

## **Consultation document for the draft Care and Support Charging and Financial Assessment Framework**

**Consultation document**



**24th September – 3rd December 2019**

# Consultation document for the Draft Care and Support Charging and Financial Assessment Framework

## 1. What are we proposing to do?

Bath & North East Somerset Council is proposing to introduce a Care and Support Charging and Financial Assessment Framework. This will change some of the ways in which we allocate our resources and calculate the charge you will pay.

The council faces continued financial pressures due to the increase in the demand for its services at the same time as managing the reduction in funding that it receives from central government. The increase in demand is as a result of an increase in our older population, improvements to healthcare services and people living longer, some of whom have complex needs and need care for longer.

We want to ensure that we continue to protect the most vulnerable people in our community and by implementing the Care and Support Charging and Financial Assessment Framework we will allocate funding to meet people's needs.

We currently support around 2,100 people who are in need of adult social care services both in care homes and at home. Care and support services are chargeable and there are clear guidelines for all councils which are set out in the Care Act 2014 about how this should be carried out. However some charging decisions are at the discretion of the council for example, Disability Related Expenditure.

We have used the guidelines from the National Association of Financial Assessment Officers (NAFAO) to assist in drafting the Framework as well as reviewing best practice from other local authorities.

### **Our aim is to:-**

- Offer a transparent, equitable and consistent process for all;
- Ensure that people are charged the correct statutory amount for care and support;
- Bring the council in line with other local authorities and the National Association of Financial Assessment Officers (NAFAO) based guidance.

## 2. Why are we consulting

Before the Framework is agreed, we want to find out what people think about the proposals and we will ensure that your views are taken into account before a final decision is made.

## 3. Who are we consulting?

We want to hear from as many people as possible, including individuals with care needs, carers and their families, agencies, social workers and anyone who has an interest in adult social care across Bath and North East Somerset.

## 4. What are the proposals?

We want your views on the following proposals:

- Individuals will be required to respond within two weeks of being contacted by a care finance officer to arrange a meeting to discuss the financial assessment. If no contact is made within this period, they will be deemed as self-funding.
- The Council will take into account Pension Guaranteed Credit and Employment and Support Allowance benefit that a service user would have an automatic entitlement to, if an application were made.
- A new third party 'Top Up Agreement' will be implemented for families /friends/ organisations who wish to make a top up payment on behalf of an individual. Example a larger room in a care home.
- There will be an improved procedure for setting up a Deferred Payment Agreement (DPA) and an increase in the fees charged for setting up a DPA.
- A new Interim Funding Policy (dependent upon criteria) is proposed for those people who have unregistered properties and for those who are waiting to obtain deputyship to allow them to act on the individual's behalf.
- The Council will review the amounts that are applied to Disability Related Expenditure and some expenditure will not be allowed. Please refer to the Disability Related Expenditure Factsheet for more information.
- Transport and Education costs will be allowed if this is set out in the care plan and the individual is not in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or any Disability Living Allowance component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP).
- The standing charge for gas, electricity, water and sewerage will be allowed as part of the financial assessment. Those individuals who have other heating systems such as oil heating, delivery costs will be allowed.
- A new one off administration charge will be applied to self-funders where an individual has asked the council to arrange for the care and support.
- The council has updated its Direct Payments Policy to provide clearer guidance and information.

## 5. How will these proposals affect you?

Whilst some people's care and support packages will not be affected, it is likely that the proposals may affect some people who:

- do not currently receive financial help towards education fees and associated costs.
- are currently receiving additional monies for all utility costs including usage.
- have not claimed Pension Guaranteed Credit and Employment and Support Allowance benefits they are entitled to.
- have not provided us with up-to-date financial information which would affect the amount they have to pay.
- have an allowance made within their weekly care charge for Disability Related Expenditure, as some expenses will not be allowed.

## 6. What we won't change

There are some things that we are not proposing to change.

- We will continue to provide a financial assessment for anyone eligible for a care package to calculate how much people will be charged towards the cost of their care.
- When calculating your weekly income we will not include earnings from paid work, Disability Living Allowance (mobility component), Child Tax Credit, Disabled Person's Tax Credit, Pension Credit - Savings Credit element.
- A person with more than £23,250 in savings (including investments/bonds) will continue to pay the full cost of their care.

All councils must provide the following care and support services free of charge:

- Care from the Integrated Reablement and Intermediate service – a short period of intensive therapies and support from health and social care professionals to assist an individual in regaining independence (subject to care eligibility assessment).
- Through our partnership with VirginCare, community equipment and minor adaptations up to £1,000 to help with independent living can be made available.
- Care and Support provided to people with Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease.
- The element of your care that is provided under Section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

## 7. How are we consulting?

We want to hear from as many people as possible. You can take part by completing:

- An on-line survey which is available via the following address:  
[www.bathnes.gov.uk/cas-charging-consultation](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/cas-charging-consultation)
- Or you can request a paper copy of the survey, by contacting us by email [cafaconsultation@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:cafaconsultation@bathnes.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01225 477810.

We will be writing to everyone currently receiving a care and support service to let them know about the proposals and how they can take part in the consultation.

We will be holding a series of consultation events for individuals, family members, care and support staff, agencies - anyone who has an interest in the proposals.

A presentation by council officers will be given at the start of the session and there will be an opportunity to ask questions. Each session will last no more than an hour and half. There will be council officers available to assist people in completing the questionnaire.

Please come along to any of the dates and locations listed below.

### **Bath**

- 21st October, 4.30pm – 6pm and 6.30pm – 8pm, Brunswick Room, The Guildhall, Bath
- 6th November, 2.30pm – 4pm and 4.30pm - 6pm, Kaposvar Room, The Guildhall, Bath

### **Chew Valley**

- 8th October, 10.30am – 12 noon, Village Hall, Compton Martin

### **Keynsham**

- 7th October, 6.00pm – 7.30pm, Community Space, Market Walk, Keynsham
- 22nd October, 6.30pm – 8pm, Community Space, Market Walk, Keynsham

### **Somer Valley**

- 2nd October, 4.30pm – 6pm and 6.30pm – 8pm, Council Chamber, The Hollies, Midsomer Norton
- 3rd October, 2.30pm – 4pm and 4.30pm – 6pm, Council Chamber, The Hollies, Midsomer Norton
- 10th October, 2.30pm – 4pm, Timsbury Hub, YMCA building, Timsbury

There is no need to book however, if you have any access requirements please contact us by email [cafaconsultation@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:cafaconsultation@bathnes.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01225 477810.

We will also be holding events with BEMSCA, Dimensions, Bass and the Carers Centre.

## **8. How can I find out more?**

The following documents are available to download from the website or available at one of the Council's Library and One-Stop-Shops:-

- Draft Care and Support Charging and Financial Assessment Framework.
- Easy Read document version of the Draft Care and Support Charging and Financial Assessment Framework.
- Direct Payment Policy.
- Easy Read Direct Payment Policy.
- Easy Read Consultation document.
- Consultation questionnaire.
- Easy Read Consultation questionnaire.
- Disability Related Expenditure Factsheet.

The Council's Library and One Stop Shops are located:

- Bath Library, The Podium, Bath, BA1 2ZG;
- Bath One Stop Shop, 3-4 Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JQ;
- Midsomer Norton Library and Information Service, The Hollies, High Street, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2DP;
- Keynsham Library & Information Service, Civic Centre, Market Walk, Keynsham, BS31 1FS.

## 9. Where can I get help to take part in the consultation?

Swan and Your Say Advocacy organisations will provide assistance to anyone that requires support with participating in the consultation.

To arrange please contact us by email [cafaconsultation@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:cafaconsultation@bathnes.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01225 477810.

## 10. When do I need to respond to the consultation?

The consultation will run from the 24th September until 3rd December 2019.

## 11. What will happen to the results of the consultation?

The results of the consultation will form part of a report to Full Council in early 2020 and will be available via [www.bathnes.gov.uk/cas-charging-consultation](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/cas-charging-consultation)

## 12. When will the changes come into effect?

We propose to implement the Care and Support Charging and Financial Assessment Framework for new and existing service users from the 6th April 2020.

## 13. Benefits advice and support - contact details

If you would like assistance to find out more about benefits that you may be entitled to, please contact:

### **Bath & North East Somerset Council**

01225 477000 (Benefits department)

[www.bathnes.gov.uk/contact-us](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/contact-us)

### **Citizens Advice**

0344 848 7919

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

### **Age UK**

01225 466135 (BANES)

0800 055 6112

### **Pension Credit**

0800 99 1234 or 0800 169 0133 (Textphone)

[www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim)

Information about this consultation is available on request in other languages, audio, Braille, large print or other formats. To request another format please contact us by email [cafaconsultation@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:cafaconsultation@bathnes.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01225 477810.