



Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance

INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

Title of proposal:										Description of potential mitigation
<p>Review Client Income (Charging, Remove Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) to zero.</p> <p>This proposal is to review the way in which Adult Social Care client charges are calculated, removing the automatic Disability Related Expenditure allowance. This is currently set at £10.</p> <p>Increases in meal and care call charges are not subject to an impact assessment as they will be in line with expected inflation rises. This will be agreed as part of the 2021-22 Fees and Charges report into Cabinet</p>	Age	Race	Sex	Gender reassignment	Disability	Religion or Belief	Pregnancy and Maternity	Sexual Orientation	Marriage and Civil Partnership	
<p>Equality impact: (✓ all that apply. The assessment should also consider impact on council employees and carers where applicable)</p> <p>As care services are provided for people who have care and support needs, arising from a disability and/or age related frailty, then it is specifically</p>	x				x					<p>People will still be able to request an individual consideration of their Disability Related Expenditure.</p> <p>Under the National charging framework,</p>

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people with these protected characteristics who will be impacted by this proposal.										nobody is asked to pay more than they can afford to pay. Most other LA's in the NE have already removed any automatic DRE allowance.
Health impact: (eg physical, mental health, wellbeing, substance misuse) From a health and wellbeing perspective, adults with social care needs will still receive support. Some people may choose to terminate their service if they feel the increase in contribution is too high. We will work with individuals to understand their specific circumstances.										
Socio Economic impact: (eg neighbourhood, ward, area of deprivation, household group, income, wealth) There will be a socio-economic impact on costs to service users as payment towards care costs would increase through removal of the £10 allowance for Disability Related Expenditure.										This increase of £10 would be kept within the Minimum Income Guarantee so services users would not be paying more than they can afford.
Environmental impact: (does the proposal impact on climate change and the Council's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030?) None										



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<p>Cumulative impact: (consider impact based on successive budgetary decisions relating to the proposal or is the proposal part of wider budgetary considerations that may collectively have an impact on service users, and is potentially at odds with the Thrive agenda)</p> <p>Adult social care services have previously been subject to budget decisions which have altered, removed or reduced service provision. We need to be mindful of the cumulative impact on our service users when consulting and engaging on this proposal.</p> <p>The automatically applied standard allowance for Disability Related Expenditure was previously reduced by Gateshead Council in 2019-20 budget proposals. At this time it reduced from £15 to the current amount of £10.</p>	
<p>Summary of consultation/data/research undertaken to inform the assessment: (eg feedback and engagement with service users, trade unions, employees, partners, public, benchmarking, case studies)</p> <p>High level consultation plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateshead Council Budget Consultation (Jan – Feb) • 2 x VCS leaders ASC Budget Consultation sessions (Feb) • Gateshead Health and Care System Consultation session • 2 x Public Teams Live sessions with people affected/their representatives (March) 	



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- Email/paper form/phone line consultation with people affected/their representatives (March)

Consultation Feedback:

There were 19 respondents to the Council wide budget consultation exercise in relation to the Client Income Review proposal. A range of views were expressed. Some respondents were supportive of this proposal and the potential to reduce costs, with 2 agreeing and a further 5 supportive of a means tested which is already a key component of the financial assessment, and the principle that nobody is asked to pay more than they can afford. Some comments were around the implications on individuals 'Consider the implications on service users and whether personal income would cope with increases. Perhaps means tested approach as well as bespoke assessments', 'Consider the implications on service users and whether personal income would cope with increases. Perhaps means tested approach as well as bespoke assessments.' Some expressed concerns that it may impact on the level of care provided and needs may not be fully met.

One detailed response raised a question of whether the policy is discriminatory for severely disabled adults who are unable to work and reference the recent Norfolk County Council case which is referred to in the Cabinet paper.

Two written responses were received from VCS partners, recognising that whilst no one will be asked to pay more than they can afford, concerns were raised that this could cause hardship for some and suggested that the right to have individual assessments should be widely publicised. Some questions were received in relation to unpaid carers, inequalities and supporting transitions at the online session on 5th February, attendees were happy with assurances given.

70 responses were received in total from those clients/representatives who may be directly affected by the proposals, this includes people who attended the live consultation sessions, and written responses. Not all respondents commented, and some of these were queries around how this would affect them personally and some did not understand the letter.

Disagreed	45	64%
Agreed	13	19%
Not Applicable	12	17%

The majority of the comments received were in disagreement of the proposed changes, the most frequent being concerns around the most 'disadvantaged' and 'vulnerable' members of Gateshead being penalised to 'balance the Councils budget'. Others disputed that offering individual assessments would likely cost the Council more in the long term. There were concerns that removing the Disability Related Expenditure was going



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to put people into financial difficulty especially due to other costs of living increases including Council tax.

Of the people who agreed with the proposal there was a consensus that the allowance should be based on 'individual circumstances' however the Council should be 'open' and 'clear' that an individual assessment can be requested.

Signed: (completing officer) Karen Buckham – Development and Improvement Manager

Date: 11/05/2021

Service Director: (approved) Steph Downey

Date: 11/05/2021