

First Consultation Period – Dec 2015 to Jan 2016

Responses to the Consultation on proposed changes to the charging and financial assessment for adult social care and support services

Proposal 1 – The cost of care is currently calculated at a standard rate regardless of how many carers are required. It is proposed to calculate the service user's contribution towards the cost of care based on the number of carers required. However, they will not pay more than the limit set at their personal assessment.

Example A – Mrs Grey

Mrs Grey is 45 years old and receives 3 hours of homecare per week from two carers. The proposed change means the cost of care would rise from £39 to £78 per week. However, her weekly income is £260 and she has therefore been assessed to contribute a maximum of £68.68 towards her care.

Cost of care = £78

Personal assessment = £68.68

Currently pays = £39 (cost of one carer)

Proposed payment = £68.68 (two carers)

Example B – Mr White

Mr White is 69 years old and receives 6 hours of homecare per week from two carers. The proposed change means the cost of care would rise from £78 to £156. However, his weekly income is £172 and he has therefore been assessed as having no disposable income to contribute towards his care.

Cost of care = £156

Personal assessment = £0

Currently pays = £0

Proposed payment = £0

Q. Do you agree or disagree with Proposal 1?

This single response question was answered by 93 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Agree	39	41.94%
Disagree	44	47.31%
Don't know	10	10.75%

Proposal 2 – The maximum weekly amount a service user is required to pay towards their care is currently capped at £205. It is proposed to remove this threshold. This means that the maximum a user would be required to pay is the amount identified in their personal assessment.

Example A – Mrs Wright

Mrs Wright is 75 years old and receives 21 hours of homecare per week costing £265.50. She has capital in excess of £80,000 and she has therefore been assessed as being able to pay the full cost of her care. However, the current cap means she only pays £205. The proposed change means that she would have to pay the full cost of her care.

Cost of care = £265.50

Personal assessment = £265.50

Currently pays = £205

Proposed payment = £265.50

Example B – Mr Smith

Mr Smith is 80 years old and receives 24 hours of homecare per week costing £312. The proposed change would not affect how much Mr Smith pays because he has capital below £23,250 and has been assessed to contribute a maximum of £150 towards his care.

Cost of care = £312

Personal assessment = £150

Currently pays = £150

Proposed payment = £150

Q. Do you agree or disagree with Proposal 2?		
This single response question was answered by 85 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Agree	28	32.94%
Disagree	44	51.76%
Don't know	13	15.29%

Proposal 3 – All Service users currently receive a standard allowance of £20.60 per week to cover additional disability related costs such as speciality clothing or equipment. This is known as a Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) allowance. It is proposed to reduce the standard rate of DRE allowance to £15 per week.

Example A – Mrs Green

Mrs Green is 91 years old and receives 9 hours of homecare per week costing £110.50. Her income is £168.23 and she has been assessed as having no disposable income to contribute towards her care. The proposed change will therefore not affect Mrs Green.

Cost of= £110.50

**Personal assessment = £0
(current £20.60 DRE allowance)**

**Personal assessment = £0
(proposed £15 DRE allowance)**

Currently pays = £0

Example B – Mr Brown

Mr Brown is 89 years old and receives 10 hours of homecare per week costing £168. His income is £350.00 per week and, after taking into account the standard DRE allowance of £20.60, he has been assessed to contribute a maximum of £18.63 towards his care. However, the proposed change to a standard DRE allowance of £15 means that in future he will have to pay £24.23.

Cost of care = £168

**Personal assessment = £18.63
(current £20.60 DRE allowance)**

**Personal assessment = £24.23
(proposed £15 DRE allowance)**

Currently pays = £18.63

Q. Do you agree or disagree with Proposal 3?

This single response question was answered by 86 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Agree	45	52.33%
Disagree	28	32.56%
Don't know	13	15.12%