

**COUNCIL 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023****Cabinet 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023****40 A RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A CHARGES POLICY WITHIN CALDERDALE ADULT SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE**

Councillor Fenton-Glynn, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adults Services and Wellbeing presented a written report of the Director, Adult Services and Wellbeing requesting a recommendation for the introduction of a proposed Charges Policy for Care and Support Services, encompassing the following components:

- (i) Residential Care Services for Adults,
- (ii) Community Based Services for Adults,
- (iii) Debt Recovery Policy for Adult Social Care
- (iv) Direct Payments Policy.

The report set out the approach Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (the Council) Adult and Wellbeing Services would take in respect of the proposed Charges Policy in line with statutory guidance under the Care Act 2014. The proposed Charges Policy would enable people in receipt of care and support services to be fully informed of the requirement to contribute toward the cost of care provided by the Council and clearly stated the Council's statutory compliance with the appropriate charging guidance (Care and Support, Charging and Assessment of Resources, Regulations 2014).

The full implementation of a Charges Policy would enhance the consistency and efficiency of current charging arrangements, timeliness of financial assessments and would enable appropriate levels of income into the Council. The proposal was to bring all financial policies relating to community and residential care charges under one overarching policy, namely the Charges Policy. This overarching Policy, hereafter referred to as the proposed "Charges Policy" outlined in appendix 1, if the recommendations were agreed, would directly affect the Care Act assessment and financial charging functions of the Adult and Wellbeing Services Directorate. The proposed Charges Policy would provide clarity and consistency to people eligible for care and support services on the level of financial contribution they may be required to make. The proposed Charges Policy would be subject to annual review as a minimum standard.

The report outlined background information, options considered, financial, legal, human resources and organisational development, environmental, health and economic implications.

During discussions Members recognised the immense amount of work to pull all these policies together and stressed the importance for both carers and for users to have clarity and fairness in terms of charges.

**\*RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that the:**

**(a) implementation of the proposed Charges Policy, outlined in the Director, Adult Services and Wellbeing's written report, including public consultation be approved; and**

(b) Director, Adult Services and Wellbeing, be given delegated authority in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Services and Wellbeing, to implement the proposed Charges Policy subject to the outcome of the consultation process.

(part (a) only)