

Changes to financial assessments for non-residential care services

Consultation from 9th May 2018 to 8th June 2018

Supporting Information

We are proposing changes from 2nd July 2018 to the way in which those who will receive non-residential services are financially assessed. **Existing service users will not be affected by these proposals.**

Background

Non-residential services include a wide range of social care services which enable people to stay in their homes and include home care, day care, extra care services and Direct Payments

In line with national policy, North Tyneside Council charges for non-residential services if individuals have income over a certain amount. That amount is set by Government. To assess the contribution a person is required to pay towards the cost of their non-residential services a financial assessment is completed that takes into account a number of factors including a person's income and outgoings. Disability related expenditure is also taken into account. This could include additional money a person has to spend because of their disability (for example additional heating or laundry costs).

When the Care Act 2014 came into force on 1 April 2015 the Department of Health prescribed the minimum amount of income a person must be left with after paying for their care and support. Councils can allow people to keep more income than this amount if they wish. This amount is called the minimum income guarantee (MIG) The MIG allowances can be found in the Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) 2014 regulations.

Currently North Tyneside Council applies the minimum income guarantee + 25% meaning service users are left with a basic income plus a 25% buffer over and above the minimum income guarantee.

What is being proposed?

For new applicants for non-residential care, we propose to change the allowance from MIG + 25% to a buffer that is equivalent to MIG + 18.6%. This is in line with Department of Health guidance

This approach of using the figures given in the Department of Health Guidance will bring us into line with a number of other authorities who are also making similar changes.

Whilst the proposal is for a reduction to the allowance, the proposed change would still allow new recipients of non-residential services to retain more than the minimum income guarantee to pay for their living costs. Moreover, the local authority will take account of

people's circumstances and consider exercising its wider discretion in cases of financial hardship.

To have your say

You can have your say by filling in our online [survey](#)

You can also contact us for a paper version of the survey on 0191 643 2828 or email engagement@northtyneside.gov.uk

The closing date for comments is 8th June 2018