

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

To: 1 [REDACTED]

Locality: HQ

From: [REDACTED]
A.O.T.

Date: 22-11-00



Metropolitan Borough of Wirral

Social Services Department

Charging Policy Review – Implications for Supported Living Schemes Briefing Note

There is currently a special charging policy which applies to people who access Supported Living Services also known as Independent Living Schemes, Community Living or Group Homes. It may also apply to people who had been placed with foster carers but who are now aged over 18.

Service users subject to the above policy were not included in charging policy review which was presented to a special Social Services Committee 26 July 2000. Para 4.24 of this report stated that "a further report will be submitted to Adult Community Care Panel and Social Service Committee outlining charging management for this client group".

However, the proposals outlined in the revised charging policy should be considered applicable. In summary, the proposals are that:-

- ❖ When disposable income is below £7.40 over basic income support level there is no charge
- ❖ When disposable income in excess of £7.40 over basic income support a charge of 27% is applied or the price for the care package whichever is the lower (most usually in supported living it will be the former)
- ❖ A charge against severe disability premium of 27% be applied
- ❖ When AA or DLA care component is received a charge of 14% of that benefit is applied

The income implications of applying revised charging policy to supported living services is as follows:

	Special Charging Policy	Charging Policy Review	Income Deficit
D.L.A. Care (higher)	53.55	7.50	46.05
(middle)	35.80	5.00	30.80
(lower)	14.20	-	14.20
S.D.P.	40.20	10.85	29.35

Accordingly, each service user accessing supported living services will be better off 86% in respect of DLA (Care) and 73% of SDP. Income deficit should be recovered through transitional housing benefit scheme of Supporting People Framework. Therefore it is fundamental to implementing charging policy review that housing benefit claims are maximised. Moreover this policy should be applied to private/independent placements where "the Department has secured an intensive

holistic package based on an assessment of social care needs throughout each 24 hour period" (Special charging policy). This presently does not happen.

The principles outlined in charging policy review comply more fully with CIPFA guidance on developing charging policies in respect equity, consistency and simplicity. It is therefore recommended that the special charging policy be withdrawn. Further recommendations include:

- ❖ Monitoring of transitional housing benefit claims
- ❖ Effective systems for recovery of transitional housing benefit relating to support from care providers
- ❖ Further consultation with independent/private care providers in respect of applying revised charging policy

For comment –

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