

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

AHSCP Charging Policy 2024/25

Assessment ID	IIA-002018
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Approved By	Pamela Milliken
Approved On	Tuesday March 12, 2024
Publication Date	Tuesday March 12, 2024

1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

AHSCP Charging Policy for non-residential and residential care 2024/25

During screening 1 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 1 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

In total there are 5 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 5 negative impacts, of these negative impacts, 10 have been mitigated and 0 cannot be mitigated satisfactorily.

A detailed action plan with 2 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by pamela.milliken@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	No

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Not Required
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Health Inequalities	Not Required
Town Centre's First	Not Required

4. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

4.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)		Yes		
Age (Older)	Yes		Yes	
Disability	Yes		Yes	
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

4.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income	Yes		Yes	
Low wealth	Yes		Yes	
Material deprivation	Yes		Yes	
Area deprivation		Yes		
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Older)	By making SDS Individual Service fund fees non-chargeable, this may remove barriers to people accessing these services. There will no longer be a financial disadvantage linked to that option choice.
Disability	By making SDS Individual Service fund fees non-chargeable, this may remove barriers to people accessing these services. There will no longer be a financial disadvantage linked to that option choice.
Low income	By making SDS Individual Service fund fees non-chargeable, this may remove barriers to people accessing these services. There will no longer be a financial disadvantage linked to that option choice.
Low wealth	By making SDS Individual Service fund fees non-chargeable, this may remove barriers to people accessing these services. There will no longer be a financial disadvantage linked to that option choice.

Impact Area	Impact
Material deprivation	By making SDS Individual Service fund fees non-chargeable, this may remove barriers to people accessing these services. There will no longer be a financial disadvantage linked to that option choice.

4.4. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Age (Older)	<p>Increasing the unit costs may negatively impact those in financial hardship. People will not be asked to contribute more than we have financially assessed that they can afford to pay.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation The charging policy allows exceptions to be made for people experiencing financial hardship, or those who incur disability related expenditure.</p> <p>Timescale Already in place</p>
Disability	<p>Increasing the unit costs may negatively impact those in financial hardship. People will not be asked to contribute more than we have financially assessed that they can afford to pay.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation The charging policy allows exceptions to be made for people experiencing financial hardship, or those who incur disability related expenditure.</p> <p>Timescale Already in place</p>
Low income	<p>Increasing the unit costs may negatively impact those in financial hardship. People will not be asked to contribute more than we have financially assessed that they can afford to pay.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation The charging policy allows exceptions to be made for people experiencing financial hardship, or those who incur disability related expenditure.</p> <p>Timescale Already in place</p>
Low wealth	<p>Increasing the unit costs may negatively impact those in financial hardship. People will not be asked to contribute more than we have financially assessed that they can afford to pay.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation The charging policy allows exceptions to be made for people experiencing financial hardship, or those who incur disability related expenditure.</p> <p>Timescale Already in place</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Material deprivation	<p>Increasing the unit costs may negatively impact those in financial hardship. People will not be asked to contribute more than we have financially assessed that they can afford to pay.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation The charging policy allows exceptions to be made for people experiencing financial hardship, or those who incur disability related expenditure.</p> <p>Timescale Already in place</p>

4.5. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	COSLA non-residential charging guidance	This guidance provides a guide to Local Authorities on developing fair and equitable charging policies for the provision of non-residential care and support. It provides guidance as to what services may have charges applied and how financial assessments should be calculated.	By applying COSLA guidance, this means that the AHSCP charging policy is consistent with many other Local Authorities in Scotland.
External Consultation	COSLA Benchmarking	All COSLA members complete an annual benchmarking return for non-residential charges, and results circulated.	<p>This allows benchmarking to be carried out to compare charging policy with other Local Authorities to ensure fairness and consistency is applied.</p> <p>COSLA have yet to facilitate the return for 2023. Discussions have taken place at the COSLA non-residential charging working group and information shared between Local Authorities.</p>

4.6. Engagement with affected groups

There has been past consultation with the SDS service user reference group. There has been no further consultation this year as there are no significant changes to the policy. Should the service be asked to carry out a full review of charges and calculation of unit costs, consultation with impacted groups would be a priority as this may negatively impact on service users.

4.7. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

Engagement with service user reference group prior to any significant changes to the policy. At

other times we consider feedback from service users and families, and explore if the policy should be amended in future to accommodate.

4.8. Evidence of engagement

Expansion of the guidance on what may be considered as Free Personal Care. Expansion of guidance on how properties are dealt with under the policy. Expansion on Housing Support guidance. Inclusion of unit costs and charges in the policy to ensure transparency.

4.9. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

By offering a financial assessment, we ensure that financial hardship is not encountered. The policy also allows provision for waive of charges, and additional allowances for individuals experiencing financial hardship, or who encounter disability related expenditure.

4.10. Improving Relations

A good communication strategy which clearly explains the charges and the financial assessment process. This includes information on who to contact if advice and support is required and offers an individual meeting to discuss their circumstances.

Service user engagement and financial impact assessments are carried out prior to any significant change being proposed. This information is made available for elected members to review as part of the decision making process.

4.11. Opportunities of Equality

The policy allows for exceptions to be made, which may be that a person is disadvantaged because of their individual circumstances.

5. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
<p>Prepare information briefing to be circulated to all finance staff and practitioners</p>	<p>Lead Officer Sheryl Donaldson Repeating Activity No Planned Start Friday March 25, 2022 Planned Finish Friday April 29, 2022 Expected Outcome Briefing will be circulated to above mentioned staff to ensure all are aware of the communication being circulated to service users, the potential impact, and where to signpost if advice or support is required. Resource Implications Minimal impact.</p>
<p>Provide Information to service users on changes to the Charging Policy and the annual financial re-assessment process.</p>	<p>Lead Officer Sheryl Donaldson Repeating Activity No Planned Start Friday March 22, 2024 Planned Finish Tuesday April 30, 2024 Expected Outcome Service users informed of changes. Resource Implications Minimal implications.</p>