

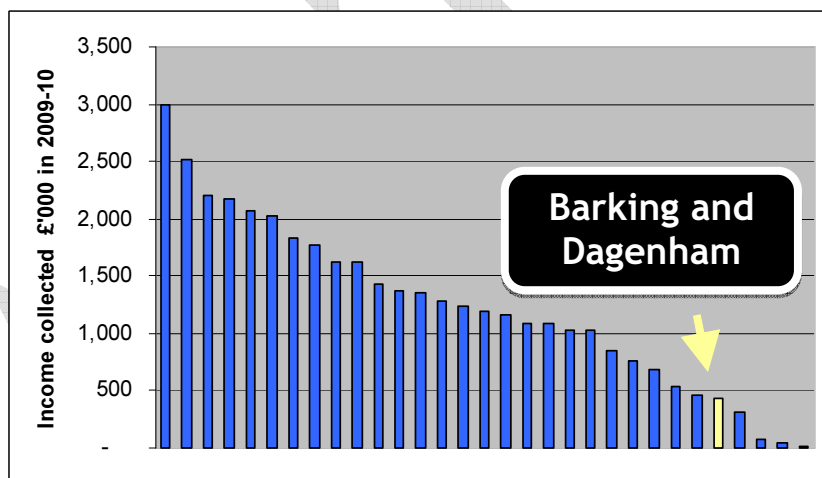
Fairer Contributions Policy

Tell Us What You Think – The proposals

Your Council currently subsidises your community based care services – this means you either receive free services or do not pay the full cost.

80% of our service users do not pay anything at all towards the cost of community based care services.

We receive considerably less money from our service users to pay towards the cost of the care than nearly every other London borough.



The Coalition Government has cut the money that the Council receives for social care.

This means that we will not have enough money to continue to provide quality services if we carry on subsidising them at the current levels.

We need to ask you to pay a reasonable contribution towards the cost of the services you use.

As a Barking and Dagenham resident if you pay something, you pay a lot less for your services than your neighbours in Redbridge and Havering. This will still be the case even if we implement these changes.



Any changes will be introduced on the 1st October 2011.

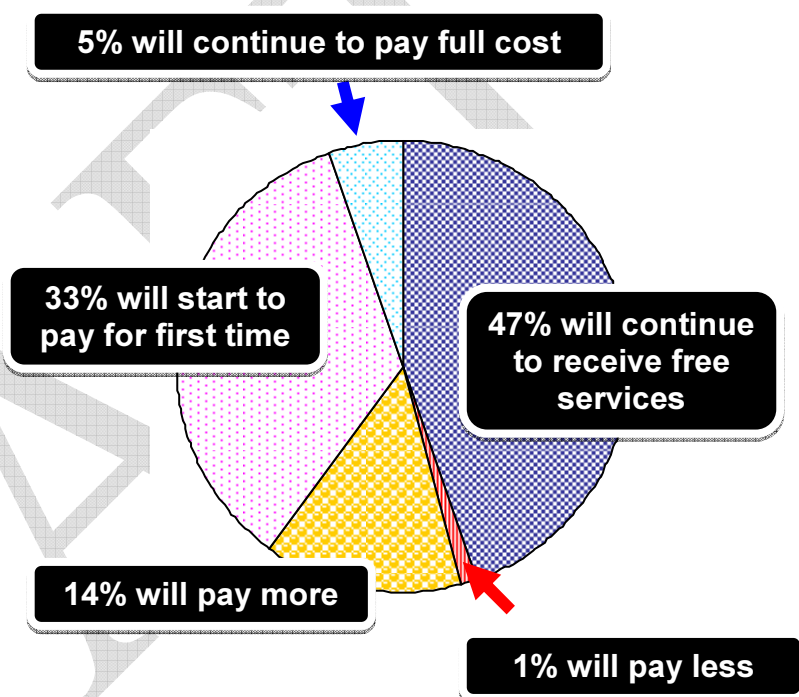
The Barking and Dagenham Fairer Contributions Policy will:

- ✓ Making sure that people on lower incomes have enough money to meet the rising costs of living
- ✓ Give additional protection to people aged 85 and over
- ✓ Increase charges gradually for current service users
- ✓ Raise enough income so that we can continue to provide quality services to our vulnerable residents

We have estimated that more than half the people who use our services would:

- either continue to get free services
- pay less or
- pay the same

Less than half of the people who currently pay for services would have to pay more or pay for the first time.



What we will not change:

- ✓ You will only pay towards the cost of services if you can afford it
- ✓ We will not ask you to pay an additional £1 towards the cost of your care for every £250 savings that you have between £14,250 and £23,250
- ✓ We will continue to provide free community based services for family carers

What we want to change (please read before answering the questions in the questionnaire):

1. We want to change how we work out how much money you pay:

We will include all your Severe Disability Premium and 75% of your Disability related benefits in working out how much you can contribute. These benefits are to pay towards the costs of your care and other costs that you may have if you are disabled.



At the moment, unlike other London boroughs, we only include 25% of both benefits. This means that if you get these benefits your contribution may change.

2. We want to change which services you pay for:



At the moment we only charge for home care. In the future we want to include all the services you receive. The Government has issued new guidance on personalisation and contributions saying that we must do this. Personalisation is where we give you money and help to arrange the services that you want instead of just giving you a service.

3. We want to change who has free services:

At the moment people who are assessed as having more than £1 a week to pay towards their services, make a contribution towards their home care.

We know the cost of living is rising. We want you to have free services if we work out that your contribution should be less than £5. This is because people with the lowest income will be asked to make the lowest contributions.



Under this policy some people will pay less than they do now.

4. We want to increase the amount older people receive:

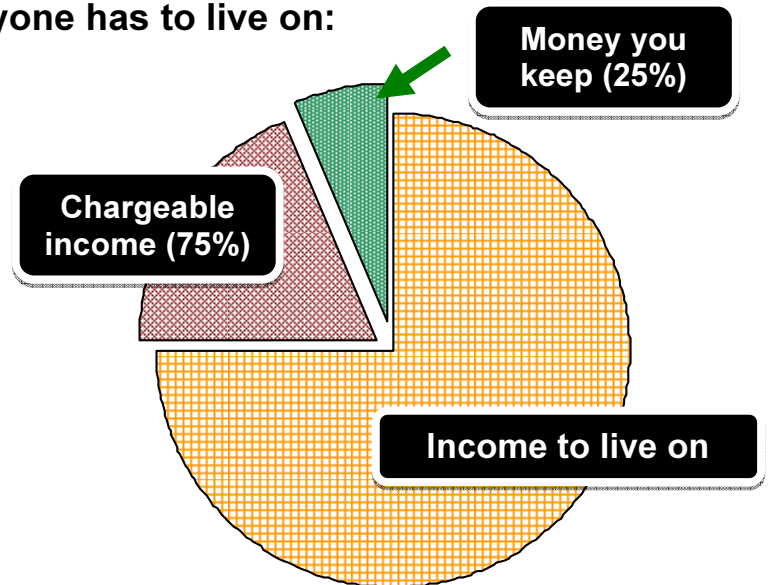


People aged 85 and over are guaranteed a minimum amount of £165.75 a week to live on after rent and other living expenses have been taken away. The minimum amount is set by Government. We want to increase this by £10 to £175.75 to make sure our most frail older people are protected.

5. We want to change how much everyone has to live on:

We will only ask you to pay what you can afford after we have carried out a financial assessment and a welfare benefits check (to make sure that you have all the benefits you should have).

When we work out how much you contribute to the cost of your care, we work out your income and then take away income to live on.



We can ask you to contribute 100% of the money that you have left or the full cost of your services, whichever is the lowest. We want to ask you to contribute up to 75% of all the money you have left or the cost of your services which ever is the lowest.

6. How we propose to increase our charges:

Under the new proposals about half of service users will still not be expected to pay anything towards their support because their income is not high enough.

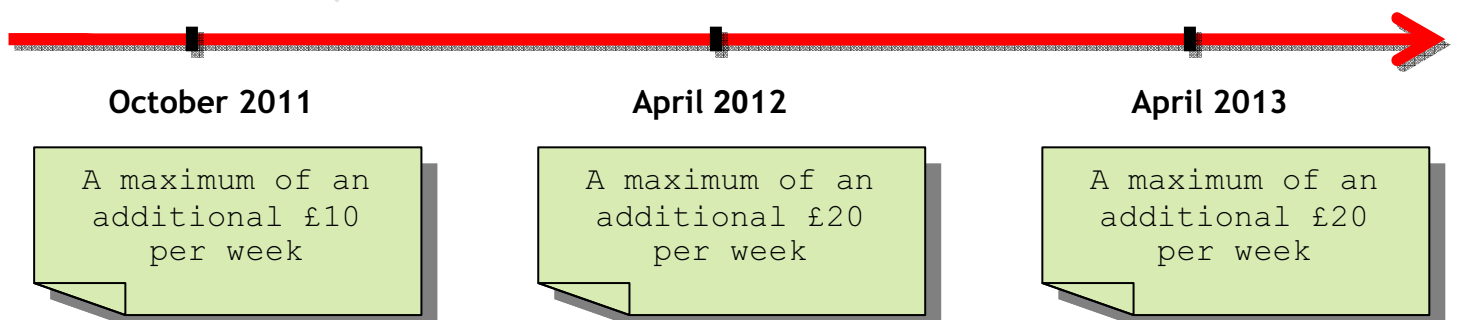


If you are assessed as having to pay more towards the cost of your care, then we will ask you to pay an increased the contribution, but we will do this gradually until you are paying what you can afford or what the services cost, whichever is the lower.

We will increase charges by:

- An additional £10 a week in the first year
- An additional £20 a week from April 2012 till the end of March 2013
- A further £20 from April 2013 till the end of March 2014

Very few people will be asked to pay the full cost of their services.



Fairer Contributions Policy

Tell Us What You Think - Questionnaire

We want to know what you about the proposed changes. If you need help completing this form, please phone and we will arrange for someone to come and help you. The accompanying notes will help to explain why and how we are proposing to make changes.

1. How we work out how much money you pay

We want to include all of the Severe Disability Premium and 75% of disability related benefits in working out how much you can afford to pay.

Do you think this is a fair approach?

Yes..... No..... Don't know

2. Which services you pay for

Government guidance says that we should ask for a contribution towards all services. At the moment we only ask for a payment towards homecare.

Do you think this is a fair approach?

Yes..... No..... Don't know

3. When you pay for services

We want to provide free services to people who are assessed as needing them to make a contribution of less than £5. This is because they will be on lower incomes and the cost of living is rising.

Do you think this is a fair approach?

Yes..... No..... Don't know

4. Older People

We want to make sure that people aged 85 and over have an extra £10 a week to live on.

Do you think this is a fair approach?

Yes..... No..... Don't know

5. How much everyone has to live on

We will ask everyone to contribute 75% of their available income or pay the full cost of their services, whichever is lower.

Do you think this is a fair approach?

Yes..... No..... Don't know

6a. Increasing charges

We will gradually increase the contribution that you make over the next three years.

Do you think this is a fair approach?

Yes..... No..... Don't know

6b. Increasing charges

We will increase charges by £10 a week in the first year and then an additional £20 a week for the next two years.

Do you think this is a fair approach?

Yes..... No..... Don't know

Please use this box to tell us what these changes would mean to you, or to make any other comments about the proposed changes.

Are you a:

Service User.... Carer..... Other (please state) _____

If someone else completed the form for you, please tell us who this was:

About You

Are you:

Male..... Female..... Transgender.....

Please indicate your age range:

18-24..... 24-34..... 35-44..... 45-54..... 55-64.....
65-74..... 75-84..... 85-94..... 94+

How would you describe yourself?

Black or black British:

African.... Caribbean..... Other black (please state) _____

Mixed or mixed British:

White and Black Caribbean..... White and Black African....
White and Asian..... Other mixed (please state) _____

White:

British.... Irish..... Other White (please state) _____

Asian or Asian British:

Bangladeshi... Indian..... Pakistani.....
Other Asian (please state) _____

Chinese or other ethnic group:

Chinese..... Other ethnic group (please state) _____

Traveller, Romany or Gypsy:

Irish Traveller. Romany..... English Gypsy.....

What is your faith?

Christian..... Jewish..... Muslim..... Sikh.....
Hindu..... No faith..... Other (please state) _____

Do any of the following apply to you?

Mental health difficulties.... Hearing difficulties.....
Sight difficulties..... Speech difficulties.....
Wheelchair user..... Problems with mobility.....
Learning difficulties..... Other (please state) _____

If you use social care services, please indicate which services you use?

Personal Budget..... Home Care..... Day Care.....
Borough Transport.... Equipment..... Other (please state) _____

Thank you for your time in completing this questionnaire. All responses will be kept strictly confidential. **Please return in the self addressed envelope**

What happens after I fill in the questionnaire?

1. We will be consulting on our proposed changes to contributions for non residential services until 31st May 2011.
2. We will then look in detail at all the feedback we have received and outline the responses in a report to Councillors in July. Councillors will then decide on the final details of a new charging policy.
3. When a decision has been made we will write with details about how the changes may affect you.

In the meantime we will be carrying out our annual financial review of your finances if you receive community care services.

Any changes will be introduced on the 1st October 2011.

DRAFT