have two versions of the questionnaire available – a standard or easy read questionnaire. Please do not complete more than one. You can download the easy read questionnaire or complete the standard questionnaire online at www.redbridge.gov.uk/consultations
- Completing a paper questionnaire - available to download here www.redbridge.gov.uk/consultations. There are also two versions of the paper questionnaire.

If you require this questionnaire in another format or you would like someone to help you to complete the questionnaire, please email: mylife@redbridge.gov.uk.

If you would rather simply email us your response to the proposals, please email mylife@redbridge.gov.uk.

The consultation is open from 18 October 2017 to 10 January 2018.

Further information

Adult Care, Public Health and Wellbeing Charging Policy consultation FAQs, mylife.redbridge.gov.uk/chargingpolicyconsultation