





Information Booklet

Have your say:

We are changing the way we assess people's contribution to pay for their care

Information booklet	
	This booklet gives more information about some changes the council needs to make
	Your views are very important to us so we would like to hear what you think about this
	The consultation closes on Tuesday 22nd April
	In this booklet we will tell you how you can have your say

Introduction



Like others, Solihull Council ask people to put some of their own money towards the cost of their care service



The policy covers charges for non-residential care services. These are:

- Home care
- Day care
- Direct payments
- Carers' direct payments



The policy does not include charges for:

- Reablement service
- Respite care
- Residential homes
- Nursing homes

Paying for the services you receive



If you receive home care, day care or direct payments, the council looks at how much you have to spend on things like housing costs

This is called a financial assessment



The Council work out if you need to pay towards your care and if so, the weekly amount you will need to pay towards this



We will help you to check if you are receiving the right benefits and help you to apply for any other benefits you may be entitled to.



Some people don't have a financial assessment because they receive certain types of benefit



At the moment, these people are not asked to put any money towards the cost of their care service

Making changes to the way that Solihull Council financially assess the amount that people pay towards the cost of their care



The government have introduced the Welfare Reform programme. These changes mean that Solihull Council need to change the way we work out the money that people are asked to pay towards their care costs



DWP Department for Work and Pensions

Universal Credit:
welfare that works

The government is introducing a new benefit called Universal Credit. This is a new benefit which will replace many mean tested benefits and tax credits.



There are lots of benefits that Solihull Council use to work out people's financial assessment.

When Universal Credit is introduced, these benefits will come to an end.



Solihull Council want to make sure that everybody in Solihull is ready for when benefits come to an end and Universal Credit starts.



Solihull Council do not have a choice about the changes that are about to happen; but we do want to make sure that the way we will work out the amounts that people will have to pay towards their care needs will be fair and equal for everybody

Summary of Changes and Choices



How things work now:

If someone receives any of the following benefits we do not carry out a full financial assessment

- Income Support
- Job Seekers Allowance
- Employment Support Allowance
- Pension Credit Guarantee Credit

Solihull council do not carry out a full assessment for non-residential care services



How things will change:

When Universal Credit replaces these benefits, everybody will have a financial assessment to see if they need to pay towards their care costs.



This means that some people, who did not have to pay any money towards their care, will have to start paying money towards their care costs.



It also means that everyone will get support and advice on claiming benefits and some people might find that they are entitled to more benefits.

Who could be affected by changes?



For some people, the money that they pay towards their care will stay the same. For other, they may need to start paying towards their care when they have not had to do this before



The changes mean that everyone will be offered a full, financial assessment. This will make sure that everybody is getting the right benefits. For some people, this may mean that they will start to receive some benefits which they had not received before.

Your views on the changes



The government has decided that these changes need to happen



Solihull Council would like to know from you your thoughts on the following questions:



Question 1
When do you think Solihull Council should start the new assessment process?

- a) July 2014 b) October 2014



Question 2

Do you think that the council should help pay towards the care costs for people that haven't had to pay anything for these costs before?

(i.e people who are now having to pay a contribution because of the new financial testing system who have not had to pay before)

When will the council make their decision?



The consultation process will run until **Tuesday 22nd April 2014**. Your feedback will go to councillors for a decision in June 2014.



Solihull Council will write to you to let you know what has been decided.

If you need help to understand the proposals:



If you would like to speak to someone about this proposal then you can speak to your social work team or a member of staff at your day centre if you attend one.



You can call Solihull Connect on **0121 704 6000**



You can download a copy of the Fairer Contribution Policy from Solihull Council's website www.solihull.gov.uk Go to 'Strategies, Plans & Policies' and choose 'Adult Social Care'.

How you can have your say?



We want to hear what you think about Solihull Council's proposals. There are two ways that you can share your views with us



Complete our postal survey

There is a short survey with this booklet. Fill it in and send it back to us in the envelope provided. **The last posting day for sending this survey back to us by post is**

Thursday 17th April 2014



If you need support with completing this survey then you can talk to your social worker or staff at your voluntary group or day centre if you attend one.

You can also contact Solihull Connect:

0121 704 6000



Complete the survey online

You can find a link to the survey on the council website on our consultation page: www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation



The consultation closes on
Tuesday 22nd April 2014

Frequently Asked Questions



Q. What if I don't want to have a full assessment?

A. You can choose whether or not to have a full financial assessment. However, if you choose not to have an assessment, you will have to pay the full amount of your care costs



Q. Will the council help to pay towards people's care costs if they are already paying towards their non-residential care costs?

A. No. This will only apply to people that are having a full financial assessment for the first time.



Q. For those that qualify, how long will financial protection last and how much would it be?

A. This has not yet been decided. We would like to hear your views about whether the council should provide protection to those who have previously paid nothing



Q. How much will people have to pay towards their care costs?





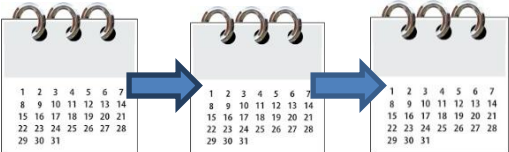
A. The amount you need to pay towards your care is worked out in your financial assessment; based on what you can afford









Q. What if I can't afford to pay?

A. Our Fairer Contribution Policy aims to make sure that any contribution you make is fair, reasonable and based on what you can afford to pay. This will be worked out in your financial assessment

Case studies

	Example 1
	<p>David is 25 years old. He receives Incapacity Benefit, Higher Rate Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Care and Income Support. His total weekly income is £170.85</p>
	<p>Under the current policy David does not make a contribution to the cost of his care services because he receives Income Support, one of the benefits listed on page 5.</p>
	<p>When the changes go ahead David would have a full financial assessment on the income he receives.</p>
	<p>This would calculate that he has excess weekly income of £23.54 which he could pay towards his care services. This is the maximum he would be asked to pay towards the cost of his care but it could be reduced by any costs which are specifically related to David's disability.</p>
	<p>Depending on the outcome of the consultation, we could phase in any increase in the contribution David may have to make towards his care for a set period of time.</p>

	<p>Example 2</p> <p>Colin is 43. He receives Incapacity Benefit and Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Care. His total weekly income is £166.29</p> <p>Under the current policy Colin has a full financial assessment and pays £18.98 towards the cost of his care.</p> <p>The proposed changes would not affect Colin's contribution.</p>
	<p>Example 3</p> <p>Alice is 86 years old. She receives State Pension, Pension Credit Savings Credit, Occupational Pension, and Higher rate Attendance Allowance. Her total weekly income is £261.85.</p> <p>Under the current policy Alice has been assessed and currently pays £78.03 per week towards her personal budget.</p> <p>Alice's contribution will not change as a result of the changes.</p>

Example 4	
	<p>Daisy is 87 years old. She receives State Pension, Higher rate Attendance Allowance, Occupational Pension and Pension Credit Guarantee Credit (PCGC) which includes an extra amount for disability. Her total weekly income is £263.90.</p>
	<p>Under the current policy Daisy does not make a contribution to her care costs because she receives Pension Credit Guarantee Credit, one of the benefits listed on page 5.</p>
	<p>When the changes go ahead Daisy would have a full financial assessment on the income she receives. This would calculate that she has excess weekly income of £82.15 which she could pay towards her care services. This is the maximum she would be asked to pay towards the cost of her care but it could be reduced by any costs which are specifically related to Daisy's disability.</p>
	<p>Depending on the outcome of the consultation, we could phase in any increase in the contribution Daisy may have to make towards her care for a set period of time.</p>

This booklet has been made into easy read by
Solihull Action through Advocacy



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