



## **Summary of Luton's Draft Charging Policy for Non-Residential Services (plain English version)**

### **1 Policy Aims**

Luton Borough Council's fairer charging policy has a number of aims

- To promote independence and help all people live with the same possibilities and opportunities
- To make sure that charges for home care and day care services are based on standard hourly and daily rates
- To work out a customer's ability to pay charges, taking into account any disability benefits or money spent because of a disability
- To make sure that charges do not reduce a person's net income below a set figure. (This figure is the same as the basic Income Support or Pension Credit, plus an extra 25% of that amount)

### **2 Which services are included in the proposed policy?**

- Personal home care, including in supported living scheme
- Day care (day centres)
- Direct Payments

### **3 Which services are not included?**

- Special short-term support services for when you leave hospital (Intermediate care services)
- Meals on wheels

- Occupational Therapy/Equipment
- Services for sufferers of CJD
- Drop-in services that you can use without needing to have a Community Care Assessment
- After-care services under the Mental Health Act (Section 117)

#### **4 Charges for services**

- At the moment charges are based upon the person's ability to pay, not upon the amount of service they get. The proposed charges will be based not just on your ability to pay, but also the type and amount of service you will receive.
- All charges will be looked at on a yearly basis
- The proposed rates for 2005/2006 are as follows:

Home care hourly charge	£12
Day care charge	£20 for a day of up to 8 hours, including transport.

#### **5 How the charges are worked out**

Any one whose income is less than basic Income Support or Pension Credit + 25% will not be charged for any the services in this policy. We call this amount a 'buffer'.

The maximum price that anyone will have to pay will be set at 75% of the cost of residential care (£288.75 per week in 2005/2006). We will assess how much a person has to pay in the following way:

- We calculate an amount of money we call 'chargeable income'. This is the amount of money we say you have available to pay for the non-residential services you receive.

- We will look at your total income (e.g. state pension, benefits, company pension etc.) less what you may pay for other services related to your disability, as well as some other agreed expenses, such as housing costs and council tax, in order to see what charge you will have to pay for non-residential services. In asking you to pay for services we will ensure you are always left with a 'buffer' of money. This buffer varies, but typically it will be £100.18 if you are under 60 years of age and £136.81 if you are over 60.

Total income

less payment for services related to your disability &  
other costs

less buffer

= chargeable income

- If the cost of your care is less than your chargeable income we will ask you to pay for the care, up to the maximum figure of £288.75

We appreciate that this might seem rather confusing at first. For this reason we have given some examples of how we calculate your charges at the end of this document.

## **6 Beginning to pay for services**

You will not be charged for services until we have let you know what those costs will be.

## **7 Review and Appeal Procedure**

Every customer has the right to ask for a review and appeal of their assessment. The review will be carried out by the Senior Finance Officer who manages the Assessments Team. If you are still not satisfied, the case will be passed to the Finance

Manager. If you are still not happy we will tell you how you can continue your appeal through the council's complaints procedure.

## **8 Examples of charging calculations**

### **A When you pay the full cost of the non-residential services**

Your income	£306.81
Council tax, Disability services etc	£70
Buffer	£136.81
Chargeable income	£100
Non-residential services you get	£60 (3 days at a Day Centre)
You pay	£60

### **B When you pay the maximum amount even though the actual cost of your services is higher than this figure**

Your income	500
Council tax, Disability services etc	£10
Buffer	£136.81
Chargeable income	£353.19
Non-residential services you get	£360 (30 hours at £12 per hour)
You pay	£288.75

**C When you do not have to pay**

Your income	£110.10
Services you pay for	£0
Buffer	£136.81
Chargeable income	less than £0
Non-residential services you get hour)	£96 (8 hours at £12 per
You pay	£0

**D When you have to pay for some of the services you  
get**

Your income	£193.87
Services you pay for	£9.00
Buffer	£136.81
Chargeable income	£48.06
Non-residential services you get	£120 (10 hours at £12 per hour)
You pay	48.06