

Example of “self funding” service user receiving homecare.

People with savings over £23,250 are entitled to Council information and assessment for support. This may result in their being assessed as in need of homecare. Under the current charging system there is a charge rate of £11.50 per hour and a maximum of £170 “cap” on charges in any one week.

The Council pays £15.75 per hour for independent sector homecare support.

This means that under the current charging policy, for example, that someone who has over £23,250 in savings could be provided with a homecare support package totalling three hours a day, charged at a maximum of £170 per week to them.

The Council buys that care at £47.25 per day (3 x £15.75) and for a weekly total of £330.75 (7 x £47.25).

Under the current system the resident would pay the council £170. This results in a subsidy to them of £160.75

If the charging rate be amended to £364 the resident would pay the council £330.75 – the cost of the care.

Thus the current charging policy subsidises the costs of those who the Council would not be likely to pay any charges for should they be in residential care. (The Council does not pay for people in residential care who have savings above £23,250).

Therefore, unlike many Local Authority areas, it could be viewed that there is currently an incentive for self funders to present to the local authority. The adoption of the recommended weekly charge rate of £364 per week, would effectively remove this incentive.