

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

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**CHARGING POLICY FOR FOOD WITHIN DAY CENTRES**

***Executive Summary***

*This report seeks approval from Members to introduce a flexible charging arrangement for the provision of food within Local Authority Day Centres for Adults with Special Needs.*

**1 Background**

1.1 Developments within Day Centres for adults aged 18-65 has seen a change in the traditional model of service. When consulting with service users in some centres, the provision of food is regularly stated as an important function of Day Services. This has led to service user involvement in discussion about how food can be provided which offers choice of menu while being nutritious and economical.

**2 Proposal**

2.1 As the policy currently stands, the service users pay a set price for a set menu, consisting of a traditional three course. If a service user is less hungry, they cannot choose to eat a different menu and pay a different price.

2.2 As part of the modernisation of the Day Services, there is a need to move towards offering a choice of food, from snacks to full meals, which are priced accordingly. The price of the food will reflect the cost of the raw materials, plus a proportion of the fixed costs, and each Centre and Service will operate according to the needs of the service users.

2.3 In some cases, the service users will participate in the preparation of food as part of the therapeutic input and any person involved will undertake a Food Hygiene course.

2.4 Appendix 1 gives an example of a menu developed within Physical Disability Services.

**3 Financial and Staffing Implications**

3.1 Staffing Implications

None

## 3.2 Financial Implications

3.2.1 There is a budget for provisions, which is currently used only to provide light snacks and, any increased expenditure on that budget would be offset by the income generated by charges.

3.2.2 This is an interim policy pending implementation of an over arching review of charging mechanisms in light of the Government's 'fair charging initiative'.

## 4 Equal Opportunities Implications

Adults with Special Needs are disadvantaged within society and are at risk of being socially excluded. Assisting them in gaining life skills helps to prevent this.

## 5 Human Rights Implications

None.

## 6 Local Agenda 21 Implications

None.

## 7 Community Safety Implications

None.

## 8 Planning Implications

None.

## 9 Local Member Support Implications

Adults with Special Needs live in all parts of the Borough.

## 10 Background Papers

None.

## 11 Recommendations

That Members approve the introduction of a flexible charging policy for food within Local Authority Day Centres as an interim measure pending a Departmental report on non-residential charges in 2003.

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