

# Report

Report to:	<b>Social Work Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>2 October 2019</b>
Report by:	<b>Director, Health and Social Care</b>

Subject:	<b>Amendment to Social Work Non Residential Charging Policy</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ highlight changes to both the Residential and Non Residential Charging arrangement
- ◆ seek approval to amend the Non Residential Charging Policy previously endorsed by Committee

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the implementation of changes to both Residential and Non Residential Charging arrangements to exclude any advanced payments from the financial assessments on which service user contributions are based be noted;
- (2) that the Council's Non Residential Charging Policy be amended to reflect this provision relating to advanced payments; and
- (3) that the proposed amendment to the Council's Non Residential Charging Policy, in keeping with the Scottish Government's change to the Charging for Residential Accommodation Guidance, be effective from 28 June 2019.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The Deputy First Minister made a statement to Parliament on 23 October 2018, in which he committed the Government to introducing legislation for a financial redress scheme for survivors of abuse in care in Scotland.
- 3.2. Prior to legislation being in place, advance payments are being made on a discretionary basis to those who have a terminal illness, or who are age 70 or over.
- 3.3. The Scottish Government have now amended the Charging for Residential Accommodation Guidance (CRAG), which is statutory guidance and implemented by updated regulations, which authorities are obliged to implement. The effective date of this change is 28 June 2019.
- 3.4. The Charging Guidance for Non Residential Services is produced by COSLA and authorities have some discretion in terms of how it is applied.
- 3.5. Social Work Resources Committee approved the 2019-20 Non Residential Charging Policy at its meeting on 20 February 2019.

#### **4. Changes to Charging Arrangements.**

- 4.1. The National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Amendment (Scotland) (No 2) Regulations 2019 require that from 28 June 2019, a payment to a resident within a care home under the Advance Payment Scheme in respect of cases of historical child abuse in care shall be disregarded in the financial assessment of the resident's resources. The CRAG has therefore been amended.
- 4.2. The COSLA Health and Social Care Board have agreed that the COSLA guidance on charging for non-residential care should be updated to recommend that these payments should also be disregarded from financial assessments to ensure parity between people in residential care and in the community.

#### **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. This will reduce potentially the amount that an individual may need to contribute to their care. The numbers at this time are relatively low but could increase.
- 6.2. Authorities are not directly involved in the payments so would not be aware of the payments unless a service user or their appointed representative made that fact known during the financial assessment process.

#### **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. There are no additional risk implications associated with this report.
- 7.2. There are no sustainable development issues associated with this report.
- 7.3. The revised Charging Policy document will be made available on the Council's website.

#### **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. Although this report recommends a change to an existing policy, this policy area has been screened for equalities issues and no further impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. There is also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

**Val de Souza**

**Director, Health and Social Care**

31 July 2019

#### **Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Improve Later Life
- ◆ Deliver Better Health and Social Care outcomes for all

#### **Previous References**

- ◆ Social Work Resources Committee 20 February 2019

## **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Charging Policy for Non Residential Services

## **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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