

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub Committee  
**DATE:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Health & Community  
**SUBJECT:** Review of the Fairer Charging for Non-Residential Services Policy 2010-11  
**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present to the Executive Board Sub Committee the revised Fairer Charging for Non-Residential Services Policy for 2010-11.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Executive Board Sub Committee:**

1. note the contents of the report;
2. approve the charges set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report; and
3. approve the Fairer Charging for Non-Residential Services Policy 2010-11.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Background

The Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services guidance issued in September 2003 was designed for an era of traditional local authority social care provision where people received services arranged by a local authority. The Department of Health published the 'Fairer Contributions Guidance – Calculating an Individual's Contribution to their Personal Budget' in July 2009 updating the original guidance to take account of the Transformation agenda currently taking place in social care.

Halton Borough Council's original Fairer Charging for Non-Residential Services Policy was updated and presented in September 2009 to take into account the changes needed for Personal Budgets.

The Fairer Charging Review Panel was set up in September 2008 to look at how we charge for non-residential services and it

recommended a number of changes. These were put forward as part of the 2009-10 budget process and adopted by Full Council at its meeting on 3 March 2010. These changes will increase income over a three-year period to bring Halton Borough Council's charges more in line with neighbouring authorities.

### 3.2 Major amendments

There are two major amendments to the policy. The first is the weekly disregard figure, currently set at Income Support plus Severe Disability Premium (SDP) for all service users, irrespective of whether they receive SDP or not. We are proposing to change the weekly disregard figure to Income Support plus 25%, in line with Department of Health Guidance.

The second amendment is to the percentage charge applied to the service user's disposable income. The term disposable income is the service user's total income less all applicable disregarded amounts. It is what the service user is deemed to have available for charges to be set against. Currently, Halton Borough Council's charge is set at 34% of this disposable income. From 26<sup>th</sup> April 2010 it is proposed to increase this to 50% and for further increases to 60% and 70% in April 2011 and April 2012.

### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

### 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 It is expected that the revised Fairer Charging Policy will increase income from service users by £222,000 during 2010-11 and a further £130,000 in both 2011-12 and 2012-13.

### 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 people's needs improves their health and wellbeing.

#### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The provision of care services that meet people's needs increases their safety and mitigates risks.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 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.

