

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee
DATE: 12 February 2009
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Health & Community
SUBJECT: Review of Fees & Charges – Health & Community Services 2009 – 2010
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present to the Executive Board Sub Committee the proposed increases in fees and charges for Health & Community care services.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive Board Sub Committee:

- i) Approves the proposed changes in fees and charges outlined in Appendix 1, with effect from the 6th April 2009 which is the date on which Welfare Benefits are increased.**
- ii) Agree that Direct Payment rates remain unchanged until the outcome of the impending consultation with key stakeholders on the new resource allocation system for Direct Payments/Individual Budgets is completed. Any new resource allocation system proposals will be submitted to the Executive Board Sub Committee for approval.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Appendix 1 shows the current charges for social care services and the proposed charges for 2009/10. The recommended increased fees and charges for social care services listed for 2009/10 have been inflated by 3%.

3.2 Fees and charges for Health and Community Care will be increased with effect from 6th April 2009 to coincide with the annual increase in Welfare Benefit rates.

3.3 The current 08/09 Direct Payment rates are listed below. It is proposed that these remain unchanged pending the outcome of consultation with key stakeholders about how resources should be

calculated and allocated to Individual Budget holders. The results of the consultation and proposed outcomes will be reported to Executive Board Sub Committee for approval.

| | | |
|---------------|--------|-------------------------|
| 2008/09 Rates | AGENCY | Personal Assistant (PA) |
| Standard | £10.70 | £9.35 |
| Complex | £11.36 | £11.36 |

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None identified.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Provision exists to meet any increased expenditure to providers within the Council's approved budget.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

None identified.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The provision of care services that meet peoples needs improves their health and wellbeing.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The provision of care services that meet peoples needs increases their safety and mitigates risks.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Legally, increases to charges can be justified if we can demonstrate the future provision needs to be more cost effective. The Local Government Act 2003 includes a general power for best value to charge for discretionary services i.e. those services that the authority has the power, but is not obliged, to provide. Guidance is issued under the power in section 93, which states charges are

limited to cost recovery. The Department of Health's fairer Charging Policies for Home care and other Non-Residential Social Services Guidance, Sept 2003, states that where Councils charge for non-residential services, flat rate charges are acceptable.

7.2 Failure to achieve income targets places the Council under financial risk.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.