

Tapering proposal (mitigation for the most excessive indicative rises in charges)

Background

Given the scale of the potential rise in the maximum weekly charge for a small group of people who are impacted by the implementation of both proposals 1 and 2, and having given consideration to the comments made in this respect during the consultation, it is suggested that for a 1 year period the Council could mitigate the impact of the policy by tapering the removal of the maximum cap for those people who would be required to pay in excess of £500 per week towards the cost of their care. This gives those affected the opportunity to adjust to the changes to the charging regime more gradually than would otherwise be the case, and to make any necessary financial arrangements.

Proposal

From April 2018 until April 2019, it is proposed that there be a “Max Charge cap” of £500.

It is proposed that from April 2019 this mitigation will end, and the policy as it stands would apply.

It is proposed that all service users seeking to have their care costs capped must undergo a full financial assessment (rather than a ‘light touch’ financial assessment) so that the Council is in a position to understand their financial circumstances and properly calculate what their maximum charge would be without the taper and at the next stage of the cap removal.

In order to ensure a fair and equitable approach to charging, it is proposed that the mitigation will apply to all current clients and any new clients during the period outlined.