

Have your say on proposals on removing the cap on non-residential care charges from April 2017

As you know, the Council introduced changes in April 2015 to the way we work out the contribution people make towards their non-residential costs.

When the changes were introduced, this meant some people who had previously paid nothing had to pay something towards the cost of their care. Therefore, to help support those who had been receiving free care but would now need to pay, a £30 per week cap on charges was also agreed for 12 months from April 2015.

We then consulted with people in October 2015 on how we intended to remove the cap on charges and the timescales for this.

The outcome of the consultation was that the majority of respondents favoured a gradual removal of the cap from April 2016 to April 2019. The cap would then be removed altogether.

On 20 January 2016 the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing agreed to phase out the cap over 3 years as follows:

- April 2016 – care charges capped at £40 per week
- April 2017 – care charges capped at £50 per week
- April 2018 – care charges capped at £60 per week
- April 2019 – removal of cap completely – care charges no longer capped

We would now like your views about bringing forward the removal of the cap from April 2017.

Why is the Council proposing this change?

Due to unprecedented demand on the Council's Adult Social Care services we are now in the position where we are finding it difficult to continue with phasing out the subsidy.

If we remove the cap completely from April 2017 instead of April 2019, we have calculated we can put an additional £124,000 income back into Adult Social Care services. For this reason, we are consulting on removing the cap from April 2017. This approach will mean everyone receiving Adult Social Care services in Solihull would be in the same position from April 2017.

By removing this subsidy from those who can afford to pay and asking them to contribute the full amount of their assessed contribution, these funds could be allocated to other services and allow us to meet the needs of more people who require our help.

If we continue to phase out the cap in April 2017 and April 2018 but increased the level of the cap to £70 per week in April 2017 and £100 per week in April 2018, we have calculated we can put an additional £85,000 back into Adult Social Care services from April 2017 and an additional £36,000 from April 2018 and an additional £3,000 from April 2019.

Who will be affected?

If the cap on care cost charges was removed completely from April 2017, currently this change would mean 114 people out of 1,900 people receiving non residential care services having to pay between £1.00 and £75.00 per week more than if the cap remained until 2019.

If the cap on care cost charges was increased to £70 per week in April 2017 this change would mean 114 people having to pay between £1.00 and £20.00 per week more in 2017. If the cap on care cost charges was increased to £100 per week in this change would mean 58 people having to pay an additional amount of between £1.00 and £30.00 per week more in 2018.

Everyone affected by the proposed changes to the cap from April 2017 has had a full financial assessment and has been assessed as being able to pay more than we are currently asking them to pay.

The survey

The Council has some different options for removing the cap and would like your feedback. Your views are very important to us, so please take the time to fill in this survey.

Do you have access to the internet?

If you have access to the internet, why not fill in the survey online? You could fill in the paper version first then rather than post it back, copy your views onto the online survey.

Go to: www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation to take part.

Confidentiality

Your answers will be treated as confidential. They will not be passed to your social worker, care manager, care and support worker or anyone providing you with services. You will not be personally identified and your answers will not affect the services you receive.

However, if you say on the form that you are being hurt or harmed by anybody or your safety or health is at risk, we would like to know who you are so that someone (but not your care and support worker) can contact you to talk about it. This is the only circumstance under which we would want to identify you. If that is the case, please write your name and contact number in the spaces below. If you do not do this, we cannot help you with the issue you have raised.

Name: Contact number:

About you

So that we can make sure people in different circumstances have taken part in this consultation, please tell us a bit about yourself.

Please tell us your postcode. If you don't know your postcode, please tell us the first line of your address.

Are you.... Male

Female

How old are you?

15 years and under <input type="checkbox"/>	46 – 55 years <input type="checkbox"/>	86 – 95 years <input type="checkbox"/>
16 – 25 years <input type="checkbox"/>	56 – 65 years <input type="checkbox"/>	96 years and over <input type="checkbox"/>
26 – 35 years <input type="checkbox"/>	66 – 75 years <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>
36 – 45 years <input type="checkbox"/>	76 – 85 years <input type="checkbox"/>	

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>
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If yes, please state the nature of your disability/disabilities:

Visual impairment <input type="checkbox"/>	Hearing impairment <input type="checkbox"/>
Learning disability <input type="checkbox"/>	Mental health difficulties <input type="checkbox"/>
Physical disability <input type="checkbox"/>	Long-standing illness or health condition <input type="checkbox"/>

Any other disability (specify below if you wish) <input type="checkbox"/>

Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>

What is your race or ethnic group?

White

Asian/Asian British

English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British <input type="checkbox"/>
Irish <input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsy or Irish Traveller <input type="checkbox"/>
Other White Background (specify below if you wish) <input type="checkbox"/>

Bangladeshi <input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese <input type="checkbox"/>
Indian <input type="checkbox"/>
Pakistani <input type="checkbox"/>
Any other Asian Background (specify below if you wish) <input type="checkbox"/>

Black/African/Caribbean/

Black British

Mixed/ Multiple Ethnic Groups

African <input type="checkbox"/>

White and Black Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/>
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Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/>	White and Black African <input type="checkbox"/>
Any other Black/African/Caribbean Background (specify below if you wish) _____	White and Asian <input type="checkbox"/>
	Any other Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Background (specify below if you wish) _____

Other Ethnic Group

Arab <input type="checkbox"/>
Any other ethnic group (specify below if you wish) _____

Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>
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A service user (you receive home care, day care, a direct payment or a carer's direct payment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If you have ticked this box, please tell us if you currently make a contribution to your care costs.</i>
		No, I don't pay anything <input type="checkbox"/>
		Yes, I make a contribution <input type="checkbox"/>
		Yes, I pay the full cost of my care <input type="checkbox"/>
		I'm not sure <input type="checkbox"/>
A carer of a service user	<input type="checkbox"/>	
A family member of a service user	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Someone who lives in Solihull	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please tell us)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Which of the following services do you or the person you care for / your family member receive?

(✓ all that apply)

	You receive	The person you care for / your family member receives
No services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A day centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carer's direct payments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home care (domiciliary care)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Direct payments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please tell us)		

If you are a service user and someone is helping you to complete the survey, the responses to the questions on this page should reflect your views.

Survey

The Council will remove the current cap on care charges. Please tick one box to show which option you prefer.

Option 1

Remove the cap completely for all customers from April 2017

Option 2

Continue to phase out the cap but increase the amount of the cap to £70 per week in April 2017 and £100 per week in April 2018

Please use this box to give us your comments about the proposals.

How to send the survey back to us

- Hand it in at any day centre
- Hand it in at any of the Council's Solihull Connect Offices

OR

- Fill in the survey online www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation

The consultation closes on: **Monday 23 January 2017.**

Last day for posting to us: **Thursday 19 January 2017**

Thank you for your time