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Charging for Community Adult Care Services Consultation Overview & Scrutiny 21st July 2016



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Background

- Rising demand for services and reducing funding for Councils under 'austerity'
- LBTH currently charges for residential / nursing care and care provided in extra care housing
- 2016/17 Budget – Agreed to introduce charging for community care services
- LBTH one of only 2 Councils who do not charge for these services
- Mixed views in budget consultation

Scope

- 2,700 clients currently receiving community care services
- Around half this number are estimated as needing to pay a charge
- Estimated saving £1.080m pa
- Estimated saving 16/17 £270k



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Consultation

- Cabinet commitment to consult on the policy
- Specific consideration of providing greater protection for those on lower incomes
- 20/6/16 – 19/8/16
- Letter and leaflet to all affected service users
- Website and social media
- Targeted meetings with a wide range of groups and Stakeholders
- Overview & Scrutiny



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Policy

- Care Act guidance provides some rules
- Individual financial assessments
- Some incomes and capital sources are excluded
- Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG)
- Some services cannot be charged for eg Reablement, equipment
- We provide welfare benefit advice to maximise take-up of benefits as part of the process



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Common Fears & Misunderstandings

- That everyone will be charged – many people will be assessed as zero charge especially those on low incomes
- That an individual / family home is at risk – the value of someone's home is not taken into account in assessment charges for community services

Services

Services	Currently	Proposed
Residential Care	Charged for	Charged for
Nursing Care	Charged for	Charged for
Care in Extra Care Housing	Charged for	Charged for
Home Care	Not charged for	Charged for
Day Care	Not charged for	Charged for
Transport	Not charged for	Charged for
Meals	Charged for	Charged for
Telecare	Not charged for	Not charged for
Support for Carers	Not charged for	Not charged for
Reablement	Cannot charge	Cannot charge
Equipment	Cannot charge	Cannot charge
Employment Support	Cannot charge	Cannot charge



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Options with Consultations

- Proposal to increase the Minimum Income Guarantee (providing more protection for those on lower incomes)
- Seeking views on the range of housing costs which could be protected from charges?
- The overall balance between needing to raise income for a sustainable adult social care service and the aim to protect people on lower income.

Next Steps

- Consultation Process as planned
- Further data analysis to support the financial estimates for different options
- Cabinet 4th October 2016
- Financial Assessments Oct – Dec 2016
- Implementation from 1st January 2017



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We welcome input from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as part of this consultation.