

DECISION RECORD ¹

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Subject: To consult on charging for community based Adult Social Care Services

(Please use the same title as provided in the Forward Plan)

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Portfolio: Adult Care and Health

1. Decision

1.1 To undertake a formal consultation on proposals to change how the council charges for non-residential (community based) adult social care services.

2. Reasons for the decision

2.1 The council last reviewed its policy for charging for non-residential (community based) adult social care services in 2010.

2.2 Since then the national charging framework has been updated by The Care Act 2014, The Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014 and The Care and Support Statutory Guidance. In addition a number of anomalies have been identified in respect of how charging is applied; it is therefore timely to revisit the council's arrangements. Further, there has sustained pressure on funding for adult social care.

2.3 As the council wishes to continue to provide a wide range of services to as many people as possible and to collect a fair contribution towards them a review of the council's current charging policy has therefore been conducted and a number of possible amendments to the policy have been identified. This paper sets out the plans that the Director of ACS has made to hold a period of public, service user and stakeholder consultation in order to seek views on the proposed changes.

2.4 Following any consultation that takes place it is proposed that a paper will then be brought to Panel and then to Cabinet setting out the results of the consultation. Cabinet will then be able to decide whether to implement any or all of the proposals with a suggested implementation date of April 2018.

3. Alternative options considered and rejected ²

3.1 Whilst it may be possible to increase charges without a consultation exercise this was rejected because it is helpful to understand from feedback what the possible impact of the changes may be and to use these to help make final proposals for decision making purposes.

