

Herts. County Council Adult Care Services Report for Health in Dacorum Meeting of 7th March 2017

The County Council (HCC) is changing its charging arrangements for homecare, which were last updated in 2010. The review was carried out under the principles of the Care Act that no-one should pay more than they could afford.

Following welcome additional monies from the Government, HCC is not going to take into account the higher rates of Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance where people receive night time care, when calculating how much people can afford to pay towards the cost of care. (Following consultation feedback, it had already decided not to take the higher rates of these benefits into account when calculating how much people can afford to pay towards day time care.) Double handed care (care provided by two care workers) will be charged extra, bringing HCC into line with other social services authorities. Telecare provided by Serco eg pendant alarms will be charged at £3.25 per week for those who receive no other social care services. This will bring Serco service users into line with those receiving an equivalent service from North Herts Careline, who currently pay £3.25 per week. Residents of flexicare schemes with low, medium or high care needs will be charged for three, 8.5 and 15 hours care per week respectively. Transport to and from day care will be charged at £2 per journey (£4 per day), which does still not cover the full cost of providing the transport.

A white paper on social care funding is due to come out later this year.

HCC has adopted an Integrated Plan for 2018/19-2021/22, which includes the revenue budget for 20/18/19, but is wider than that, bringing together the financial impact of service plans and the available funding for them for the next four years. There was consultation on the Plan using a variety of methods, including the Horizons newsletter, the HCC website, and stakeholder and user groups. 56% of respondents would rather raise Council Tax than cut services but this figure has been decreasing over the last four years and the percentage of those who haven't responded on this point has been increasing over the last four years. Specific areas where respondents commented that spending should be maintained include those that provide social care. In the Plan, Adult Care Services is looking at enabling homecare, which involves helping people to re-learn skills, making them less dependent on long-term homecare, the use of technology and a new copier contract to reduce the price of printing.

HCC is commissioning fewer residential home places and more nursing home places because this is where the need is.

At its meeting on 6th March 2018, the Health and Adult Care Cabinet Panel looked at the 15 Year Forward View for Adult Care Services and the Quarter 3 Performance Report.

Regarding delayed transfers of care (DTOCs), 67% are attributable to the NHS, 31% to social care and 2% to both. Of total DTOCs 28% are at West Herts Hospitals Trust (WHHT) and 8.5% at East and North Herts Hospitals Trust (ENHT).

Regarding DTOCs attributable to social care, 46.9% are at WHHT and 1.1% at ENHT.

C/Cllr Fiona Guest
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Hertfordshire County Council.