

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

12th March 2007

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Ray Waller (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Alan Dobby, Assistant Director (Support Services)
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

31. Home Care Charges 2007/8 (*Director of Adult and Community Services*)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To recommend the Fairer Charging rate for Home Care for 2007/8.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Director of Adult and Community Services submitted a report outlining the background to the introduction of Home Care Charges and sought consideration of amended charges for 2007/8.

Details of the options for the 2007/8 increase in charges were outlined in the report with particular attention drawn to the preferred option for a 15.4% increase from £6.50 to £7.50 per hour. This would complete the policy of phasing out the discount introduced in 2003 to make the new charges more manageable. The charging rate of £7.50 would still only be 75% of the hourly cost of contracted home care.

In assessing the options available it was highlighted that the charging formula was constructed such that those most able to pay, and receiving the largest packages, would experience the highest charges. Over a third of people with limited means are not charged for the services, and this would not be affected by the proposed increase.

It was also highlighted that last year's increase was of a similar level to that recommended for 2007/8 and that there had been very few problems encountered.

The Hartlepool rate is much lower than those charged by neighbouring authorities, and would remain so after the proposed increase.

Decision

That the Fairer Charging rate for Home Care for 23007/8 be set at £7.50 per hour, subject to the test of ability to pay.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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