



Briefing on the Implementation of Charging for Social Work Services

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At the meeting of the Integrated Joint Board of Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire in May, it was agreed that a fee should be charged for aspects of the social work service in North Lanarkshire, namely the Community Alarm Service and attendance at Integrated Day Services for older people that had previously not attracted a charge. The decision to apply these charges is in response to unprecedented pressure on public finances as experienced by social work and NHS Lanarkshire and is intended to maintain service quality.

Community Alarm Service

North Lanarkshire is one of the last partnership areas in Scotland to charge for a community alarm service which for a number of years has been free. Demand for the service is increasing as the population ages and the partnership needs to be in a position to meet this. The charge has been set at £5 per week and commenced in August 2016. Invoices have been sent to people in possession of an alarm with different payment options available. Those affected by the charge have received information on who to contact to discuss any issues they may have.

Integrated Day Services for Older People (IDS)

IDS operate across North Lanarkshire providing support for people to continue living in their own homes and communities. Around 400 people are supported at any given time predominately in new purpose built facilities. A flat rate charge of £10 per session attended plus an additional charge for a meal is applied. Again, those affected by the charge have received information on who to contact to discuss any issues they may have.

Everyone affected by the new charges has been offered an up to date financial assessment by North Lanarkshire Council's Financial Inclusion Team which ensures the person is receiving the correct amount of income that they are entitled to. Procedures are in place to assist those who may be experiencing difficulty in maintaining the payments.

Further information can be accessed through Social Work Locality offices or by visiting the Council's website.