

Healthier Communities Select Committee			
Report Title	Adult Social Care Charging and Financial Assessment Framework (consultation)		
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services	Item No.	9
Class	Part 1	Date:	1 November 2017

1. Summary and purpose of report.

- 1.1 This report sets out plans to consulting on the Adult Social Care Charging and Financial Assessment Framework and seeks the views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee on the proposed consultation.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Members of the Healthier Communities Select Committee are invited to:
- comment on the draft consultation plan
 - comment on the draft charging and financial assessment framework

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 In allocating resources to adult social care services, the Council seeks to ensure that those with the needs receive the community care services they need to maximise their independence and to enable them to live in their own homes in their local communities wherever possible.
- 3.2 This supports the Sustainable Community Strategy priority of Healthy, active and enjoyable - where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being.
- 3.3 It also supports the Council's corporate priorities of: caring for adults and older people, working with health services to support older people and adults in need of care and; Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity : ensuring efficiency and equity in the delivery of excellent services to meet the needs of the community.

4. Charging and Financial Assessment Framework

- 4.1 The Care Act 2014 provides a single legal framework for charging for care and support. Section 14 and section 17 of the Act enable local

authorities to decide how they will charge for care and support services that are arranged and funded by them. The Council is required under the Care Act, to set out its approach to charging and financial assessment.

- 4.2 In relation to charging and financial assessment, the Council adheres to the following national principles:
- a. ensure that people are not charged more than it is reasonably practicable for them to pay for care and support;
 - b. be comprehensive - to reduce variation in the way people are assessed and charged;
 - c. be clear and transparent - so people know what they will be charged;
 - d. promote wellbeing, social inclusion, and support the vision of personalisation, independence, choice and control;
 - e. support carers to look after their own health and wellbeing and to care effectively and safely;
 - f. be client-focused - reflecting the variety of care and caring journeys and the variety of options available to meet their needs;
 - g. apply the charging rules consistently - so those with similar needs or services are treated the same and minimise anomalies between different care settings;
 - h. encourage and enable those who wish to stay in or take up employment, education or training, or plan for the future costs of meeting their needs to do so; and
 - i. be sustainable for the Council in the long-term.

4.3 The Draft Adult Social Care Charging and Financial Assessment Framework (at Appendix A) proposes no changes to existing policy and practice. It is a consolidation of current policy in relation to charging and financial assessment into one comprehensive framework document.

4.4 The creation of the framework stems from a desire to bring together all relevant policy information into one place to make it easier for people to find, and understand, how charges for adult social care are assessed in Lewisham. The framework will be routinely reviewed and updated when necessary eg: when Department of Health Guidance is issued in relation to capital limits, or if and when the Council makes a change to a relevant charging policy.

5. Consultation

5.1 Although no changes to policy are currently proposed to adult social care charging and financial assessment, there is a desire to ensure that the framework includes all of the relevant policy information to help

people understand how charging and financial assessment is managed in Lewisham.

- 5.2 To that end, it will be useful to get feedback on the structure of the framework, what is included, the level of detail, what additional policy information people think should be included. The framework is not intended to replace the various channels of information, currently available on the Lewisham website in a range of fact sheets, but is intended to be the overarching framework document that contains all of the relevant policy information.
- 5.3 The following organisations will be approached directly and invited to respond to the consultation.
- Health watch
 - Voluntary Action Lewisham
 - Carers Lewisham
 - Lewisham Disability Coalition
 - Age UK Lewisham and Southwark
 - Ageing Well in Lewisham
 - Lewisham Mencap
 - Centre for Independent Living Lewisham (CILL)
 - Speaking Up
 - Lewisham Talking Newspaper
 - Lewisham Pensioner's Forum
 - Positive Ageing Council
 - Seniors (Lewisham Elders Resource Centre)
 - Deptford Action Group for the Elderly
 - Lewisham Ethnic Minority Partnership (LEMP)
 - 170 Community Project's Advice Service
 - Age Exchange
 - Community Connections
- 5.4 Officers would welcome the committee's view on any additions to the list of stakeholder organisations to be approached directly.
- 5.5 The Cabinet Office guidance on consultation states that timeframes for consultation should be proportionate and realistic to allow stakeholders sufficient time to provide a considered response. The guidance adds that the amount of time required will depend on the nature and impact of the proposal and might typically vary between two and 12 weeks.
- 5.6 In drawing up both the process and the outline documents, officers have been mindful of statutory consultation requirements and of good practice guidance. Where appropriate, officers have followed the format and processes for consulting on adult social care proposals that were previously successfully employed.
- 5.7 It is proposed that the consultation will be open from Friday the 3rd of November until Tuesday the 1st of January. This schedule provides opportunities for users, carers and stakeholders to express their views

on the framework document and for these views to be summarised within the final outcome report.

- 5.8 Once the consultation period is completed a report on the findings of the consultation, and the resultant final draft of the Adult Social Care Charging and Financial Assessment Framework, will be presented to this Committee in January before being presented to the Mayor for decision.

6. Consultation Pack

- 6.1 The information that will be included within a consultation questionnaire is attached at Annex B. This will be online within the Councils consultation portal and will be highlighted to local stakeholders and advocacy organisations, alongside the full charging and financial assessment framework document. It will also be available in hard copy on request.
- 6.2 The pack includes a brief summary of the framework and a brief questionnaire which individuals or organisations can complete, and advice on where to get support or advocacy in responding to the consultation. Information will also be made available in an appropriate alternative format on request.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no proposed changes within the charging and financial assessment process, therefore there are no direct financial implications from this report.
- 7.2 The consultation process will seek to ensure value for money in the arrangements and consultation methods adopted. All costs relating to the consultation will be met from the Adult Social Care and Joint Commissioning budgets within Community Services. The funding set aside includes provision to respond to individual demands, for example for advocacy and translation.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 As set out above, the Care Act enables the Local Authority to charge for services provided, in accordance with Regulations and Guidance. In setting any charging framework, Local Authorities are required to consult both current and future potential service users, together with stakeholders, providing sufficient and accessible information to enable the proposals to be understood and a timely and reasonable response to be made to be considered as part of the decision-making process.

9. Equalities Implications

- 9.1 Where necessary, support will be provided to ensure access to the consultation. Information will also be made available in an appropriate alternative format on request.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1 The consultation plans seek to follow statutory guidance and good practice.
- 10.2 Comments from Committee Members are invited on the plans for consultation.

For further information on this report please contact Robert Mellors, Group Finance Manager Community Services on 02083146628

Appendix A – Adult Social Care Charging and Financial Assessment Framework

Appendix B – Consultation Pack