

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Report– 2017/18

This form should be completed for each Equality Impact Assessment on a new or existing function, a reduction or closure of service, any policy, procedure, strategy, plan or project which has been screened and found relevant to equality.

Please refer to the 'EIA Report Form Guidance' while completing this form. If you need further support please contact acesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk.

Where do you work?
Service Area: Social Services
Directorate: People

(a) This EIA is being completed for a...

Service/ Function <input type="checkbox"/>	Policy/ Procedure √	Project <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposal √
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(b) Please name and describe here

This EIA covers the 5 main proposals arising from the Annual Review of Charges (Social Services) and set out within the revised Swansea Council's Charging Policy (Social Services).

- 1) A general uplift of 5-6% for all social services charges
- 2) Above inflation increase to home care charges is applied.
- 3) A charge for Day Services- Older People is introduced
- 4) A charge for Day Services- Adults/ Special Needs is introduced
- 5) A charge for respite at home is introduced and aligned with the charge for other forms of home care.

The Welsh Government sets out what can be charged for within guidance and regulations about charging for social services, under Parts 4 & 5 of the Act:

[Part-4-and-5-code-of-practice-charging-and-financial-assessment](#)

The Council has its own charging policy for social services:

[Swansea Staffnet - Social Services Charging Policy](#)

(c) It was initially screened for relevance to Equality and Diversity on:
November 2017.

(d) It was found to be relevant to...

Children/young people (0-18)	☒	Sexual orientation	☒
Older people (50+).....	☒	Gender reassignment	☒
Any other age group	☒	Welsh language	☒
Disability	☒	Poverty/social exclusion.....	☒
Race (including refugees).....	☒	Carers (including young carers).....	☒
Asylum seekers	☒	Community cohesion	☒
Gypsies & Travellers.....	☒	Marriage & civil partnership	☒
Religion or (non-)belief	☒	Pregnancy and maternity	☒
Sex.....	☒		

(e) Lead Officer

(f) Approved by Head of Service

Name: Simon Jones

Job title: Strategic Performance & Improvement Officer

Date: 06/02/2018

Name: David Howes,
Chief Social Services Officer

Date: 06/02/2018

Section 1 – Aims (See guidance):

Briefly describe the aims of the initiative:

What are the aims?

Swansea Council's Charging Policy seeks to implement the Welsh Government policy on social care provision as set out in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2015, and the national charging framework, and to make these arrangements fully transparent to citizens and up to date.

The annual review of the list of charges (social services), including any revisions to Council's charging policy, is undertaken on behalf the Chief Social Services Officer.

The annual review leads to an updated List of Charges (Social Services) to be applied in the coming financial year (2018/19).

The annual review compares Swansea's charges against other Welsh Local Authorities, and considers the current pressures faced by social services.

Social Services is facing unprecedented challenges in terms of the numbers of people who need to access our services and the increasing costs of providing them.

With an ageing population and better and earlier diagnosis and treatment of long-term complex conditions such as learning disabilities and physical disabilities, people are living for longer with more complex needs. This trend increases the number of people who at some point in their lives might need some form of formal support.

Whilst the budget for Social Services has decreased slightly over the years, the costs particularly in the independent sector have increased significantly due to the key pressures linked to the costs of for example paying the national living wage, increased national insurance and pension contributions.

The increase in people needing support and the costs of providing it will continue to increase, so we need to get smarter in terms of how we support people. In line with the Social Services and Well-being Act, we need to encourage people to be as independent and self-supporting as possible so we can concentrate our services on those who really need them.

All of these factors are included in the annual review of charges.

The main proposals will impact on the following social care services

Domiciliary or Home Care: Social Services is committed to helping people to continue to live in their own homes for as long as possible. One of the main ways this is done is by providing a home care service (also known as domiciliary care). Home care provides practical help and support in carrying out personal or household tasks that enable people to continue to live at home. In most cases, this service is offered to people who would otherwise have to leave their own homes and live in residential care.

Respite Care at Home: Sometimes people who usually receive social care services in their own home may require short-term respite care at their home or in a residential care home perhaps to provide a break for a family member who helps to look after them.

The person needing care has alternative support for anything from a couple of hours up to a few weeks. These can be arranged regular or planned breaks, one-off breaks, or even at short notice to cope with an unexpected situation. These short breaks have traditionally been called respite and usually involved the cared-for person spending time in residential care. However there are also more flexible ways of accessing a break from caring that is right for families.

Day Services: a range of day services are available within Swansea to meet the needs of older

people and adults with special needs. These services provide a range of personal care and social activities which help maintain people's independence and enables them to remain safe and supported. For many years Swansea Council has provided social services day services for free whereas the vast majority of Welsh councils have been charging for them. These proposals aim to bring Swansea into line with some of them but the charges remain below those set by many others.

Who has responsibility?

Chief Social Services Officer

Who are the stakeholders?

There are many stakeholders and people who could be impacted by the changes.

- Citizens of Swansea.
- Current and potential service users, carers, families and people who are self-funding their care and support.
- Elected members, and client representatives/ advocates.
- Service providers, internal and commissioned, and partner organisations.
- Social Services workforce, particularly Adult Services.
- Adult Day Services covered by this proposal (new charge):
 - All Day Services for younger adults:
Abergelli - Birchgrove - Fforestfach (Toronto Place, Gorseinon Project and Ty Lafant) - Glandwr - Maesglas - Parkway - CREST, Cwmbwrla - Trewarren - West Cross - Whitethorns, New Horizons, Work Development and Flexible Support Social Clubs
 - All Day Services for older people:
Abergelli - Rose Cross - Hollies - Norton Lodge - St Johns - Ty Waunarlwydd - Llys y Werin - Ty Conway
 - Other day services included:
New Horizons, Work Development and Flexible Support Social Clubs
- Also Council's corporate and financial services, including Social Care Income and Finance Team who carry out financial assessments on all people to whom charges may apply, and Corporate complaints team

Section 2 - Information about Service Users (See guidance):

Please tick what information you have information on, in terms of service users:

Children/young people (0-18).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Welsh language	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Poverty/social exclusion.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carers (including young carers).....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & Travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Please provide a snapshot of the information you hold in relation to the protected groups above:

We deal with our users on an individual basis in order to meet the needs of the user. Personal information is gathered on current services, with the person's consent, during a social care assessment of an individual needs, as carried out under Part 3 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 ("The Act"). This social care assessment will cover protected characteristics of the local population who have approached the Council for social care and support. As such rather than focusing on the overall population, we focus on each individual in their own right

Since April 2016, the Council's statutory duties relating to the provision of social care are set out in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

In relation to information around service users Local Authority has a duty to offer an assessment to any adult where it appears to that authority the adult may have needs for care and support, and to carers who may have need for support to achieve wellbeing, in their own right.

After the completion of a social care assessment, based on analysis of the findings, the local authority will decide whether or not it should provide or arrange social care services for you, through a care and support plan. The authority uses a national eligibility framework to make any decision on how needs are best met, and following a carers assessment can also need to decide if they have eligible support needs which need to be met.

A financial assessment has to be offered where a charge may applies for services to meet an assted need through a care and support plan.

Individual information is considered as part of the social care assessment for users, the agreed care and support plans and the financial assessment for charging.

Where a person is lacking capacity to fully understand the charges, they may still be assessed as being able to contribute towards the cost of their care and support. However, a local authority must put in place policies regarding how they communicate charges, how they carry out financial assessment and how they apply charges in practice.

Under Part 2 of the Act, Swansea has to gather and analyse local population data on target population groups, which informs the population assessment, which underpins the development of a regional, Western Bay Area Plan for Health and Social Care (draft in preparation for public consultation). Also similar population data has helped to inform the

development of the Swansea Wellbeing Plan (draft under public consultation).

A regional population assessment is carried out every five years to highlight a number of **key** support and care needs and unmet needs, the majority of which are cross-cutting across target population groups, as follows:

- Increasing levels of need for people with complex needs, chronic and long term conditions
- Accessibility of services, including transport
- Preventative and support services within communities
- Loneliness and social isolation for improved health and wellbeing
- Information, advice and assistance
- Assistive technology and telecare provision for people to maintain independence
- Growing demand, diminishing resources
- Transition between adult's services and children's services
- Preventative (low level) and specialist mental health services for children and young people and adults (this section identified the highest number of support and care needs)
- Appropriate accommodation solutions for wide range of citizens with needs
- Supporting growing number of carers and young carers

All of the above, support the need for a sustainable model of social care to be delivered locally in response to changing needs

Any Actions Required e.g. to fill in information gaps?

- To continue to assess people' individual needs and financial circumstances in line with the statutory framework as outlined above.
- That each assessment continues to consider individual personal protected characteristic, and this information is taken into account during these assessments, and any decisions taken.

Section 3 - Impact on Protected Characteristics (See guidance):

Please consider the possible impact on the different protected characteristics. This could be based on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Needs further investigation
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sex	→	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	→	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	→	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	→	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	→	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	→	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	→	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	→	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	→	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thinking about your answers above, please explain in detail why this is the case.

The impacts to each of the different protected characteristic will be fully considered in each individual circumstance. If the new charges are agreed, each individual will have to undertake a financial assessment. The assessment will fully consider the social care assessment which contains an individual's personal profile details.

As the assessment are unable to be carried out prior to the introduction of a new/increased charge, the full impact can't be assessment until after implementation.

However the consultation responses show some potential impacts such as:

- Impact on people receiving benefits or with low income
- Impact on carers, and their relationship with cared for person
- As a disincentive to people accessing social care services
- Impact on the most vulnerable people/ target population groups such as older people, people with mental health needs, people with learning disabilities, people with physical disabilities, people with sensory impairments, people with complex health needs/ chronic conditions, young people reaching a transition to adult social services

Trends in people accessing services and the target population groups are monitored as part of the population needs assessment.

Clearly one of the main areas of feedback to the charging proposals has been that the greatest impact will fall on those people who are most economically challenged and carers, and therefore we have identified this in the table above.

In Swansea, the Council defines poverty as:

- Income below the Minimum Income Standard.
- Inadequate access to necessary services of good quality.
- Inadequate opportunity or resource to join in with social, cultural, leisure and decision making activities. Taken from:

Working towards prosperity for all in Swansea: A tackling poverty strategy for Swansea 2017-2020 - 'Our definition is not one relating solely to income, but to poverty of opportunity, participation and access to services.' p3

The Welsh Government's national charging framework has taken steps to ensure that the person's income levels are protected, and these arrangements were subject to their own EIA.

In applying the national framework on charging, local authorities must leave a person who is being charged with regard to a minimum income allowance.

This is defined within the Code of Practice for Parts 4 & 5 of the Act, as referred to above.

Section 4 - Engagement Please consider all of your engagement activities here, e.g. participation, consultation, involvement, co-productive approaches, etc.

What engagement has been undertaken to support your view? How did you ensure this was accessible to all?

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken (e.g. with the public and/or

members of protected groups) to support your view? Please provide details below.

The Council's budget consultation period was open for six weeks between 15th Dec. 2017 up to 2nd February 2018. Within the period the following activities took place

- Council opened up a budget consultation survey on the public website and paper copies of the survey were made available in public libraries and buildings.
- A letter from Chief Social Services Officer was given to services users attending day services, informing them about the budget proposals and the consultation on new charges, together with directions for the internet survey (approx. 960 service users)
- Hard copies of the letter, the consultation survey and answers to a set of Frequently Asked Questions were also provided to service managers and service users/carers on request.
- Day Services managers and staff were briefed to support service users in how to complete the consultation survey. Some information sharing events were also held in day services involving service users and carers, on request from the service.
- Social Services also identified those citizens who are most likely to be impacted by all of the proposed changes e.g. people who have received a financial assessment (open case), and a letter on behalf of the Chief Social Services Officer (approx. 2920 households).
- A small number of people receiving direct payments in lieu of day services who may not have received a financial assessment were also sent letters (approx.. 7 people)
- Some calls and letters were received and responded to by lead officers directly, though people were supported and asked to complete a survey response
- The responses received as part of the survey, which was closed on 2nd February 2018, and through consultation events held in services, though results are still to be fully collated, analysed and summarised.

In addition the corporate budget survey, the following informal consultation events/activities have taken place:

- LLys y Werin day service- two discussion groups held with service users, staff
- St Phillips flexible support day service: two discussion groups help with service users and carers
- Link social group (Tuesday evening) discussion group with service users and carers
- 3 meetings with day service managers to inform them about proposals and to brief them on supporting service users to complete budget survey
- Meeting held with each of the external day service providers: Swansea Carers Centre (Ty Arthur) and Gwalia (LlysyWerin)

Around 100 people attended the above events

Presentation and public questions were taken at Scrutiny Performance Panel – Adult Services, held on Tuesday, 16 January 2018 3.30 pm.

Support was provided to help people understand the consultation questions and what was expected to enable them to fully take part in the budget consultation survey.

What did your engagement activities tell you? What feedback have you received?

In terms of the specific charging proposals the following feedback was received:

2018 Council's Budget Survey Question/ results of responses received (%)	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree
As part of our annual review we are proposing a general uplift of 5-6% for all charges to	11.8	32.7	18.7	36.8

reflect inflationary pressures				
Introduce a new charge of £40 per day for the Older persons Day Services	9.1	18.7	24.1	48.1
Introduce a new charge of £50 per day for the Adults/Special Needs Day Services	8.8	16.6	24.2	50.4
Increase the charge for domiciliary care services, £15 per hour 2018/19, £17 per hour 2019/20, £19 per hour 2020/21	10.2	30.2	21.6	38.0
Introduce a charge for the respite at home service, £15 per hour 2018/19, £17 per hour 2019/20, £19 per hour 2020/21	10.7	29.5	19.9	39.8

- i) A general uplift of 5-6% for all charges to reflect inflationary pressures
59.6% of people who responded to the survey disagreed, or strongly disagreed with this proposal
Comments range from people accepting increasing costs of home care, and the need to pay decent wages, to other stating that what amounts to a 50% increase is outrageous.
- ii) Day Services - Older People's (new charge)
72.2% of people who responded disagreed or strongly disagreed with this proposal
Comments include that day services are vital and how much people look forward to attending but that the charge per day is too high.
- iii) Day Services -Adults with special needs day services (new charge)
74.6% of people who responded disagreed or strongly disagreed with this proposal
There has been strong comments from carers and service users on this proposal, which will impacts on a range of target population groups, and vulnerable adults: Mental Health, Learning Disability, Physical Disabilities, Sensory Impairment and Carers. These groups are also the most economically challenged, or marginalised. A number of parent/ carers have said they will pull the cared for person out of the service rather than pay a charge or allow them to be the subject of a financial assessment.
- iv) Respite at home service (new charge)
59.7% of people who responded disagreed or strongly disagreed with this proposal
Comments include by offering more support to those family carers that do the care, such as an hour or 2 respite, can help enable them to continue to provide long term personal care/meal provision, being proactive in preventing residential care admissions or hospital stays.

The survey also posed two additional questions, and invited responses:

- Please provide us with additional views on any of the above proposals:
- Do you have any other suggestions about how we could do things differently for Social Care Service?

A full list of the responses is being made available to Cabinet to support their consideration of the Annual Review of Charging (social services), on 15th February 2018.

Samples of feedback received:

Complaint received from carer (using comments related to charges only)

1. My son is disabled and has day service provision on the work development scheme. His placement is at the baler plant where he dismantles furniture and mattresses for recycling.

Obviously we are concerned about the recent proposals regarding paying for day service that the Council intend to introduce..... Most of the Service Users are unable to gain conventional employment and are claiming PIP / DLA, therefore they do not have the means to pay. How will this means tested scheme apply? When will it be introduced? Will our service provision be reduced? Does it include Respite charges? I take and collect my son but others cannot- will their transport be affected? Will the provision be improved/be more flexible? My Sons provision ends at 2.20pm, would this be extended? Can Direct Payments be used to access Day Service?

2. Community Mental Health Social Work teams have written to the Chief Social Services Officer to express collective concern around introducing charges for CREST day services. That it may discourage people from attending vital services to improve their mental health and well-being. Many of the clients are already experiencing severe financial hardship. Although clients on section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983 are unaffected by charges, many clients are voluntary. That charges will place an increased burden on 3rd sector and voluntary services and lead to the closure of CREST.

How have you changed your initiative as a result?

There are no changes in the proposals at this stage, pending Cabinet decision
However further work is to be undertaken to look at the costs and charging for low cost day services and work placement schemes.

Any actions required (e.g. further engagement activities, mitigation to address any adverse impact, etc.):

All service users are considered eligible for a charge, subject to financial assessment of their means to pay.

In Wales, under the Act, there is a maximum weekly charge for homecare and other non-residential, community based, social care services.

The current maximum charge from 10 April 2017 is £70 per week, and this is also reviewed annually by the Welsh Government.

This had been in operation for a number of years already and is the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, is now part of financial assessment and charging statutory guidance.

The Parts 4 & 5 Code of Practice guidance advises Local Authorities that:

- "because a person who receives care and support outside a care home will need to pay their daily living costs such as rent, food and utilities, the charging framework seeks to ensure they have enough money to meet these costs".
- "As a result after charging local authorities must leave a person who is being charged with a minimum income amount".

Where a person is lacking capacity to fully understand the charges, they may still be assessed as being able to contribute towards the cost of their care and support. However, a local authority must put in place policies regarding how they communicate charges, how they carry out financial assessment and how they apply charges in practice.

Clearly there are some significant impacts arising from increasing the chargeable amounts listed in the revised Council's charging policy (social services), and in applying new charges

for day services. People who are eligible to be charged are already protected by three important policy entitlements:

- there are personal thresholds set by the Welsh Government: namely a maximum weekly charge to be set at £70 per week (2017/18)
- National statutory guidance requires that each person is offered a financial assessment of their means, in relation to ability to contribute to the charges for the care and support they require
- There are clear principles, in policy, that a person's ability to pay should not precluding access to care and support or that the charges for care and support should not exceed the costs of provision.
- Carers may also impacted by increases to charges and new charges, as this could reduce the household income and increase the costs of receiving social care, in respect of the carer for person.

If a service user declines to receive a service to meet their needs because of the imposition of new charges, then the care and support plan will still have to address their needs, with their agreement. Alternative care and support arrangements may be sought out in this situation, including the offer of direct payments, carers support services or other local support arrangements.

Actions proposed:

- The offer of a direct payment can help address care and support needs, and the Council also needs to review cases where there is take up of day services using direct payments
- Support to carers, and improve offer of carers assessment

Section 5 Other Impacts:

Please consider how the initiative might address the following issues- see the specific Section 5 Guidance.

Foster good relations between different groups	Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
Elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Reduction of social exclusion and poverty

Please explain any possible impact on each of the above.

Foster relations between different groups- the services affected will still be available and offered to individuals with protected characteristics with an assessed and eligible need for managed care and support, or carer with support needs.

Advance equality of opportunity between different groups

Principles of equality and diversity run through all social services practice in carrying out assessments and providing support to people in need, and these are reflected within the Council's charging policy and arrangements.

Elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation

All social services, and council employees have a duty to safeguard and protect service users and vulnerable people. Any occurrence of discrimination, harassment and victimisation with a detrimental impact on

Reduction of social exclusion and poverty

It is the Council's intention to maintain vital social services to meet local population needs. It is recognised by Council that social services touch many people's lives and impacts on the most vulnerable in our communities. A fair and equitable financial assessment, supported by Council policy and robust arrangements, will help to protect those people who are both economically and socially vulnerable.

During the consultation, attention (letter from regional elected representative) was drawn to work recently undertaken by the National Assembly's Health and Social Care Committee which looked into the issue of loneliness and isolation among our elderly population, which showed clearly that Council-run Days Centres such as these play a key role in supporting that agenda. The evidence shows that keeping elderly people active, and ensuring that they have centres in which to meet, helps maintain their health, and essentially reduces the financial burden on health and social services.

What work have you already done to improve any of the above?

Working with providers to align the annual review of charges to the Council's fees setting process with local providers, and with the corporate budget setting processes.

Is the initiative likely to impact on Community Cohesion? Please provide details.

It is unlikely that the proposals for changes to the charging policy or charges as applied will, in themselves, impact community cohesion however the responses from carers to the proposals have been the strongest and clearest in opposing increased or new charges for adult social care.

How will the initiative meet the needs of Welsh speakers and learners?

None of the proposals that we are consulting on will affect access to services in an individual's preferred language, including Welsh.

Actions (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).

- Update and improve public information available on charging and financial assessment
- Translation of public information materials (fact sheets/ Information leaflets/ web pages) into Welsh, and other languages on request

Section 6 - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC):

Many initiatives have an indirect impact on children and you will need to consider whether the impact is positive or negative in relation to both children's rights and their best interests. Please read the UNCRC guidance before completing this section.

Will the initiative have any impact (direct or indirect) on children and young people? (think about this age group holistically e.g disabled children, those living in poverty or from BME communities)

If not, please briefly explain your answer and proceed to Section 7.

No charges apply to children or their parent / carers at this time. There may be a small number of young people who are experiencing transitional care and support arrangements towards receiving adult social services. The rights of young people who

may have been looked after or who may have disabilities are consider by a social workers as part of their transition plan, and the offer of advocacy is also an option. Each young person can expect their rights to be fully reflected in their care and support planning, and through the financial assessment process, as applied.

Is the initiative designed / planned in the best interests of children and young people? Please explain your answer.

Best interests of the child (Article 3): The best interests of children must be the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them. All adults should do what is best for children. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. This particularly applies to budget, policy and law makers.

Current arrangements are designed to ensure that children and young people are not charged for services, and this remains the Council's position until the age of 18 is reached.

Actions (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).

- Continue to the rights of young people who may have been looked after or who may have disabilities as part of their transition plan
- Each young person can expect their rights to be fully reflected in their care and support planning, and through the financial assessment process, as applied.

Section 7 - Monitoring arrangements:

Please explain the arrangements in place (or those which will be put in place) to monitor this initiative:

Monitoring arrangements:

Where there is a new charge applied, each individual who does not have a current financial assessment, will be offered as financial assessment, as stated in current Council policy.

Each individual financial assessment is subject to review annually, and where there are changes to individual circumstances or the services received.

Next annual review of charges to be completed by September 2018.

Actions:

Implement improvements to improve design of consultation process, e.g. linked to commissioning reviews and coproduction principles

Section 7 – Outcomes:

Having completed sections 1-5, please indicate which of the outcomes listed below applies to your initiative (refer to the guidance for further information on this section).

Outcome 1: Continue the initiative – no concern

Outcome 2: Adjust the initiative – low level of concern

Outcome 3: Justify the initiative – moderate level of concern

Outcome 4: Stop and refer the initiative – high level of concern.

For outcome 3, please provide the justification below:

For outcome 4, detail the next steps / areas of concern below and refer to your Head of Service / Director for further advice:

Working within the national charging framework and to bring Swansea in line with other Welsh Local Authorities in how charges are applied to citizens, The financial assessment process will ensure that people are treated equally and fairly within their individual circumstances. If they cannot afford to pay the charges then this will not preclude people from receiving social services.

Section 8 - Publication arrangements:

On completion, please follow this 3-step procedure:

- 1. Send this EIA report and action plan to the Access to Services Team for feedback and approval – accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk**
- 2. Make any necessary amendments/additions.**
- 3. Provide the final version of this report to the team for publication, including email approval of the EIA from your Head of Service. The EIA will be published on the Council's website - this is a legal requirement.**

Action Plan:

Objective - What are we going to do and why?	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	Outcome - How will we know we have achieved our objective?	Progress
Future charging and funding of lower cost day services to be considered within commissioning reviews	Commissioning lead	Linked to commissioning review timescales	Future model linked to Optimal model in Adult Services	
Future charging and funding of Work Placement schemes, to be considered within commissioning review	Commissioning lead	Linked to commissioning review timescales	Future model linked to Optimal model in Adult Services	
Review Direct payments offer, and cases where take up of day services using direct payments	Principal Social Worker- Adult Services	End of 2018	Reviews completed	
Update and improve accessibility of public information on charging and financial assessments	TBA	End of 2018	Public accessing updated information via council website	
Support to carers, and improve offer of carers assessment	Principal Social Worker- Well-being, Prevention and Commissioning	End of 2018	Carers strategy-coproduced with carers	

Please remember to be 'SMART' when completing your action plan (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely)