

**What
Really
Matters?**

Budget Option
**Paying
for Adult
Social Care**

Savings

2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
1117	0	0	1117

Option summary

A major priority within adult social services is to improve the method in which services are charged for; ensuring it is fair, equitable and effective.

This work is intended to ensure that everyone using services are financially assessed promptly and importantly that the appropriate levels of charges and financial support for vulnerable people is implemented.

This proposal includes:

- Charging interest of 4% on deferred payment balances that remain outstanding more than 56 days after the end of the agreement.
- Increase the Council's debt recovery rate from the existing 85% to at least 87.5%.
- Ensure Extra Care Housing clients are assessed under the fairer charging system
- Make the rates for respite, short term residential and long term residential equal at £120 per week, as is the case at many other Councils

It is important that the Council ensures that payments are collected promptly and in a way that is clear and fair in order to deliver a balanced budget, which has been a problem in the past.

Potential impact

There will be an impact on service users who may be financially assessed to pay increased contributions. However the changes will ensure a more equitable distribution of the charging burden between different users in a transparent process.

The changes will generate additional income to invest in adult social care provision.

Reducing the impact

The impact of this budget option will be reduced through effective communication with people using services, and we will ensure that officers are available to visit people to inform them of any potential changes. These officers will also be able to offer welfare benefits advice where appropriate.

Better contact at the initial stages of any arrears will help to avoid clients accumulating high values of arrears that are impossible for them to pay.