



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Mary Jones
Chair
Scrutiny Programme Committee
City & County of Swansea

Please ask for:
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Date / Dyddiad: 31 January 2017

BY EMAIL

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I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall, cysylltwch â'r person uchod.**

Dear Councillor Jones

CABINET MEMBER QUESTION SESSION – 12TH DECEMBER 2016

Thank you for your letter of the 12 January regarding the Scrutiny Programme Committee on 12 December 2016 when priorities, actions, achievements and impact were explored, in relation to my areas of responsibility as Cabinet Member for Adults & Vulnerable People.

You agreed that technology provided great potential for monitoring in the home, but were not sure how far things have developed and were being utilised locally. You asked for confirmation of current charges for telecare / community alarms and whether an increase was planned for the next financial year. Please see attachment A.

You raised a question about the employment of personal assistants and work place pensions. I have checked this issue and if an individual in receipt of Direct Payment chooses to use that payment to employ an Independent Living Support Assistant (more commonly known as Personal Assistants) as they are employing that person directly as an individual they take on all associated employment responsibilities for that individual. Due to changes in legislation that includes a requirement that all employers must offer employees a pension scheme for people who earn in excess of £192 per week.

Swansea Council's Independent Living Team informs all potential employers about the responsibilities concerning pensions at the first meeting before they agree to a Direct

COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD

JANE HARRIS

**CABINET MEMBER FOR SERVICES FOR ADULTS & PEOPLE /
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Payment. Employers are reminded of this at the set up meeting and there is a pensions' fact sheet in the account folder.

The City and County of Swansea has contracted with Compass Disability Services to provide a payroll service for Direct Payment recipients. All necessary advice is given to recipients locally outlining their responsibilities and what they need to do when. Advice however is not given in relation to what pension schemes people should use as this can only be given by agencies regulated by the FCA.

Not many people employed as Personal Assistants earn sufficient money to require the pension scheme but those who do use the Government scheme.

I am grateful for your continuing interest in the future of adult social care and the development of the new model. I assure you that detailed work is continuing in all areas with particular emphasis on: the local ability to develop community resilience and to provide services at tier 1: the range of transport available to assure access to tier 1, 2 and 3 services; the appropriate range of provision at tier 2, 3 and 4 across all partners.

Yours sincerely



COUNCILLOR JANE HARRIS
CABINET MEMBER FOR SERVICES FOR ADULTS & VULNERABLE PEOPLE

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Under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act all Local Authorities are now required to produce an annual Charging Policy. The first iteration of this Policy was agreed by Cabinet in April 2016 and related to the 2016/17 financial year. A revised Policy is due to be considered by Cabinet shortly. The charges for 2016/17, proposed charges for 2017/18 are and rationale for any change is as follows:

Charges for Services	Current charges in 2016/17	Charges to apply in 2017/18	% Increase/ Comment
Lifeline	£3.58/ week	£3.13/ week	Flat rate charge. The existing policy is predicated on the service operating at full cost recovery. Whilst last years policy set out a charge of £3.58, in practice the charge applied was £2.50 as costs were offset by introducing a charge to another local authority to provide a disaster recovery suite. The option to offset charges is no longer available.
Telecare	new category	£5.67	Last years policy set out a new charge for this service at £3.75 to avoid standard lifeline customers offsetting the costs of more expensive equipment. Work to implement this charge was delayed but can now be implemented in the new financial year.
Enhanced Telecare	new category	£6.53	No VAT chargeable. Last years policy set out a new

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