



Officer Decision Report

Date:	21 December 2023
Title:	Adult Social Care Charging Policy
Author:	Clare Capjon, Head of Business & Governance clare.capjon@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Wards affected:	All
Decision:	To approve an updated Adult Social Care Charging Policy

1. Content of report

- 1.1 Local authorities have a duty to arrange care and support for those with eligible needs. The Care Act 2014 gives local authorities a general power to charge for certain types of care and support. These charges will be based on a financial assessment which ensures fair and consistent application of charges.
- 1.2 Every council has a responsibility to use its resources effectively and appropriate charging is a key element of this. There is national guidance on charging for care and support. This specifies capital limits in relation to eligibility for financial support from a local authority and the approach to financial assessments.
- 1.3 The residential and non-residential charging policies, approved by the Cabinet Member in 2021, have been combined into one document to improve access to information for service users and carers. No substantive changes have been made to the policy position, with minor clarifications or updated wording provided to ensure the Council's policy is in line with statutory requirements.
- 1.4 The financial charges rates are agreed by full Council as part of the annual budget setting. The charges agreed by Council in February 2023 have been added as an appendix to the policy for information.

2. Clarifications provided in the current policy

- 2.1 The new Charging Policy for Adult Social Care has provided the following clarifications:
 - In relation to the brokerage service, if the service user or their representative declines the provider options sourced, the full brokerage fee is payable.

- Community equipment (aids and adaptations) of £1000 or under must be provided free of charge where necessary, in line with statutory requirements.
- Allowable costs such as rent, mortgage, Council tax will only be allowed in a financial assessment where the person is liable to pay these costs.
- In relation to the commissioning process, once a person's funds reduce, the needs of the person and costs will be taken into consideration when determining the Council-funded placement.
- The maximum amount a person can defer is 90% of the value of a person's property less the lower capital limit and any other charges against the property.

3 Authority to take this decision

- 3.1 This decision has been taken by the Corporate Director for Adults and Health through delegated powers and after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

4 Financial and equality implications

- 4.1 As there are no policy position changes in the new document, there are no financial implications to the adoption of a single Charging Policy for Adult Social Care.
- 4.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken. As this policy simply combines two existing policies and provides clarification for readers, a full EQIA is not required.

5 Approval

Craig McArdle, Corporate Director, Adults and Health

Signature



Date: 21/12/23