

**AGENDA ITEM 3****RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL****CABINET****16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015****ADULT SOCIAL CARE CHARGES - 2015/16****JOINT REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR , COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE AND FRONTLINE SERVICES****Author: Chris Lee (01443) 424026****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to set out proposals for the levels of charging for Non Residential Care Services provided to service users within Adult Services for the financial year 2015/16.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Consider and, if appropriate, approve that there be no increase to the charging rate for costs of Non Residential Care Services provided to service users within Adult Services (paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3);
- 2.2 Consider and, if appropriate, approve the proposed revised weekly maximum charge for Non Residential Care Services of £60 per week, in line with the revised limit determined by Welsh Government for 2015/16 financial year (paragraphs 3.4 to 3.6); and
- 2.3 Approve the transfer of the additional income generated to the Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve (transition funding) (paragraph 3.7).

**3. LEVELS OF CHARGES FOR NON RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES****Charging rates for non residential care services provided to service users**

- 3.1 At the Cabinet meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014 a number of Medium Term Service Change proposals were agreed which included revised

Adult Social Care Charges. The charges agreed at that time were £17 per hour for domiciliary care and £17 per visit for day care services. These charges were introduced with effect from September 2014.

- 3.2 The Council increases fees and charges annually in line with the agreed budget strategy at, on average, RPI plus 3%. RPI at January 2015 was 1.6% and if all fees and charges were to be increased this would have resulted in a 4.6% increase. Cabinet resolved, however, to freeze car parking charges and reviewed Leisure charges and consequently all other fees and charges were to increase by 6.1%.
- 3.3 On the basis that revised charges for non residential care were introduced from September 2014, it is proposed to forego any increase for financial year 2015/16 and that annual increases now be introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 in line with other council fees and charges. The income foregone as a result of this would amount to £15k (at a 4.6% increase). The Council's budget has not assumed an increase and so there is no financial pressure brought about by this proposal.

#### **Maximum Weekly Charge for Non Residential Care Services**

- 3.4 Welsh Government guidance in respect of Charging for Non Residential Care Services determines a maximum level of weekly charge for care services.
- 3.5 The maximum level increased from £50 to £55 for financial year 2014/15 and now increases further to £60 per week for financial year 2015/16. The formal statutory instruments are currently working their way through the decision making processes of the National Assembly for Wales. To enable the appropriate re-assessment of the financial circumstances of all service users in line with the Council's means tested assessment for Non Residential Care Services, it is proposed that implementation be effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015.
- 3.6 It is estimated that additional income of £0.175M per annum (full year) would be generated from this increased contribution to care costs. This estimate is based on the existing number of service users (826) and their current financial circumstances.
- 3.7 The additional income generated as a result of this increase has not been factored into the budget for 2015/16 and so can be transferred to the Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve (transition funding). The part year additional income is estimated at £0.145M.

#### **4. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1 In developing these proposals an equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken to ensure that :
- The Council meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duties; and
  - Due regard has been taken of the likely impact of the decision in terms of equality and discrimination.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 This report sets out proposals for Adult Social Care Charges for financial year 2015/16.
- 5.2 The implementation of these proposals will include a re-assessment of the financial circumstances of all service users in line with the Council's means tested assessment for Non Residential Care Services.

\*\*\*\*\*

**This page is left Blank.**