

Second Consultation Period – June 2017 – July 2017

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 190 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Agree	59	31.05%
Disagree	93	48.95%
Don't know	38	20%

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 182 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Agree	51	28.02%
Disagree	96	52.75%
Don't know	35	19.23%

Proposal 3 – All Service users who have capital of more than £23,250 have to pay the full cost of their care and are therefore not affected by the following proposed change. Those with capital of £23,250 or less will have a financial assessment to establish how much they should contribute towards the cost of their care. As part of the assessment a standard allowance is applied to cover additional disability related costs such as speciality clothing or equipment. This is known as a Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) allowance. In effect this reduces the amount they have to pay by £20.60 per week. 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 181 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Agree	73	40.33%
Disagree	64	35.36%
Don't know	44	24.31%