

## CONSULTATION FACT SHEET

### Proposed Changes to Bromley's Personal Budget and Personal Contributions Policy for Adult Social Care December 2010

#### 1. Current Charging Policy

Bromley Council currently charges people who use adult social care services to help them live at home according to their ability to pay. The council uses government guidance issued in 2003 to ensure that the charges are fair and that the contributions it asks people to pay do not leave them in financial hardship. The government guidance states that local authorities must ensure that the charges they set are reasonable:

- People who are financially assessed to contribute to the cost of their services must be left with enough disposable income to give them a reasonable standard of living. The government sets this minimum living allowance as 25% more than the basic level of income support (£65.45) per week or equivalent income. This means everyone must be left with at least £81.81 per week to live on after the charges have been worked out.
- Council charges take account of all the costs of individual services the person receives as part of their care package
- Councils can set separate flat rate charges for some services when the charge is small and can be considered as equivalent to ordinary living costs such as home meals services or transport.

#### 2. Why do we need to change things?

For the first time, from April 2011 people will be able to see how much they have to spend or contribute themselves towards their support – this will be known as a personal budget. The Council wants views on their new charging policy which in the current tough financial climate may result in increases for some, is fairer for everyone so that everyone can see:-

- how their personal budget is calculated;
- the real costs of the support they need

The council's last major review of charges for community care services was implemented in 2007. Increases in charges since then have been related to the rate of inflation and increases in state benefits. Currently approximately one – third of people getting our help do not have to pay for the support they receive, one third pay a charge based on their ability to pay and one-third have enough money to pay the full cost of the care they receive.

The current financial climate means that Bromley, like all other councils, has to look at ways to save money and do things better. At the same time we are changing the way we deliver social care support to people who are eligible for our help.

This means making tough decisions about how the council can fund the social care needs of a growing older population who may require more support. It means we have to ensure that charges remain fair whatever choices people make about how their support needs are met.

This requires some changes to our charging policy to remove anomalies and ensure that everyone who has enough income contributes fairly to the cost of the help they receive.

### **Personal Budgets**

The Government and Council are introducing Personal Budgets which are the new way of delivering social care. If you qualify for council funding for your social care support you can find out how much money will be spent on meeting your needs (known as your Personal Budget). The aim of Personal Budgets is to give people who qualify for council funding more control over the way they use their Personal Budget to meet their needs.

In the past if you had been assessed as needing critical or substantial level of personal care you would be assessed as requiring perhaps 3 home care visits a day, a Carelink alarm service and two afternoon sessions at a day centre. Today the equivalent cost of delivering that package of care or services would be allocated as a Personal Budget.

You will find out how much money will be spent on you (called the Personal Budget) and can then choose if you would like to take on full responsibility for managing that budget directly. A service user may elect to ask the Council to continue to manage their care arrangements much as has traditionally happened, or may elect to take full control and take their Personal Budget as a direct payment. Some may choose a combination of the two.

### **How will a personal budget be calculated?**

It is proposed that the calculation of a Personal Budget will be based on a number of factors:

- The number of standard episodes of personal care required to meet personal care needs (based on an episode being a half hour from an approved/contracted care provider)
- The number of non-standard episodes of personal care required to meet personal care needs (where due to more complex care requirements an hour of care is required rather than a half hour)
- The number of episodes of care where two carers are required to safely deliver care (e.g. where a service user is confined to a bed and can only be moved with two care workers)
- A supplement to cover the additional costs where episodes of care are required at high cost times (evening/weekends/bank holidays)
- The actual cost of a commissioned “supported living service”
- The number of day care sessions required to meet assessed needs at one of a range of standard rates.
- The number of episodes of non-residential respite care required at a range of standard rates.
- The actual cost of other standard services required to meet assessed e.g. Community Alarms.
- The cost of any additional bespoke services required as alternatives or to supplement those listed above.

These measures will simplify care planning so that service users and carers will be able to see the connection between the social care needs and the service purchased to meet them. However, in circumstances where a service user elects to exercise choice and control and to purchase alternative service models that result

in lower costs, the Personal Budget will be calculated to reflect the actual costs of providing that care. The increasingly common example of this is where a Personal Assistant is employed rather than contractor care hours. In these circumstances the Personal Budget requirement will be reduced significantly.

### 3. The Consultation

We will be asking as many people as possible what they think about our proposed changes. This includes service users, carers, partner agencies, members of voluntary groups and service providers.

### 4. The Proposed Changes to the Charging Policy

#### a) Removing the subsidy on holiday breaks, laundry and shopping services

Until now service users, including those who do not meet the council eligibility criteria for need, have been able to access laundry services partly subsidised by and shopping services and holiday breaks wholly subsidised by the Council. It is proposed that these subsidies be removed and that all service users will be signposted to providers of these services who will recover the full cost of the service from the user.

#### b) Removing the subsidy on day care services

It is currently the case that day centres that are managed directly or indirectly by Council provide places for people with critical and substantial needs (eligible service users) and others. Until now this service has had a nil cost to the service user, it is proposed that a charge per session be made from 2011 onwards

It is also proposed that service users who have needs which do not qualify them for council funding will need to pay for using day care services. This charge will be levied by the organisation that the council has contracted to run this service.

	Current Charge	Proposed Charge
Day care – general (frail OP) incl. Transport	Nil	£18 per session
Day care – specialist (dementia/LD) Transport	Nil	£40 per session
Specialist Day placements LD/PD/MH	Nil	Actual cost per session
Day care - ineligible persons	Nil	£10 per session

#### c) Standard Charge for Homecare

We are proposing to change the way we charge homecare. Rather than applying a standard charge, the new charge will be based on the amount of time that home care is used and whether two carers are required.

	Current Charge	Proposed Charge
Home Care (hourly charge)	£16.20	£14.00
Home Care (half hourly charge)	£8.10	£8.10
Home care (double handed hourly charge)	£16.20	£28
Home care (double handed half hourly charge)	£8.10	£16.20

#### d) Homecare Weekend and Evening Rates

It is proposed that for homecare hours which are required at the weekend and during week day evening's additional charges will be applied (this will be added to the standard rates charged per half or per hour).

		Current Charge	Proposed Charge
Homecare Weekend & Evenings	½ hour	N/A	£1.00
	1 hour	N/A	£2.00

### e) Carelink and Assisted Technology Equipment

It is proposed to increase the charges for both Carelink monitoring and the full response service the table bellows details the charges:

	Current Charge	Proposed Charge
Carelink monitoring	£3.72 per week	£5.00 per week
Carelink full response service	£7.18 per week	£7.50 per week

It is also proposed that the charge for assisted technology equipment be increased from £1.91 per week to £2.50 per week.

### f) Supported Living Package

No changes are proposed in relation to supported living packages these will continue to be charged at full cost.

### g) Direct Payments Personal Assistant Rates

It is proposed that the hourly rate paid as part of the Direct Payment (for the employment of a personal assistant) be reduced from £14.08 to £11.00 per hour.

### h) Disability Related Expenses

People who have additional living expenses in excess of 'standard' living costs may receive a further reduction in their charge for 'disability related expenses'. (These may include, for example, incontinence laundry costs or costs to address a sensory impairment,). In Bromley we have calculated Disability Related Expenses (DRE) on an individual case by case basis;; in other authorities a standard rate is applied. The council is proposing to introduce standard rates of DRE disregard which would be set at:

- **£5 per week** where the service user is in receipt of the lower rate of Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance,
- **£10 per week** where the service user is in receipt of the middle rate of Disability Living Allowance and,
- **£15 per week** where the service user is receiving the middle or higher rate of Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance.

## 5. Your Feedback

How do you feel about these proposed changes? If you would like to comment on the changes, please complete the feedback form. Further information can be accessed at <http://www.bromley.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth>

If you would like to speak to someone please call Emma Maton on 0208 461 7579. If you require this information in another language or format please also call Emma Maton on 0208 461 7579. Please return this feedback form to [emma.maton@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:emma.maton@bromley.gov.uk) by the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

## 6. What happens next?

Once we have gathered your feedback, a report will be presented to the Portfolio Holder to make a final decision. The decision will be made and a new charging policy will be in place for the new financial year.