

Briefing Paper on the proposed future changes to the cost of personal care and domestic support in Extra Care Housing

Introduction

The Council's in-house home care team currently provides personal care for the tenants in Darlington's four extra care schemes. The domestic support (housework, shopping and laundry) is provided in these schemes by two private providers, 'Premier' and 'Moorlands'.

The Council has carried out a review of how it currently provides the personal care service and the domestic support service to tenants in extra care housing, and considered whether these services could be delivered in an alternative, more cost effective way. The Council has previously consulted with tenants, families and carers about these proposals.

On 9th April 2013, the Council agreed to carry out further work to identify a new provider who could deliver both personal care and domestic support in one combined contract. At the Cabinet meeting held on 3rd December 2013, the Council approved the recommendations to transfer both the in-house personal care service and the domestic support service to a new provider.

The Council's existing arrangements for the provision of the above services will end on 31st March 2014, and the new provider will take over providing these services from 1st April 2014.

The current situation

As a tenant of extra care housing you may be receiving personal care and/or domestic support from the Council's in-house care team or one of the domestic support providers, who work with you to meet the needs identified in your Support Plan (sometimes people call this a care plan or care package).

If you decide to have support at extra care housing (after your social care assessment), we will carry out a financial assessment to work out how much your support should cost. At the end of this we will be able to tell you how much the Council will pay towards your support, and how much you should pay. We work out how much you pay (also called your 'contribution') in line with the Council's Fairer Contributions Policy.

The assessment takes your savings into account and any income you have (for example, state pension or other pensions). It also takes into account any extra expenses you have because of a disability. We use the assessment to work out how much you will have to pay towards the cost of your care and support.

When we carry out your financial assessment, we tell you the most you will have to pay each week, based on the information you gave on your financial assessment form. We call this your maximum weekly contribution. We will not ask you to pay more than this.

What are the proposed changes?

From 1st April 2014, the Council will be:

- a) Using a new independent provider to deliver both the in-house home care service and the domestic support service for tenants in extra care housing.
- b) If you currently contribute to the cost of your care and support, the weekly amount you contribute may change, but this will not be more than what your maximum weekly contribution is (as per the information you have provided in your financial assessment)

What will the changes mean for me?

Our records have identified that you currently contribute to the cost of your care package, therefore the changes outlined above may affect the amount you pay each week. These changes will not be greater than what your maximum weekly contribution is, and this is based on the information you provided when your financial assessment was carried out.

As a tenant of extra care housing you will continue to receive care and support services (subject to the Council's Eligibility Criteria Policy and the needs identified in your Support Plan if you have one), but these services may be delivered by a different provider.

The Council is not proposing to make any changes to the way it carries out Financial Assessments or to the Fairer Contributions Policy.

When will these changes happen?

Any changes in the amount you contribute to the cost of your care package are anticipated to take effect from 1st April 2014.

Why is the Council introducing these changes?

The Council wants to ensure the personal care and domestic support services provided in extra care housing are delivered in a most cost-effective way. The Council's in-house personal care service is not financially sustainable for the Council, based on the estimated in-house cost of providing this service. Efficiencies can be made by combining these contracts and these are required to support the Council in meeting its overall budget efficiencies in future years.

The current cost of providing the in-house home care service has been estimated at £20.42 per hour. The Council however, only currently applies a rate of up to £11.25 per hour, (which is the average contracted domiciliary care rate), to calculate how much you need to pay towards the cost of your care package.

From the 1st April 2014, the Council will no longer be directly providing the in-house home care service, and will be using an external provider to deliver this service. The new provider's hourly rate will be £14.92 per hour and therefore, in line with the Fairer Contributions Policy, from 1st April 2014 the Council will have to calculate how much you need to pay towards the cost of your care package using the new rate (for year 1 of the new contract).

The new provider's rate of £14.92 per hour is an increase of £3.67 against the rate of £11.25 per hour which is currently used. This will mean that if you currently contribute to the cost of your care package, the amount you pay each week may be affected, but these changes will not be more than what your maximum weekly contribution is.

Your views

To help us understand the impact of any proposed changes to the amount you may be required to contribute to the cost of your care package from 1st April 2014, the Council welcomes your views and comments on these changes and will arrange to meet with you, your family and carers during w/c 13th January 2014 at the extra care schemes where you currently live.

At this meeting, representatives from the Council will be available to provide you with further information about how much you currently pay towards your care and support and what you may be required to pay from 1st April 2014.

If you are unable to attend this meeting you can still give your views and how the changes may impact on you by completing the attached form and by returning it to your Scheme Leader or to the address shown on page 10. The in-house team within the scheme or your Care Manager are also able to assist you to complete the form if you wish. The consultation period will close on 7th February 2014.

At the end of the consultation period, a report will be presented to Cabinet in March 2014 with recommendations on how the proposed changes to charges for the personal care and domestic support services will be implemented.

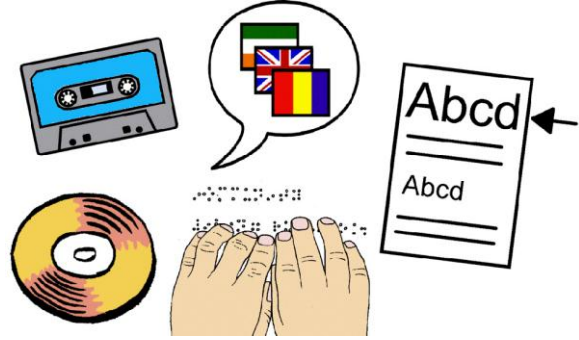
What happens next?

We will write to you and let you know the decision made by Cabinet in April 2014.

Do you need this paper in a different format?

If you need this paper in:

- Easy Read Version
- Braille
- Large print
- Audio
- Emailed
- Another language



Please contact:

People and Families Information Support

Town Hall

Darlington

DL1 5QT

Telephone: 01325 388818

E-mail: pfis@darlington.gov.uk



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01325 388818 নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন।

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اس ٹیلیفون نمبر 01325 388818 پر رابطہ قائم کیجئے۔

Having read the Briefing Paper on the proposed future changes to the cost of personal care and domestic support in Extra Care housing, please complete the form below. (all optional)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

E-mail: _____

Are you completing this form for yourself? (Please circle / highlight)

Yes

No

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

Yes

No

If so, in what capacity e.g. carer, friend, care manager, etc.

Are you writing on behalf of an organisation?

Yes

No

If so, what is the organisations name?

How did you gather information from people in your organisation about the impact that these proposals will have on their lives?

Any other information:

Are there any positive impacts that the proposed future changes to the proposed future changes to the cost of personal care and domestic support in Extra Care housing will have on you, someone you support or people within your organisation?

	Positive impact for you if you access Social Care support	Positive impact for you if you are a Carer	Positive impacts for people in your organisation
1.			
2.			

3.			

Please use additional sheets if necessary

Are there any negative impacts that the that the proposed future changes to the proposed future changes to the cost of personal care and domestic support in Extra Care housing will have on you, someone you support or people within your organisation?

	Negative impact for you if you access Social Care support	Negative impact for you if you are a Carer	Negative impacts for people in your organisation
1.			
2.			

3.			

Please use additional sheets if necessary

What to do now?

The consultation period to obtain views is 9th January 2014 to 7th February 2014

Please send your response by: 5:00 pm, **7th February 2014**

Please return your completed form to either your Scheme Manager or by returning it to:

**Jeanette Crompton
Darlington Borough Council
Rom 301, Town Hall
Darlington
DL1 5QT**

What happens next?

All of the responses will be collated and included in a report to Cabinet who will make a decision as to whether the changes go ahead.

Thank you for your time and your involvement