



Annual Review of Swansea Council Charging Policy (Social Services) - 2018-2019

Report on behalf of Social Services Finance and Charging Group

October 2018 v3.2

1. Introduction

1.1 This report sets out Swansea Council's annual review of social services charges, in relation to with recommendations to inform a new list of charges, **due to come into effect from April 2019**.

1.2 The Council's Charging Policy (Social Services) meets a statutory requirement under section 59 of the Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. This requires the Council to show how it intends to apply those discretionary powers on charges conferred by Welsh Government within the policy and regulatory: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/section/59>

1.3 This second annual review report provides a full analysis of how charges are working, by considering the statutory context, council policy, what people are telling us, how current arrangements are working and impact on equalities issues. This report provides a clear set of recommendations, and a revised List of Charges 2019/20 (Appendix 1.)

1.4 Recognising that our services users are among the most vulnerable citizens in Swansea, it is important that Swansea has a clear and transparent framework for charging for social services, and robust process for reviewing charges, that meets both corporate and statutory requirements.

2. Policy Context

2.1 In April 2016, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 was implemented. The Act introduced changes in the way in which a local authority can charge for its social care services. Within a national framework, Welsh Governments retains control over setting caps, thresholds and personal allowances which are set annually by amendment issued to Care and Support (Charging) (Wales) Regulations 2015, and by ministerial statement.

Among the main changes introduced by the Welsh Government are:

- A single financial assessment framework, not a different one for residential and non-residential forms of social care.
- Timescales for individuals to be provided with and to provide information on charges before and after a financial assessment, set at 15 working days
- Up to 6 week reablement, free of charge to enable a person to maintain or regain their ability to live independently at home

- Short term residents in a care home (e.g. respite) are charged within maximum weekly charge, as if they were still at home
- Allowances for disregards of war pensions, initially set at £25.
- Following an assessment and the agreement of a care and support plan, a statement of charge, with service user contributions, must be provided before charges can apply, and liability commences from when the person first receives care and support
- The annual review of social care charging to extend from non-residential, community based services to include residential care.

2.2 Under the Taking Wales Forward programme, the Welsh Government made two key commitments, which impact on Local Authority charging policy:

- To uplift the capital allowance as applied to residential care charges from £24,000 to £50,000 in a phased approach
- To apply a full disregard of the war disablement pensions in financial assessments

Also the Welsh Government undertook to annually review the maximum weekly charge as applied to non-residential care services, and the maximum weekly allowance for people in residential care.

2.3 Current National Directives:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2018/123/regulation/2/made>

<https://gov.wales/newsroom/health-and-social-services/2018/limit-increases/?lang=en>

At present (April 2018) the current amendments are:

- (a) in regulation 7 (maximum weekly charge for non-residential care and support), in paragraph (1), is “£80”;
- (b) in regulation 11 (relevant capital limit), in paragraph (2)(a), is “£40,000”;
- (c) in regulation 13 (minimum income amount where a person is provided with accommodation in a care home) is “£28.50”;
- (d) in regulation 22 (maximum weekly contribution or reimbursement for non-residential care and support), in paragraph (1), is “£80”;
- (e) in regulation 28 (minimum income amount where a person is provided with accommodation in a care home) is “£28.50”.

2.4 Under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, a local authority can only charge individuals:

- Up to the cost of providing the service
- What the person can afford to pay for an assessed for service

Where a council decides to charge for the care a person receives it must do so in accordance with the regulations and codes of practice in Parts 4 & 5 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (the Act). The Act states that any charges cannot be set at a level higher than the cost of providing the service. The charges can only relate to the ‘cost that the local authority incurs in meeting the needs to which the charge applies’ (section 59-2).

2.5 In most circumstances, the council must also offer a financial assessment to citizens to ensure any charge made for care and support is reasonable compared to the person’s financial means. Although charges are applied under a single policy framework, there are still some

differences between calculating a charge for non-residential care (a maximum weekly charge may apply and a capital threshold limit may apply), and calculating a charge for residential care (capital threshold may apply).

2.6 Financial Assessment

SCIFT- the Council's Social Care Income and Finance Team (SCIFT) undertakes financial assessments, on behalf of Social Services, in order to calculate how much a client must contribute towards the cost of their care. The team is also responsible for client contributions that in respect of outstanding care and support charges: <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/staffnet/SCIFT>

3. Annual Review of Charges

3.1 From the above, Local Authorities therefore only have a certain amount of discretion about how charges for social care are applied. This Annual report of the Social Services Finance and Charging Group sets out the case for any changes and provides a List of Charges to come into effect in 2019/20 (see Appendix 1), and which are to appended to the latest version of the Charging Policy (Social Services).

3.2 By Implementing an annual review of charges –Swansea Council is following Wales Audit Office guidance on reviewing public services charges:

<https://www.wao.gov.uk/system/files/publications/income-generation-2016-eng.pdf>

3.3 Under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2016, public policy has to incorporate “Five Ways of working”:

- Long term
- Collaborative
- Preventative
- Integrated
- Involvement

This review has applied this approach, setting out a model for the annual review of charges as agreed by the Finance and Charging group, chaired by Dave Howes, Corporate Director of Social Services. Swansea's Annual Review model aims to ensure the charging policy continues to be based on strong principles, to support full cost recovery and to demonstrate transparency in approach.

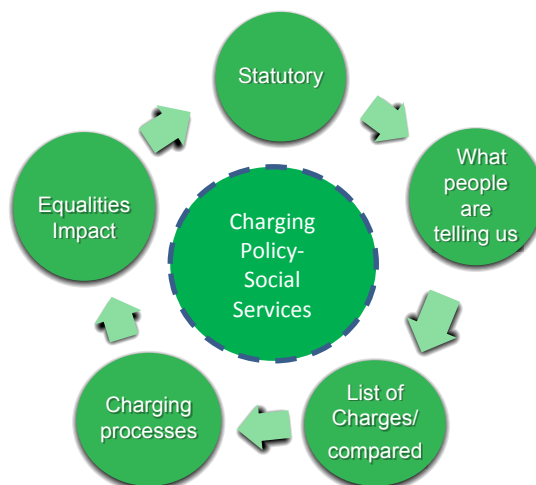


Figure 1. Swansea Model for Annual review of charging (social services)

4. Statutory considerations

4.1 Current position

The current financial situation for Social Services is extremely challenging. Significant future financial pressures, current overspends and continued austerity mean that we have to look towards charging for local authority social services as a means of ensuring the sustainability of our services.

At present charges are set within Adult Services. Swansea Council's Corporate Plan (2018-22) has as a strategic priority, which is to safeguard the most vulnerable people, whilst providing sustainable services by supporting more people to remain in their own homes, within their own communities and to support carers. Swansea Council's approach to charging, continues to be based on the principle of full cost recovery. The trajectory set by current policy is to strengthen the service offer within community-based services and to target residential provision where there is specialist need. The trajectories towards a tiered model is set out in detail in the Adult Services Optimal Service Model.

This report is the third annual review of charges 2019/20, which sets the list of charges to apply in 2019/20, and builds on the work undertaken last year to bring Swansea's charging closer in line with the rest of Wales.

4.2 Social Services Charging policy

Some important changes were made to Swansea Council's Charging (social services) policy- and the appended list of charges, following last year's annual review of charges. These changes were made to bring Swansea' approach to charging more in line with other Welsh Councils.

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/staffnet/socialservicescharging>

Swansea's corporate financial policy on setting charges for all services sets out an expectation to aim for *Full Cost recovery* where possible, and to operate within the key principles set out in the Sustainable Swansea programme, and through objectives in the Corporate Plan 2018-22.

To work towards full cost recovery, the Council must fully understand the costs of delivering services to the public, and where there are factors which cause variations in costs over a period of time.

Within this annual review, the most recently available 'unit costs', across the accepted categories of social services, have been used as the basis for reviewing current charges. This review has to ensure that unit costs of services are based on accurate figures for service usage, and estimates of all the costs are applied.

4.3 What people are telling us

Generally, Swansea citizens support the need for a sustainable model of social care to be delivered locally in response to changing needs

The recent public consultation exercise, carried out in 2017/18, highlights some concerns 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

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 the most economically challenged and their carers.

As set out above, the Welsh Government's national charging framework has taken steps to ensure that the person's income is protected through a minimum income allowance, and a cap on weekly social care charges. These national arrangements were subject to their own Equalities Impact Assessment published in December 2016.

<https://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/170330eia5en.pdf>

The national caps and thresholds set by Welsh Government within this framework are also reviewed annually by Ministers. The impacts of new charges implemented locally are also assessed each of the different 'protected characteristics' as well as being fully considered in each individual circumstance, through the financial assessment and at population level by the Equality Impact Assessment process.

Last Year, new charges were introduced by Swansea Council for day services and respite at home. Each individual who were received these services and who had not previously been assessed for charges, were invited to undertake a new financial assessment. This assessment will fully consider the social care assessment, which contains an individual's personal profile details as well as their individual economic and financial circumstances in detail.

4.4 Comparisons with other Welsh Local Authorities.

A full review of other Council's published charges for social care was carried out this year.

A full Table (**Appendix 2**) shows how Swansea compares against the most recently available charges, other Welsh Local Authorities.

5. List of Charges to apply in 2019/20

5.1 Overall, the list of charges to apply in Swansea in 2019/20 will have to accurately reflect the inflationary pressures that are expected to impact on social care services in particular, such as increasing wage levels, staffing costs and new professional requirements.

5.2 Long Term Residential Care

During this year, there were changes made to those service categories used within the List of Charges, to better describe the full range of residential care services provided and to reflect population groups accessing this type of care and support (Appendix 1 Table).

The Finance and Charging group looks at how the charging policy is implemented, and for ways of improving practices. Currently, the Authority may become aware that a placement is subject to a third party top up, when a contract or placement agreement, which is issued by the Social Worker to the provider and service user. The current process to ensure finance team are notified of any placement agreement which includes an agreement to pay 3rd Party Top ups- with guidance to be issued to social workers.

This year, the same as last year, the proposal is to apply an inflationary uplift of 5% to all categories of in-house residential care, with charges for external residential /nursing care to reflect the % fee increase yet to be agreed with providers.

5.3 Domiciliary Care or Home Care

This category includes respite at home, and supported living. This annual review recognises there is a need to move towards full cost recovery for all external services whilst ensuring that a greater proportion of users pay the maximum they are assessed as being capable of paying.

Within our domiciliary care service in Adult Services, there is a disparity between the amount charged by Swansea Council and the cost of providing the service, and this is set to remain. This year 2018/19, Swansea Council has increased the hourly charge of care at home to £15 per hour to begin addressing that gap.

The hourly rate for externally commissioned care at home services 2018/19 is still being calculated. As part of the Sustainable Swansea programme, Swansea Council are currently engaged in a commissioning review of this service.

Following this review, there are plans to change the current delivery model, and how we commissioning services from the social care market, possibly through a re-tendering process. This review process will lead to a new fee structure for external home care provision going forward, and a more targeted in-house provision providing reablement and specialist care and support

The timetable, set out in last year's annual review of charges report by the Director of Social Services, and agreed by Cabinet, put forward the charges for home care/ domiciliary care in 2019/20, together with a further inflationary increases set to apply in 2020/21.

This annual review therefore proposes that for domiciliary care the agreed timetable is applied and the charge increases to £17/hour in 2019/20.

5.4 Day Services

During this year, we have successfully implemented new charges for Day Services to Adults. This involved **250** additional financial assessments and, at time of reporting, about half of these have been returned by service users/carers. Invoices are scheduled to be sent out in November, and it is following that assessments will then be returned. Charges will only apply to those service users with the means to pay.

The proposal from this review is that an inflationary increase in charges for day services is applied for 2019/2020 (see Appendix 1).

5.5 Short term residential Care

This category includes respite care, temporary short-term emergency or planned placements. Charging for these services is subject to maximum weekly charge and this is capped (currently set at £80 per week), in all cases.

5.6 Other charges

Charges for telecare/ lifeline, and for provision of meals within services, to be increased in line with inflation rate set at 5%.

5.7 Consideration of new charges

There are no new charges within the List of Charges (Social Services) 2019/20.

Proposals for new charges are discussed at the Social Services Finance and Charging group in the first instance, and these proposals are considered alongside a detailed business case and Equalities Impact Assessment form.

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

6.1 Screening

This report is set to apply previously agreed timetable of charges for domiciliary care, and an inflationary increase to other services in the list of charges to apply from April 2019. An updated Equalities Impact Assessment screening form has been undertaken at this stage (attached in Appendix 3), with the agreed outcome a full EIA assessment was not required at this stage

A full EIA form was undertaken last year when new services, such as day services and respite at home were being introduced as new charges, as well as above inflationary increases in hourly charges for domiciliary care.

6.2 Actions from last year's EIA

The following actions were set to mitigate the impact of charging policy on certain groups:

- The offer of a direct payment is extended to help meet and individual's assessed care and support needs, and as an alternative to domiciliary care. Swansea Council is also reviewing cases, where individuals are receiving direct payments in order to access day services, to achieve their personal well-being outcomes
- Commissioning a range of support to carers, and steps being taken to identify carers, and improving the offer of carers assessment.
- Updating and improving access to public information on the range of services available, the services for which charges apply and support available through financial assessment
- Translation of public information materials (fact sheets/ Information leaflets/ web pages) into Welsh, and other languages on request

These actions are implemented and monitored through the Social Services Finance and Charging group.

7. Summary & Recommendations

7.1 This annual review has taken into account:

- National directives on charging for social services in Wales
- Costs of providing social care services are subject to inflationary pressures
- Significant changes made last year, and still to be fully implemented (day services)
- Comparatively, Swansea's charging framework is closer to other Wales LAs
- Areas for new charging are considered within Social Services Finance and Charging group
- Any changes to charging policy has to consider whether people with care and support needs may decide they cannot afford to pay charges and then decide not to attend services.

7.2 Recommendations

- To propose that Cabinet accept the annual review of changes, and an inflationary increase of 5% for all social services charges
- For domiciliary care, the timetables agreed by Council last year is implemented, with a charge of £17/hour to be applied in 2019/20.
- There are no new service charges set out within the List of Charges (Social Services) to apply in 2019/20.
- Cabinet to approve the list of social services charges to apply from 1st April 2019, for the year 2019/20.
- A new List of charges 2019/20 (Appendix 1), once agreed, to be appended as a revision to the Council's Charging (social services) policy.

Appendix 1. Swansea Council List of Charges (to apply in 2019/20)

These are the amount clients will be charged for social care services, subject to any limits on the maximum charge specified by Welsh Government.

a) Residential care and support services

Charges for residential care are means tested. Residents may only be required to pay a contribution towards the total weekly cost. In certain circumstances, residents may be required to pay the full cost of residential care.

The costs shown below for privately owned care homes are indicative of the weekly costs at care homes, which accept the Council's usual rates. Some homes may charge more.

Long Term Residential Care			
Charges for Services per category	Weekly charges in 2018/19	Weekly charges in 2019/20	% Increase/ Comment
Council owned residential care homes			
Elderly care	£557.05	£584.90	5%
Dementia Care	£557.05	£584.90	5%
Learning Disabilities	£1,459.69	£1,532.67	5%
Mental Health	£1,459.69	£1,532.67	5%
Younger Adults	£1,459.69	£1,532.67	5%
Privately owned care homes			
Residential Care			
Older persons	£530	£556.50	TBC, to reflect agreed % fee increase
Mental Health	£530	£556.50	As above
Learning Disabilities	£530	£556.50	As above
Younger Adults	£572	£600.60	As above
Nursing care			
Older persons	£599	£628.95	TBC, to reflect agreed % fee increase
Mental Health	£599	£628.95	As above
Learning Disabilities	£599	£628.95	As above
Dementia Nursing Care	£615	£645.75	As above
Younger Adults	£613	£643.65	5%

Short Term Residential Care (Local Authority and Private Sector)			
Charges for Services	Weekly charges in 2018/19	Weekly charges in 2019/20	Comment
All adults Short term residential care up to 8 weeks (known as Respite care, re-ablement (from week 6 and up to week 8) or temporary short-term emergency or planned placement)	£80	£Dependent on maximum weekly charge	
Temporary residential care (up to 52 weeks). Where the placement is known to last more than 8 weeks from the outset or from week 9 when a short term residential care placement has been extended, the charging rates will be the same as the long term residential rates shown in the previous table			

b) Non-residential, community-based care and support Services

- Domiciliary Care – is care in the client’s home provided by a private sector provider
- Home Care – is care in the client’s home provided by the Local Authority

Charges for Services	Charges in 2018/19	Charges in 2019/20	% Increase/ Comment
Means tested up to the maximum standard charge as outlined in the categories below			
Home Care			
Domiciliary Care or Home Care, including respite at home, supported living	£15.00 per hour	£17.00 per hour	Agreed last year
Day Services Older People			
Older Persons Day Services	£40 per day, up to a maximum charge of £80 per week No charge	£42 per day, up to a maximum charge of £80 per week No charge	5%
Day Services Younger Adults			
Younger Adults/ Special Needs Day Services	£50 /day	£52.50/day	5%

c) Flat rate charges for other services provided by Swansea Council

These charges are not subject to a means test or a maximum charge.

Charges for Services	Charges in 2018/19	Charges in 2019/20	% Increase/ Comment
Telecare / Lifeline	£2.63	£2.76/week	5%
Meals (within community-based, day services)	£3.50 /day	£3.68	5%
Court of Protection Deputyship	£745 application fee; £775 for first year management and £650 per year thereafter if over £16,000 in net assets, or 3.5% if these are under £16,000; Other additional charges may apply: - £300 property management fee - £216 preparation and lodgement of an annual report.	No change	These are fixed rate charges for Local Authorities set by the Court of Protection (Part 19 of the Court of Protection Rules 2007) and revised rates apply from 1 April 2017
Pre Deputy support charge	£5 per week	No change	Approved by Cabinet and commenced on 1 April 2017. Fees taken retrospectively from date of case management to date of Court order when replaced by Court fees above.

APPENDIX 2: Annual Review of Charges – Tables

How Swansea compares to other Welsh Local Authorities, within main categories for Adult Social Care charges (following quick email survey)

(NB some service heading may be defined differently by a particular Welsh LA- e.g. whether includes short term or reablement provision)

All figures shown in the following table are social services charges as agreed and applied by these Councils in 2017/18, unless stated otherwise.							
Local Authority	Home Care (subject to weekly charge)	Day Care (subject to weekly charge)	Direct Payments	Residential Care Long Term /Temp Elderly/ week	Residential Care Short Term/ Respite (weekly charge applies)	Telecare/ Lifeline	Other
Swansea (2018/18)	£15 /hour	£50/day	PA Rate = N/a	Scale of rates from £557.05 (older people) to £1,459.69 for (younger adults)	£70 or means tested to res. care rate	£2.76/ week fixed rate	Meals =£3.50
Blaenau Gwent	£20.20 / hour	£55.10 per session	£13.90 per hour	General £474 EMI £603.70 LA EMI Res = £875.30	Banded £54.94 (A) to £79.27 (D) per night		Supported Living Services £22.20 per hour
Bridgend	£17.92 per hour	Rates from £32 per day up to £60.29 perday	Variable	Res. = £508-£622 High dep Res = £542 -£614 V.Dep Res. (MH) =£578 Nursing = £691.67-£813.67 (sp. Dementia rate)	Variable	One person in a household £5.08 per week Two people in a household £3.81 each per week	Meals in day centres =£4.37 per day

All figures shown in the following table are social services charges as agreed and applied by these Councils in 2017/18, unless stated otherwise.							
Local Authority	Home Care (subject to weekly charge)	Day Care (subject to weekly charge)	Direct Payments	Residential Care Long Term /Temp Elderly/ week	Residential Care Short Term/ Respite (weekly charge applies)	Telecare/ Lifeline	Other
Carmarthenshire	£10.55 / hour	£10.30 per session	£10.55 per hour	N/a	Standard charge at Ind. Placement rate	£1.18 monitoring £2.94 monitor & pendant	Meals = £4.30 Supported Living - £10.50 per hour
Caerphilly	£10.49/ hour	£5.60 per day	£10.49	LA Care Homes Elderly Frail - £576; EMI/High Dep - £852 Ind Sector rates: Elderly Residential - £557 EMI/High Dep Res - £608 Nursing - £547 EMI/High Dep Nursing - £605			Meal at Day Centre = £3.10 Supported Living = "10.49
Cardiff	Maximum weekly charge applied for Non-Residential Care Services	Maximum weekly charge for Non-Residential Care Services	N/a	£437 per week	Maximum weekly charge applied for Non-Residential Care Services	Telecare £3.97/week Lifeline =£4.56/week	Meals = £4.60

All figures shown in the following table are social services charges as agreed and applied by these Councils in 2017/18, unless stated otherwise.							
Local Authority	Home Care (subject to weekly charge)	Day Care (subject to weekly charge)	Direct Payments	Residential Care Long Term /Temp Elderly/ week	Residential Care Short Term/ Respite (weekly charge applies)	Telecare/ Lifeline	Other
Flintshire	£16.14 an hour	£21 a day	N/a	Residential / Very dependent = £526.87 Elderly mentally ill (EMI) residential = £547.33	Maximum weekly charge applied for Non-Residential Care Services Maximum wee		Meals = £3.15 Project/Support work: £16.14 an hour
Newport	£14 per hour	LD = £75 MH/OP = £56	Based on actual costs	Residential = £550 EMI= £605	Based on actual cost	Based on actual costs	Meals = £3.00
NPT	£14 per hour	£28 per attendance Other LA Day Care £39– elderly (£51 with transport) £72 –people with LD	Value of Direct Payment	Gwalia: £547 existing £675.63 new other providers £538	£70 per night	£2.50/ week fixed rate	Meals = £4.50
Pembs	Just finished consultation on charges, review underway and expecting to go back to Cabinet for final decision.						

All figures shown in the following table are social services charges as agreed and applied by these Councils in 2017/18, unless stated otherwise.							
Local Authority	Home Care (subject to weekly charge)	Day Care (subject to weekly charge)	Direct Payments	Residential Care Long Term /Temp Elderly/ week	Residential Care Short Term/ Respite (weekly charge applies)	Telecare/ Lifeline	Other
Powys	£20.50 per hour	£15 per day No charge transport	N/a	N/a	£70 per week per single episode of care	£2 per week	Meals at day centre = £7.50
RCT	Maximum weekly charge, with additional 5% disregard	Maximum weekly charge, with additional 5% disregard		N/a	N/a	Disregard applied to AT if part of assessed need	Meals =
Torfaen	Up to £15.20 per hour	Ty Nant Du £92.20 per day Block commissioning- day opportunities contract- no charge	Up to £15.20 per hour	Res = £534 Nursing = £623 EMI Res = £585 EMI Nursing £642	Max weekly charge applies	Installation £62.40 flat rate Also £62.40 per year	Community Meals = £4.50 Supported Living up to £15.20/hour
Vale of Glamorgan	Maximum weekly charge applies Charges range from £13.00 per hour to £19.61 per hour	Maximum weekly charge applies: Costs Older People £60; Learning Disability £102; Physical Disability £57	N/a	Standard: £559.00 per week (2016/17) Dementia care = £618.00 (2016/17)	Maximum weekly charge applies	TeleV = £5.15 TeleV + = £8.59/ week	Meals = £4.75

All figures shown in the following table are social services charges as agreed and applied by these Councils in 2017/18, unless stated otherwise.							
Local Authority	Home Care (subject to weekly charge)	Day Care (subject to weekly charge)	Direct Payments	Residential Care Long Term /Temp Elderly/ week	Residential Care Short Term/ Respite (weekly charge applies)	Telecare/ Lifeline	Other
Wrexham	Max. weekly charge applies £16.13 per hour (day or night)	Max. weekly charge Day Opps: £24.00 per day, £12.00 per half day	N/a	N/a	Maximum weekly charge applied for Non-Residential Care Services	£4.00 /week over 52 weeks private tenant £3.69 over 48 weeks council tenants	Shared Lives £24.00 per session Project worker = £14.48 per hour

Appendix 3: EQUALITIES IMPACT SCREENING TOOL– v 2017/18

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form. If you would like further guidance please contact the Access to Services team (see guidance for details).

Section 1

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: SOCIAL SERVICES

Directorate: PEOPLE

Q1(a) WHAT ARE YOU SCREENING FOR RELEVANCE?

Service/ Function	Policy/ Procedure	Project	Strategy	Plan	Proposal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(b) Please name and describe here:**Annual Review of Charges (Social Services) 2018/19**

This EIA covers the Annual Review of Charges (Social Services) which sets out the list of charges (social services) to be applied in 2019/20, as shown within the Swansea Council's Charging Policy (Social Services):

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/staffnet/socialservicescharging>

The main changes proposed this year are:

- An inflationary uplift of 5% for all social services charges
- For domiciliary care, the timetables agreed by Council last year is to be applied, with a charge of £17/hour to be applied in 2019/20, an increase of £2.00/hour.

The Welsh Government sets out what can be charged for, within national statutory guidance, regulations and codes of practice about charging for social services, under Parts 4 & 5 of the Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, which came into effect on 3rd April 2016:

<https://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/180409pt45en.pdf>

This new statutory framework **was subject to the Welsh Governments own Equalities Impact Assessment, published in Dec. 2016:**

<https://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/170330eia5en.pdf>

Q2(a) WHAT DOES Q1a RELATE TO?

Direct front line service delivery	Indirect front line service delivery	Indirect back room service delivery
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (H)	<input type="checkbox"/> (M)	<input type="checkbox"/> (L)

(b) DO YOUR CUSTOMERS/CLIENTS ACCESS THIS...?

Because they need to	Because they want to	Because it is automatically provided to	On an internal basis

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (H)	<input type="checkbox"/> (M)	everyone in Swansea <input type="checkbox"/> (M)	i.e. Staff <input type="checkbox"/> (L)
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Q3 WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE FOLLOWING...

	High Impact (H)	Medium Impact (M)	Low Impact (L)	Don't know (H)
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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

Q4 WHAT ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION / CO-PRODUCTIVE APPROACHES WILL YOU UNDERTAKE?

Please provide details below – either of your planned activities or your reasons for not undertaking engagement

The Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act contains provisions to allow for Welsh Government Ministers to monitor and amend functions of the Act carried out by local authorities and other bodies. Ministers may require these bodies to report on their duties in implementing these regulations.

Consequently, it is the role of Welsh Government to commission a full post implementation evaluation of the national charging framework, and to consult on the impact of the changes implemented by local authorities' in charging for care and support. This evaluation includes people with protected characteristics.

Q5(a) HOW VISIBLE IS THIS INITIATIVE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC?

High visibility <input type="checkbox"/> (H)	Medium visibility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (M)	Low visibility <input type="checkbox"/> (L)
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(b) WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL RISK TO THE COUNCIL'S REPUTATION?
(Consider the following impacts – legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

High risk <input type="checkbox"/> (H)	Medium risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (M)	Low risk <input type="checkbox"/> (L)
---	--	--

Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes No **If yes, please provide details below**

Some impact on a range of Council services, including budget, income & finance, legal, poverty & prevention, support to carers and community- based services

Q7 HOW DID YOU SCORE?

Please tick the relevant box

**MOSTLY H and/or M → HIGH PRIORITY → EIA to be completed
Please go to Section 2**

**MOSTLY L → LOW PRIORITY / NOT RELEVANT → Do not complete EIA
Please go to Q8 followed by Section 2**

Q8 If you determine that this initiative is not relevant for an EIA report, you must provide a full explanation here. Please ensure that you cover all of the relevant protected groups.

The Council's Charging policy (social services) was agreed by Council in March 2016, following a full Equalities Impact Assessment, which was carried out to consider and consult on how the policy is applied to all client groups that are able to access residential and non-residential community care services. The policy was fully reviewed, and revised in April 2018. Any impact on individual or population groups with protected characteristics is mitigated by minimum income allowances, capital thresholds and weekly charging caps which are set annually by Welsh Government. New charges to day services, and respite at home were introduced and were applied this year (2018/19), and a full EIA was completed to support these changes. This year the annual review of charges is proposing an inflationary increase to charges to reflect

increasing costs of social care to come into effect on 1st April 2019, in line with other Council charges. It is not considered necessary to update the current full Equalities Impact Assessment at this stage.

Section 2

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email – no electronic signatures or paper copies are needed.

Screening completed by:	
Name:	SIMON JONES
Job title:	STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OFFICER
Date:	18 th OCTOBER 2018
Approval by Head of Service:	
Name:	DAVID HOWES
Position:	DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Date:	OCTOBER 2018