

Equality Impact Assessment

Reference: EQIA403080062

Submitted: 23 February 2022 16:37 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy or decision: Annual Adult Social Care Fees and Charges Uplift for 2022/23

Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision): The Adult Social Care non-residential charges are reviewed annually, with the decision setting out the 2022/23 charges for clients. The charges for Home Care, Night Waking and 24-Hour care services are uplifted in line with the average fees paid to providers and the anticipated increases to these rates for Day Care charges are uplifted in line with the uplift to benefits whilst the charge for Night Sleeping is not being uplifted.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: Health, Independence and Wellbeing for All Ages

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help create great places to grow up, live and work:
Promoting independence

Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project?: a change to an existing policy, practice or project

Please provide a link to the document / website / resource to which this EqIA relates: to follow

Please upload any documents which relate to this EqIA, for example decision documents: to follow

Assessing the equality impact

Use this section to record how you have assessed any potential impact on the communities likely to be affected by the policy (or decision): These services are generally only available to people with disabilities or people suffering from a medical condition and that a significant proportion of service users are older people. However, the impact of this annual activity is considered neutral / low since the charge is capped at the service user's assessed financial ability to pay.

The services received are based on an assessment of need, and the need criteria will not change as a result of this decision. A separate financial assessment is carried out for each service user, and the service user will only contribute the value deemed affordable to them in that assessment. Service users' charges may therefore not increase at all following a financial reassessment for 2022/23, which would incorporate the uplifted rates.

Does or will the policy or decision affect:

Service users: Yes

Employees: No

The wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities: No

Which geographical areas of Essex does or will the policy or decision affect?: All Essex

Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?: No

Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?: No

Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies?: Yes

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

Description of impact

Description of Impact. If there is an impact on a specific protected group tick box, otherwise leave blank. You will be given the opportunity to rate identified impacts as positive, negative or neutral on the next page: Age, Disability - learning disability, Disability - mental health issues, Disability - physical impairment, Disability - sensory impairment

I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics: I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics

Describe any actions that have already been taken to mitigate negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics: no mitigations have taken place.

Age

Nature of impact: Neutral

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: The service is used more by older people than the community as a whole, however the increase in charge should be sustainable because the service charge is capped at the individual's assessed financial ability to pay.

Extent of impact: Low

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: The Council has attempted to mitigate any hardship as a result of changes to Adult Social Care charges as part of the Social Care Charges decision (FP/574/08/16).

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Neutral

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: The level of charges that the service user may have to pay.

Extent of impact: Low

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: The service charge is capped at the individual's assessed financial ability to pay. The Council has attempted to mitigate any hardship as a result of changes to Adult Social Care charges as part of the Social Care Charges decision (FP/574/08/16).

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: Neutral

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: The level of charges that the service user may have to pay.

Extent of impact: Low

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: The service charge is capped at the individual's assessed financial ability to pay. The Council has attempted to mitigate any hardship as a result of changes to Adult Social Care charges as part of the Social Care Charges decision (FP/574/08/16).

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: Neutral

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: The level of charges that the service user may have to pay.

Extent of impact: Low

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: The service charge is capped at the individual's assessed financial ability to pay. The Council has attempted to mitigate any hardship as a result of changes to Adult Social Care charges as part of the Social Care Charges decision (FP/574/08/16).

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: Neutral

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: The level of charges that the service user may have to pay.

Extent of impact: Low

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: The service charge is capped at the individual's assessed financial ability to pay. The Council has attempted to mitigate any hardship as a result of changes to Adult Social Care charges as part of the Social Care Charges decision (FP/574/08/16).

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your EqIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?: No

Details of person completing the form

I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance: I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

Date EqIA completed: 23/02/2022

Name of person completing the EqIA: Steven Warren

Email address of person completing the EqIA: Steven.Warren@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Corporate and Customer Services

Your service area: Finance

Your team: Adults Finance MA team

Are you submitting this EqIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: Yes

Name of person completing the EqIA: Steven Warren

Function: Adult Social Care

Service area: Safeguarding

Team: Operational Policy and Safeguarding

Email address of Head of Service: david.williams@essex.gov.uk