

CABINET

15 MARCH 2011

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES

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| Title: Towards a Fairer Contributions Policy for Adult Social Care | For Decision |
| <p>Summary:</p> <p>Statutory guidance provides a national legal framework for charges for residential care and nursing homes. There are powers to charge for community care services such as home care, and whilst there is some national guidance, the Council has a duty to develop its own policy which treats people fairly, takes account of their ability to pay and avoids hardship.</p> <p>This report, which is about community based care services, recommends a contributions policy which is fair, equitable and takes account of the level of income in Barking and Dagenham. It also meets the requirements of recent guidance on charging in the context of personalisation and recognises the need to deliver savings.</p> <p>There have been a series of national consultations on how adult social care will be funded in the future. These were driven by funding pressures caused by demographic changes. The coalition Government have set up the Dilnot Commission to identify ways of developing a sustainable system for funding adult social care. Locally, in Barking and Dagenham we have a history of heavily subsidising services which is unsustainable because of both demographic pressures and the financial challenges posed by the coalition Government. If we do not change how people contribute towards the cost of their care, we will need to reduce or close services.</p> <p>This report considers a set of proposals which, if agreed, will form the basis of consultation to make sure that we have a fair and equitable contributions policy that supports independence and choice and also generates income towards the cost of our quality services. The proposals have been designed to offer protection to people on the lowest income and to the very old through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reducing the maximum payment from 100% to 75% of peoples' available income• The introduction of a £5 waiver• Building in an additional £10 allowance for people aged 85 and over• Not levying a charge on savings between £14,250 and £23,250• Introducing transitional protection over 3 years. <p>The proposals relate to services received by about 1,100 people at any one time. We have modelled what would happen if these proposals were implemented using the financial information we hold, and we anticipate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More than half of people (588) will continue to get free services, pay the same or even pay less.• Less than half (512) people will pay for the first time (356) or pay more (156). <p>Indicative estimates of additional income generated by the proposals is in the region of £150,000 in 2011/12 (half year effect) and £400,000 in 2012/3.</p> <p>Wards Affected: All</p> | |

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|---|--|--|
| <p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>The Cabinet is recommended to agree:</p> <p>(i) The proposals for consultation on updating the Fairer Contributions Policy as set out in section 2; and</p> <p>(ii) To receive the recommendations arising from consultation and final report in July 2011.</p> | | |
| <p>Reason</p> <p>In order to continue to provide services to our most vulnerable people, the contribution to the cost of those services needs to be increased.</p> <p>New guidance has been issued by the Department of Health which requires substantial changes to be made to the existing charging and contributions policy for non-residential care.</p> | | |
| <p>Comments of the Chief Financial Officer</p> <p>The comments appear below in Section 3.</p> | | |
| <p>Comments of the Legal Partner</p> <p>The comments of the Legal Officer appear below in Section 4</p> | | |
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1. Background

1.1 Funding Adult Social Care: the National Picture

The numbers of people who require social care are growing. The majority of the costs of adult social care are met through the taxation system and the proportion of workers to retired people has fallen from 19:1 to 4:1 over the past century and continues to fall. Developments in health technology mean that more people with complex needs are living longer and require more care.

The 2009 Green Paper “Shaping the Future of Care Together” estimated that people aged over 65 will need care and support costing £30,000 during their lifetimes with 5% having needs costing £100,000 or more (excluding the cost of accommodation). National consultation took place last year on how care would be funded including using Attendance Allowance to meet the costs of care and a variety of other options such as insurance or partnership arrangements with the state.

The Council response to the consultation was to challenge the proposals put forward by the government on the basis that the alternatives did not represent a fairer system.

The current government has set up a Commission on Funding of Care and Support headed by economist Andrew Dilnot to make recommendations by the end of July 2011. Its brief is to make recommendations on how to achieve an affordable and sustainable funding system or systems for care and support, for all adults in England, both in the home and other settings. There will be further consultation on the proposals when they come forward.

1.2 Charging for Adult Social Care: the Local Picture.

In November 2010 the Department of Health issued new statutory guidance on developing a contributions policy to meet the challenges of personalisation. The Fairer Contributions guidance states how Councils should calculate the contribution towards the cost of care services for people who have a personal budget. The current Council charging policy for non-residential services is not consistent with the new guidance.

Our current charging policy has grown incrementally with the Council agreeing to complex charging regimes for specific services. At the moment we only charge for home care and we provide a significant number of services free or heavily subsidised. Since 2003, the Council has used a banded system of home care charging which has proved with time to be unfair as the costs discriminate against people who receive lower levels of service. This level of subsidy is now unsustainable because of the funding pressures on the Council. More information on the current banded system can be found in **Appendix 1**, Section 3.

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has been extremely generous in the past in both how it assesses local residents financially and the level of charges applied. In Barking and Dagenham, as a result of the way we have calculated the level of residents' Net Disposable Income and the way we have calculated charges, we ask fewer people to pay, and those who do pay, pay less than people in nearly all other London boroughs. We currently also disregard 75% of disability related income when calculating the service user's income to find out what they are required to pay – most other London boroughs only disregard 25%.

Of the 30 London boroughs measured in 2009/10 only three receive less income than Barking and Dagenham in service user contributions for home care and day care. 21 boroughs recoup over £1,000,000 a year. Only Newham, Tower Hamlets and Hammersmith and Fulham receive less than the £425,000 we received last year. See **Appendix 4**, Table D for the full details.

Barking and Dagenham only recoups 4.5% of expenditure on non-residential care for older people. **Appendix 4** shows the disparity between the income the Councils generate and the expenditure on non-residential care for older people.

At present, the Council only charges users of home care services. The average cost of a home care package per week is £240. Where the Council contributes to the cost of a home care package, the maximum any individual is expected to pay is

£25.10 .A small number of people do not receive any financial help from the Council.

Compared to other London boroughs we have also increased the charges at a slower rate – e.g. in 2008-9 the inflationary increase applied was half of the national average. Indicative savings of £150,000 for 2011/2 have been factored into the savings required to achieve a balanced budget and maintain service provision.

For more information on the current system, how the charges are calculated and the legislative background, see **Appendix 1**.

2. The Proposals

This section describes changes which would enable compliance with new guidance and national practice, together with delivering the agreed cost savings. It is proposed that these changes are subject to consultation in line with the 2010 Fairer Contributions guidance and that the new contributions policy is implemented from 1 October 2011.

Proposals for consultation are outlined in the following section which address:

- Change to the treatment of Severe Disability Premium
- Maximum and minimum weekly payments
- Financial assessments and the determination of available income for making a contribution to charging
- The impact of personal budgets and the requirement of the 2010 guidance to charge against the amount of a personal budget or the cost of a package of care rather than individual services

In the detail below, we have given indicative figures of people affected by the proposals. These are based upon the financial figures we hold on people who used home care services in November 2010 and we believe that this gives a representative indication of the likely impact.

2.1 Severe Disability Premium

It is recommended that the Council changes the way in which Severe Disability Premium is considered when assessing service users' income. This income should be treated as income support rather than a disability benefit. This means that the full amount of £53.65 per week would be added to the calculation of the service user's Net Disposable Income in keeping with national practice. Currently, only £13.41 is added to the calculation.

The overriding principle will remain that service users will only contribute towards the cost of their services if their income is above the income support level + 25%. **Appendix 1**, Section 2 has more information on income support and how we make sure that people have enough money to live on.

This change means that an estimated additional 177 service users will have to pay a contribution towards the cost of their personal budget or care package. This is because their Net Disposable Income, including Severe Disability Premium would then be calculated as being above the income support level + 25%.

2.2 Maximum/Minimum Weekly Payment

Councils have discretion in how they implement the Fairer Contributions guidance. In the past, there has been a wide variation in the maximum weekly payment made by service users in different parts of the country. Some boroughs have fixed a maximum level of contribution as a monetary value, such as Havering with a proposed level of £320 and Redbridge with a proposed level of £350. Many, however, have agreed a policy whereby service users will contribute up to 100% of the costs of their care where they can afford it.

The Department of Health guidance has recommended that service users contribute up to 75% of the costs of their care so that people with higher care packages are protected against meeting the full costs. However, this also means the Council could be in the position of subsidising people who are better off and who have the ability to meet the full costs of their care package. It is therefore proposed that where people can afford to, they are asked to contribute to the full costs of their care. In Barking and Dagenham only 58 people currently pay the full costs of their care.

The average weekly benefits received by home care users is £175.74. This figure includes deductions for mortgage/rent and council tax. The figure also excludes housing benefits and DLA Mobility Component which cannot be included in income calculations by law

In calculating what people can afford, it is proposed that people are only required to contribute up to 75% of their Net Disposable Income towards the cost of their care. The effect of this is that people on lower incomes would be able to keep more of their income to meet their everyday expenses. This approach is recommended in the 2003 Fairer Charging Guidance, and permitted by the 2010 guidance. The London Borough of Havering are proposing to charge up to 90% of Net Disposable Income.

The examples below show how this would impact on people with different levels of income. All examples have used fictional names for the purposes of illustration

Example A - Increase in contribution

Katie Cromwell currently has 9.5 hours of home care and currently pays £22.50 per week for this in the banded system (see **Appendix 1**, Section 3).

The actual cost of the care package is £133.

Katie's total weekly income is £295.75. She receives a large Works Pension. After deductions her net disposable income is £130. 75% of her net disposable income is £97.50.

Therefore, potentially she would pay £97.50 per week.

Whilst this is a substantial increase in payment, if she lived in Havering or Redbridge she would be already be paying higher than this amount.

Example B - Decrease in contribution

Helen Anderson, 85, receives 38 hours of home care a week.
Helen has a total income of £192.95.
Her net disposable income is £27.24.
Currently she pays £25.10 a week for her home care using the banded system.

Her package of care costs the Council approximately:

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Home Care: | 38 x £14 |
| Total: | £532 |

Under the proposal we would charge up to 75% of her net disposable income which is £20.43.

Therefore her contribution will go down in October by £4.67 per week because of the proposed protection measures.

As the examples show, the current policy can mean that those who are less well off pay more than someone who is better off. It is clearly not reasonable for this situation to consider.

If this proposal is implemented, 10 home care users will pay less, like Helen Anderson in Example B. These will be the people on the lowest income. Full funders will continue to pay the full cost of their home care package.

If an individual is financially assessed as being liable to pay less than £1 per week, the charge is currently waived. Havering Council are proposing this waiver is increased to £2.50 per week.

It is proposed that we waive charges of £5 and under to further protect service users with low income. This measure will mean that 30 people would not pay a contribution to the cost of their services and £3,000 income would not be collected.

This proposal will also protect those on the lowest of incomes.

2.3 Reduce the Level of Disability Disregard

As stated earlier, the Council has been extremely generous in disregarding 75% of disability-related income when assessing someone's eligibility to pay. Disability related benefits are awarded to meet the additional costs of living which are related to disability, such as care costs. However, many of these needs are already met through the subsidised services that the Council provide.

It is proposed that we reduce the level of disability disregard to 25% of disability related benefits in line with the current position of many other London boroughs. This will still be one of the highest disability disregards across London, since many London boroughs are proposing to move to a position similar to that of Havering where all disability-related income is included in the calculation of Net Disposable Income. Redbridge will include 100% of the middle rate of Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance in their calculations.

If we reduced the disability benefit disregard to 25% and changed how we included Severe Disability Premium, an additional 344 people would become eligible to make a contribution towards the cost of their care package or personal budget.

Example C – The impact of reducing the amount of disability related benefits which are not included in the calculation of the Net Disposable Income.

Mr. Raj Akram, 76, currently receives 12.25 hours of home care a week. The current cost for this service is £171.25. If he lived in Havering, he would be paying about £80 towards the cost of his care.

The examples below illustrate what he would contribute under new proposals for disability disregard.

i) Current disregard (75%)

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Attendance Allowance Higher: | £18.53 |
| Pension Guarantee: | £132.60 |
| SDP: | £13.41 |
| Total income: | <u>£164.54</u> |

Raj is aged over 60 so his Net Disposable Income calculated at the income support level + 25% which is £165.75.

$$£164.54 - £165.75 = -£1.21$$

Therefore Raj is not assessed as having to contribute to the costs of his care.

ii) 25% of disability benefits disregarded

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| AA Higher: | £55.58 |
| Pension Guarantee: | £132.60 |
| SDP: | £53.65 |
| Total income: | <u>£241.83</u> |

$$£241.83 - £165.75 = £76.08$$

Raj would be eligible to be charged 75% of £76.08 which is £57.06 per week.

Raj would still have £184.77 of income a week to spend on other expenses.

Because of the approach in previous years of disregarding 75% of disability-related benefits, a substantial number of people have been excluded from making a financial contribution. The proposed changes will still mean local residents are charged less than in neighbouring boroughs.

2.4 Further protection for over 85s

The national policy is that everyone is guaranteed a basic level of income to live on (Minimum Income Guarantee). The table below shows the nationally set levels of weekly living expenses that any charging policy cannot touch:

As a further protective measure for the most vulnerable it is proposed that we increase the Minimum Income Guarantee for all service users aged 85 and over by £10. This means over 85s will have a Minimum Guaranteed Income of £175.75.

Table A – Weekly Living Expenses

| Age of service user | National Minimum Income Guarantee | Barking & Dagenham Minimum Income Guarantee |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 85+ | £166.75 | £175.75 |
| 60 -84 | £165.75 | £165.75 |
| 25-59 | £133.82 | £133.82 |
| 18-24 | £116.87 | £116.87 |

This proposal will mean, of the 331 home care users aged 85 plus, those eligible to be contribute, could pay up to £10 less than people in other boroughs. The proposal will mean an additional 4 four home care users aged 85 and over paying less than they currently do.

Consultation proposal – Respondents will be asked to comment on the proposal that the minimum income guarantee for service users aged 85 and above is increased by £10.

2.5 Contributions towards personal budgets and care packages

a) Services Exempt from the Fairer Contributions Policy

All service users are given a financial assessment following their needs assessment to determine what if any contribution they can make to a personal budget or care package. However, some services are exempt and cannot be charged for because of national guidance or legislation e.g. services provided to people with mental health needs under s117 of the Mental Health Act 1985.

It is also possible to take a local policy decision to exempt services, e.g. carers' services. We have never charged for community based services for carers in Barking and Dagenham, but the national picture does show that some councils are beginning to charge for these. The rationale for charging is that carers contribute funding towards residential respite care and so should be expected to contribute to community-based respite or other services. However, the alternative view is that community-based services often provide a dual function – respite for carers and an activity or support for the service user and it is extremely difficult to apportion service costs.

Other services for carers include support services such as advice, counselling, befriending and training. Informal (family) carers often perform an extremely valuable role in supporting people who would otherwise require care services and services for carers are extremely cost effective, enabling carers to continue in their supporting role.

It is therefore proposed that the Council maintains this policy position and does not charge for carers' community based services.

Councils are also able to charge £1 for every £250 savings people have above £14,250. This has not been implemented in Barking and Dagenham and there are no proposals to change this.

b) Services considered under the Fairer Contributions Policy

The 2010 Fairer Contributions guidance states that in determining the chargeable amount councils must take into account the total amount of the personal budget or care package. This approach ensures people are treated fairly and equitably.

Appendix 2 sets out those services which are not affected by this policy. All other services would be considered as chargeable. This would include:

- Home care
- Personal support
- Personal care
- Day care
- Transport
- Services previously funded under the Supporting People¹ funding stream where they form part of a care package.

Day services costs vary between £60 per day for older peoples' day care in the independent sector and £141.10 per day for people with learning disabilities and complex needs at Heathlands. Many people also receive a service which was part funded through the old Supporting People funding stream - it is proposed to include these costs in the calculation of the overall cost of the personal budget or care package.

Example D – Service User at Heathlands Day Centre

Ian Childs, 45, goes to Heathlands day centre for 5 days a week all day. He is a wheelchair user who needs a hoist to transfer and needs the assistance of two carers.

Heathlands Day Centre costs £141.10 per day and transport to and from Heathlands costs £30 a day. Therefore his overall package of care for a week is £855.50.

After financial assessment, Ian has £50 available for charging. He therefore will be charged 75% of income available for charging which is £37.50.

Ian will still have £146.32 of weekly income after making a contribution towards his care. This consists of £133.82 of income support +25% plus the £12.50 from his income available for charging.

At the moment 109 people in the borough receive funding from the Supporting People fund as part of their personal budget or care package. Because most of these already receive homecare (79), we estimate that less than six people will become eligible to contribute towards the cost of their services for the first time.

¹ Supporting People was the previous government's programme for funding, planning and monitoring housing related support services.

Around 54 day care users will be required to contribute (see **Appendix 2** for further information.) If the cost of new services is included in the care package, then it is estimated that a maximum of 60 additional people will be required to contribute towards the cost of their care package or services.

2.6 Transitional Protection

Transitional protection only applies to existing service users and all new service users assessed on or after 1/10/11 will be expected to pay the full contribution. People who have previously used a service in the past, but have not used a service for more than a year will be treated as new service users and expected to pay the full contribution.

The changes proposed will mean that for current service users, more people would be required to contribute towards the costs of their care for the first time and some people will contribute more.

These proposals therefore also recommend phasing in the changes by capping the level of increase for existing service users. Some Councils have adopted this approach. Havering and Redbridge have not.

In order to make sure that local residents can manage the transition, it is proposed that we cap any increase at:

- £10 a week from October 2011 to the end of March 2012 and
- £20 for the following two years.

Appendix 3, table C provides more details of the service users this may affect.

The impact of transitional protection on home care users is that the;

- The average increase in 2011/12 with £10 transitional protection is £9.21.
- The average increase in 2012/13 with £20 transitional protection would be £14.72

Example E - Impact of transitional protection on home care user

Katie Cromwell, 62, currently receives 9.5 hours of home care and currently pays £22.50 for this in the banded system.

The cost of the care package is £133.

Katie receives a large Works Pension so her net disposable income is £130. 75% of her Net Disposable Income is £97.50.

Therefore, potentially she could pay £97.50 per week.

To mitigate this, the introduction of the suggested £10 cap will mean that Katie would only pay £32.50 a week from October 2011.

Katie's weekly income will be, after taking away her £10 contribution, £85.75

From April 2012 her contribution can be increased by a suggested £20 a week to £52.50, and from April 2013 to £72.50.

Example F – Impact of transitional protection on day care user

Ian Childs' Heathlands Day Centre costs £141.10 per day and transport to and from Heathlands costs £30 a day. His overall package of care for a week is £855.50.

After financial assessment, Ian has £50 available for charging. He therefore will be charged 75% of income available for charging is £37.50.

With the transitional protection of the £10, Ian will pay £10 a week from October 2011.

This will leave Ian with a weekly income of £173.82.

From April 2012 his contribution will increase by £10 to £30 per week.

In April 2013, Ian will pay his maximum contribution level which is £37.50. Ian's contribution will not change after April 2014 unless his weekly income changes.

From April 2013, Ian's weekly income will be £146.32.

See **Appendix 3**, table B for further illustration of the impact.

2.7 Consultation

Guidance recommends there is adequate time for consideration on changes made to contributions policies. A draft consultation document has been produced based upon the proposals contained within the report. It is proposed that copies of the document will be made available on-line and are also posted to all current service users. A freepost reply envelope will be available and support will offered to those who need help completing the consultation form.

Consultation will take place with key organisations, particularly those representing carers and disabled people because of the recommendations around the reduction of the disability disregard. Consultation will also take place with existing fora such as the Learning Disability Partnership Board and Equalities fora.

2.8 Resource Implications

The proposals widen the number of people who would be required to make a financial contribution towards the costs of their personal budget or care package rather than increasing the financial burden on the group of people who currently pay for services. They also aim to protect service users on the lowest of incomes.

Whilst this spreads the financial burden more thinly across our service users, there are resource implications for setting up the new system as all existing service users will require a new financial assessment and benefits advice. It is imperative that all service users are offered benefits advice at the same time as a financial assessment to ensure that income is maximised and any additional contributions are offset by increased benefits as far as possible.

Once this intensive assessment period is completed during the summer, as more people are supported to transfer to personal budgets, the impact on managing the invoicing and income collection element of the service will be lessened. Instead of invoicing for a contribution, where people receive personal budgets the contribution will be deducted at source. This means people will receive personal budgets net of any contribution.

3 Financial Issues

It is anticipated that £450,000 will be collected from home care charging from April 2010 to March 2011.

The table below shows the money expected to be recouped through contributions from service users with or without implementation of the proposals.

Table B - Money recouped through contributions

| | Income without changes plus estimated inflationary uplift | Income with proposed changes | Additional income generated |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total Income 2011-12 | £450,000 | £600,000 | £150,000 |
| Total Income 2012-13 +2% | £459,000 | £1,00,000 | £400,000 |
| Total Income 2013-14 +2% | £468,000 | £1,05,000 | £450,000 |

4. Legal Issues

The legal framework for the charging policy is set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Equality Act 2010 imposes a general duty on a public authority when carrying out its functions to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity.

The current legal requirements relate to race, disability, and gender. Barking and Dagenham has already extended these equality areas to also cover the full range of protected characteristics of age, gender reassignment, religion or belief, and sexual orientation, in readiness for the new general equality duty.

The equality impact assessment (EIA) (see preliminary EIA attached at Appendix 6) gives the Council the opportunity to ensure that there is a systematic assessment of the likely effects on service users in the community of the proposed changes to the charging policy. The EIA is an integral part of this review. Members in considering the recommendations to this report must have due regard to the findings of the preliminary EIA including whether opportunity has been taken to promote equality as well as whether any negative or adverse impacts have been effectively mitigated or removed. Following the decision of Cabinet, officers will continue to assess the likely impact of the proposals through the consultation process to inform the final EIA that would be presented with any further report to Members, which is proposed for July 2011. Thereafter officers would need to monitor the actual impact of any changes to be implemented.

5. Other Implications

The majority of our service users have an impairment of some kind. This is most apparent in terms of the numbers of people who receive disability-related benefits and therefore will be affected by the proposals to reduce the disability disregard. The changes in how disability benefits are treated means that some disabled people will be expected to increase their financial contribution or begin to contribute towards meeting their support needs. Disability related benefits are provided to meet the costs of living with a disability such as meeting support needs. Local people will still be comparatively better off.

Consultation with equalities groups will be reflected in the report back to Cabinet in July and will inform a full Equalities Impact Assessment of these proposals. A preliminary EIA on the proposals is attached at Appendix 6.

5.1 Risk Management

Traditionally people on low incomes are reliant on state benefits and will regard any additional disability benefits as part of their overall household accommodation.

The phasing in of payments and the transitional protection will help people manage their household costs. Where people withdraw from services as a result of increased contributions, further investigation will take place to ensure that people are not at risk.

In order not to fetter the authority's discretion, it is proposed that the Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services, can as now, waive charges.

5.2 Customer Impact

Officers have carried out detailed analysis of the impact of the proposals on the people who currently receive home care services where we have detailed financial information. This is because this group of service users are financially assessed. We have also included the predicted the number of people who will be charged because of requirement to include all services.

Based on this information, we have modelled the impact for 1,100 non residential service users:

- **48% of people will get free services or pay less**
 - 519 (47%) service users will still receive free services
 - 14 (1%) will pay less than they pay now
- **5% (58) of people will pay the same**
- **46% of people will pay for the first time or pay more.**
 - 356 (32%) service users will start to pay for the first time
 - 156 (14%) existing home care users will be asked to pay more

All people who receive services also receive a full social care assessment and regular reviews. We will carefully monitor the impact on service users and any

decisions to no longer use services because of the financial impact. See **Appendix 3**, table A for more detail on the impact on home care service users

The proposals are designed to protect people on the lowest income and the very old through regarding only 75% of disposable income as chargeable income, introducing a £10 allowance for people aged over 85, the £5 waiver and the transitional protection. In extreme cases, service charges can be waived at the discretion of the Corporate Director.

5.3 Safeguarding Children

There are no direct implications for safeguarding children, but it needs to be recognised that where financial income is affected, there may be some risks, and these will be monitored.

There may be implications for vulnerable adults in terms of safeguarding, risk and financial abuse for example some family members could choose to cancel services on behalf of relatives which could put them at risk. Equally service users may also do this – where people have the capacity to do this, they are entitled to make unwise decisions.

Service cancellations will be monitored to ensure that where this does happen, risk assessments and further investigation will take place.

5.4 Health Issues

No health issues

6. Options Appraisal

The 'do nothing' option will see the continuation of the banded system for charging for home care. This is not advisable for three reasons:

- The continued provision of non residential services will be unaffordable
- The banded system would be contrary to Fairer Contributions Guidance
- The exclusion of other non-residential services means that an unfair burden is on home care service users to pay for resident's social care.

7. Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report

1. Fairer Contributions Guidance: Calculating an individual's contribution to their personal budget. Department of Health, November 2010
2. Fairer charging policies for home care and other non-residential social services: guidance for Councils with Social Services Responsibilities – Department of Health, September 2003
3. Prioritising need in the context of *Putting People First: A whole system approach to eligibility for social support* - Department of Health, February 2010
4. Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance, Revenues and Benefits 'Fees and Charges 2011/12', LBBDD, 21 December 2010

8. List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Background and current charging process

Appendix 2 – Charging for Services

Appendix 3 – List of tables

Appendix 4 – Fairer Charging Income Collected per borough 2009/10 compared with expenditure on Older People

Appendix 5 - Consultation Document

Appendix 6 - Preliminary Equality Impact Assessment and Action Plan