

CONSULTATION ABOUT CHANGES TO THE NON-RESIDENTIAL CHARGING POLICY

OUTCOMES

THE CONSULTATION

In January 2006 the County Council asked people using care at home services for their views about suggested changes to the charging policy for non-residential services.

If you started to receive services after the beginning of January you would not have been involved in the consultation.

The proposals

- The way savings, capital and investments were taken into account should be changed
- The percentage of 'disposable income' taken into account when calculating a weekly charge should be raised from 75% to 100%
- Sessions at day centres and day services should be charged for
- Users of a particular care at home scheme (direct payments option A) should have the same financial assessment as other users of care at home services.

In line with the County Council's consultation guidelines people had 12 weeks to reply, and all comments were read and recorded.

WHAT PEOPLE SAID

Over 2000 people returned the feedback forms or contacted us by letter. The comments we received were wide ranging and were all taken note of.

- A large number of people disagreed with using 100% of 'disposable income' as the basis for working out a weekly charge.
- Some people had strong reservations about the proposed way of taking savings, capital and/or investments into account, although a majority thought that the proposal was acceptable.
- A large majority thought that everyone should have a financial assessment in order to decide whether or not they should contribute to the cost of their care.

The **report** taken to the Decision Day of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care can be seen in full on the County Council's website: www.hants.gov.uk

To find the report follow the links from 'Your Council' on the front page of the website.

Appendix 9 of the report summarises the feedback from the consultation with service users.

WHAT WAS DECIDED

Two changes to the financial assessment were agreed on 12 May 2006.

- **The proportion of disposable income used as a basis for a weekly charge has gone up from 75% to 95%.**

This will be implemented on 31 July 2006

- **There is a change to how we take savings, capital and/or investments into account.**

This will be implemented on 1 January 2007

- We will ignore savings, capital and/or investments under £12,750.
- If you have over £21,000 in savings, capital and/or investments you will be expected to pay your assessed weekly charge in full (calculated at £13.32 for each hour of care you receive) OR if you are using direct payments, you will not receive funding to employ an assistant.
- The weekly income from savings, capital and/or investments between £12,750 and £21,000 will be calculated as a notional (tariff) income of £1 per £250, rather than as the actual income received.

Financial assessments for everyone

It was also agreed that the users of option A of the direct payments scheme would in future have a financial assessment like all other users of care at home services (question 5 on the consultation feedback form).

Charges for day services and day centres

The proposal to charge for sessions at day services and day centres is not currently being taken forward.